



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Dorothy Sturm Papers, 1913-1989, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

2020 August 13

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Dorothy Sturm papers
<b>Date:</b>	1913-1989
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.sturdoro
<b>Creator:</b>	Sturm, Dorothy
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of Dorothy Sturm measure 2.0 linear feet and date from 1913 to 1989. The papers document Sturm's career as a painter, enamelist, writer, and medical illustrator through writings, professional files, printed material, and photographs.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Dorothy Sturm papers were donated to the archives in 1991 by the Dorothy Sturm estate via Marvin Ratner, executor.

### Related Materials

At the request of the donor drawings originally in the collection were subsequently donated to the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2020.

### Preferred Citation

Dorothy Sturm papers, 1913-1989. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Dorothy Sturm (1910-1988) was a painter, enamelist, and medical illustrator in Memphis, Tennessee. She studied art in New York at the Grand Central School of Art and the Arts Student League during the 1930s. Between 1952 and 1978 Sturm exhibited at the Betty Parsons Gallery in New York. Sturm taught art at the Memphis Academy of Art between 1938 and the late 1970s, and also assisted in establishing a collection of contemporary art at the Memphis Brooks Museum.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of Dorothy Sturm measure 2.0 linear feet and date from 1913 to 1989. The papers document Sturm's career as a painter, enamelist, writer, and medical illustrator through writings, professional files, printed material, and photographs.

Writings include drafts of poems and short stories written by Sturm, drafts of manuscripts, lecture notes, writings by other educators on Sturm, a book of poems by Sturms mother, and four audio cassettes in which Sturm reads one of her stories and discusses her writings.

Professional activity files include address books, correspondence, sketches, and material related to her work as a medical illustrator for medical journals and pamphlets.

Printed material includes magazine and newspaper clippings, exhibition catalogs, and copies of some of her published works.

Photographic material includes images and transparencies of Sturm and her works.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into four series.

- Series 1: Writings, 1913-1989 (1.0 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Professional Activity Files, 1935-1984 (0.5 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 3: Printed Material, 1930-1988 (0.4 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 4: Photographs, circa 1967 (0.1 linear feet; Box 2)

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Women artists  
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

Names:

Betty Parsons Gallery

Occupations:

Enamellers -- Tennessee -- Memphis

Medical illustrators -- Tennessee -- Memphis

Painters -- Tennessee -- Memphis

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Writings, 1913-1989

#### 1 Linear foot (Box 1)

Arrangement: The series is divided into two sub-series

- 1.1: Writings by Sturm
- 1.2: Writings by Others

Scope and Contents: Writings include poems, short stories and other manuscripts by Dorothy Sturm. Also included are writings on Sturm by others and one book of poems written by Sturm's mother. There are also four audio cassettes featuring Sturm reading one of her stories and discussing her writings.

#### 1.1: Writings by Sturm, 1913-1982

Box 1, Folder 1	Engagement Diary/Scrapbook, 1913
Box 1, Folder 2-3	Drafts of Poems, 1931-1974
Box 1, Folder 4	"Den of Angels" Manuscript, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	"The Brothers-1935" Manuscript, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	"The Growing Up of Monroe Dowd" Manuscript, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	"Family Pets and Animals" Manuscript, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	"The Art School" Manuscript, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	"Broken Glass" Manuscript, undated
Box 1, Folder 10-11	"Tall Windows" Manuscript, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Short Stories, undated
Box 1, Folder 13-18	Manuscript Drafts, undated
Box 1, Folder 19	Audio Interviews, "My Grandfather's House", 1982 4 Sound cassettes
Box 1, Folder 20	Draft of Interview with Sturm, undated
Box 1, Folder 21	Notes, undated

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## 1.2: Writings by Others, undated, 1988-1989

Box 1, Folder 22-23 "The Art of Dorothy Sturm" by Marcus Orr, undated

Box 1, Folder 24 "Cobalt" Newspaper Clippings and Proposal, 1989

Box 1, Folder 25 Memorial Service of Sturm, 1988

Box 1, Folder 26 Poems by Sturm's Mother, undated

Box 1, Folder 27 Miscellaneous, undated

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## Series 2: Professional Activity Files, 1935-1984

### 0.5 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Materials include address books, a file of correspondence, sketches, and material related to Sturm's work as a medical illustrator for various books and pamphlets.

Box 2, Folder 1	Address Books, undated, 1963
Box 2, Folder 2	Correspondence, undated, 1955-1983
Box 2, Folder 3	Medical Illustrator, Pamphlets, undated, 1935-1949
Box 2, Folder 4	Medical Illustrator, Photographs of Work, 1951
Box 2, Folder 5	Medical Illustrator, Pamphlet and Photographs, 1958
Box 2, Folder 6	Medical Illustrator, 1970, 1984
Box 1, Folder 7	Medical Illustrator, Book, 1956
Box 2, Folder 8	Sketches, undated

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## Series 3: Printed Material, 1930-1988

### 0.4 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes published booklets of Sturm's poetry, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and newspaper and magazine clippings.

Box 2, Folder 9	Dorothy and Charlie Sturm's Published Poems, 1930, 1969
Box 2, Folder 10	Exhibition Announcements, undated, 1950-1980
Box 2, Folder 11-14	Exhibition Catalogs, 1944-1984
Box 2, Folder 15	Newspaper Clipping, 1936-1988
Box 2, Folder 16	Magazine Articles, 1950-1983
Box 2, Folder 17	Miscellaneous, undated, 1972-1973

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## Series 4: Photographs, circa 1967

### 0.1 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Material consists of photographs of Sturm, Sturm at work in her studio, Sturm's artwork, and transparencies by Sturm and other artists.

Box 2, Folder 18	Dorothy Sturm, undated
Box 2, Folder 19	Sturm and Her Artwork, undated
Box 2, Folder 20-21	Works of Art, undated
Box 2, Folder 22	Photo Album of Artwork, undated
Box 2, Folder 23	Color Transparencies by Sturm and Other Artists, undated
Box 2, Folder 24	Miscellaneous, undated, 1967

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