



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Yasushi Tanaka letters to Frederic C. Torrey

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Yasushi Tanaka letters to Frederic C. Torrey
Identifier:	AAA.tanayasu
Date:	1913-1924
Extent:	35 Items ((partially microfilmed on 1 reel))
Creator:	Tanaka, Yasushi, 1886-1941
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1992 by Gryffyd Partridge. The letters were received in the papers of his father, Seattle artist Roi Partridge; it is unclear how Partridge received them.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 5474; frames 760-872 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Yasushi Tanaka (1886-1941) was a Japanese American painter and art instructor, born in Saitana, Japan, May 13, 1886. In 1904 he emigrated to Seattle, Washington, settling permanently in Paris in 1920. Torrey was an art dealer with the San Francisco gallery Vickery, Atkins & Torrey. Tanaka's wife, writer Louise Gebhard Cann, was the author of several articles and books on French artists.

Scope and Contents

Letters from Tanaka to Torrey concern the contemporary art world, his paintings, exhibitions, and fellow artists both in Seattle and Paris, notably muralist John Davidson Butler. Tanaka writes of his marriage to Louise Gebhard Cann, his struggle with the Occidental ideals in Seattle art circles, concern for his mother and brothers in Tokyo, his emigration to Paris and its state after World War I, and the success of his one-

man show at the Galerie de Marsan 1924, of which he writes "...I succeeded at last in ... verifying my fame as one of the ablest contemporary painters here in Paris...". Also included are a few letters from Cann to Torrey, 3 exhibition catalogs (1914-1921), and 3 clippings (1915-1921).

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Asian American art
Asian American artists
Asian American painters
Japanese American art
Japanese American artists

Names:

Butler, John Davidson, 1890-1974
Cann, Louise Gebhard
Torrey, Frederic C.

Occupations:

Artists -- France -- Paris
Artists -- Washington (State) -- Seattle