



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Ruth Tears Papers, 1955-1971, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

2023/02/08

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Ruth Tears papers
Date:	1955-1971
Identifier:	AAA.tearruth
Creator:	Tears, Ruth, 1919-1971
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter and educator Ruth Tears measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1955 to 1971. Found are biographical materials, course descriptions, printed material, photographs of Tears and works of art, and slides.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 1981 by Lisa Olsen, daughter of Ruth Tears.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming on Reel 2684 including biographical information; correspondence, 1953-1970; lecture notes; 4 prints, undated; financial material, 1963-1971; awards, 1963-1968; clippings; exhibition catalogs; and 4 scrapbooks, 1951-1967. Originals were returned to the lender, Lisa Olsen, after microfilming and are not described in the collection container inventory.

Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reels 2684 and 3476 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed after receipt and was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2023 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

Preferred Citation

Ruth Tears papers, 1955-1971. 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.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Ruth Tears (1919-1971) was a painter and educator in Dallas, Texas. She was born in Detroit, Michigan and studied at Southern Methodist University. She lost her leg in an car accident in 1940. During World War II, Tears worked for the U.S. Army Map Service. She was active in Texas art societies and organizations.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and educator Ruth Tears measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1955 to 1971. Found are biographical materials, course descriptions, printed material, photographs of Tears and works of art, and slides.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Women artists
- Women educators
- Women painters

Occupations:

- Educators -- Texas -- Dallas
- Painters -- Texas -- Dallas

Container Listing

Series 1: Ruth Tears Papers, 1955-1971

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes resumes and short autobiographical sketches. Course materials describe painting classes taught by Tears at Carrizo Lodge, Ruidoso, New Mexico, the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts and Dallas College of Southern Methodist University. Photographs and slides depict Tears, her studio, and works of art. Printed materials include clippings, exhibition announcements, catalogs, and invitations. Also found are three undated ink sketches.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, circa 1963
Box 1, Folder 2	Course Information, 1968-1969
Box 1, Folder 3	Printed Material, Catalogs and Invitations, circa 1955-1972
Box 1, Folder 4	Printed Material, Clippings, circa 1957-1971
Box 1, Folder 5-6	Photographs and Slides, 1968-1969
Box 1, Folder 7	Sketches, circa 1968

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