



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Joseph Tobin Papers
Relating to Alton Pickens, 1946-circa
1970s, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Joseph Tobin papers relating to Alton Pickens
Identifier:	AAA.tobjose
Date:	1946-circa 1970s
Extent:	0.3 Linear feet
Creator:	Tobin, Joseph G.
Language:	Collection is in English
Summary:	The papers of Joseph Tobin regarding his friend, painter and printmaker Alton Pickens, measure 0.3 linear feet and date from 1946-circa 1970s. Correspondence primarily pertains to an exhibition that Tobin was trying to organize for Pickens in France, however the exhibition never came to fruition. Also included in the collection are printed material and photographs related to Pickens and his work.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Joseph Tobin papers relating to Alton Pickens were donated to the Archives of American art in 2014 by Margaret Tobin, wife of Joseph Tobin.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art are the Alton Pickens papers, 1943-1969.

Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Hilary Price in 2016.

Preferred Citation

Joseph Tobin papers relating to Alton Pickens, 1946-circa 1970s. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Joseph Tobin was a fabric merchant living in France and longtime friend of the painter and printmaker Alton Pickens (1917-1991). During the 1950s, Pickens asked for assistance from Tobin in organizing an exhibition of his work in France. Tobin was married to Margaret Tobin.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Joseph Tobin regarding his friend, painter and printmaker Alton Pickens, measure 0.3 linear feet and date from 1946-circa 1970s. Correspondence primarily pertains to an exhibition that Tobin was trying to organize for Pickens in France, however the exhibition never came to fruition. Also included in the collection are printed material and photographs related to Pickens and his work.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as three series

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1955-circa 1970s (1 folder; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Printed Material, 1946, 1977 (3 folder; Box 1, OV 2)
 - Series 3: Photographs, circa 1950s (2 folder; Box 1)
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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:

Printmakers -- United States

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Pickens, Alton

Occupations:

Painters -- United States

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1955-circa 1970s

1 Folder (Box 1)

Correspondence dates from 1955-circa 1970s and is between Alton Pickens and Joseph and/or Margaret Tobin. Correspondence primarily pertains to an exhibition that Tobin was trying to organize for Pickens in France, however the exhibition never came to fruition. One letter to Tobin is co-written by Pickens and several friends.

Box 1, Folder 1

Joseph Tobin and Alton Pickens, 1955-circa 1970s

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Series 2: Printed Material, 1946, 1977

3 Folders (Box 1, OV 2)

Printed material dates from 1946 and 1977 and includes a clipping from *LIFE* magazine, an exhibition announcement and catalog from Pickens' exhibition at Vassar College in 1977, and the exhibition catalog from the 1946 exhibiton at MoMA, *Fourteen Americans*.

Box 1, Folder 2	Exhibition Announcement, Vassar College, 1977
Box 1, Folder 3	Exhibition Catalogs, 1977, 1946
Box OV 2	Clipping from <i>LIFE</i> magazine, "19 Young Americans", 1946

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Series 3: Photographs, circa 1950s

2 Folders (Box 1)

Photographs date from circa 1950s and include one photograph of Pickens in Greece and photographs of Pickens' paintings from the 1940s-1950s.

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|-----------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Alton Pickens in Greece, circa 1950s |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Paintings by Alton Pickens, circa 1950s |

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