



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Joseph Tomanek Papers, 1918-1960, in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Joseph Tomanek papers
Date:	1918-1960
Identifier:	AAA.tomajose
Creator:	Tomanek, Joseph, b. 1889
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Language:	Some letters from Albin Polasek and clippings are in Czech and Bohemian.
Summary:	The papers of painter Joseph Tomanek measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1918-1960, providing scattered documentation of Tomanek's career. The collection includes letters from Rudolph Ingerle, William S. Schwartz, and Albin Polasek; a pencil drawing of a nude by Tomanek; printed materials, including clippings and programs related to Tomanek's career; and photographs of Tomanek, his wife, Schwartz, Polasek, and works of art.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 1969 by Joseph Tomanek.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Stephanie Ashley in 2025.

Preferred Citation

Joseph Tomanek papers, 1918-1960. 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

Czech-born painter Joseph Tomanek (1889-1974) was active in Chicago and trained at the Art Institute of Chicago and studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague on a scholarship. Tomanek received several prizes and honorable mentions from the Bohemian Arts Club and other art leagues in Chicago during the course of his career.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter Joseph Tomanek measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1918-1960, providing scattered documentation of Tomanek's career. The collection includes letters from Rudolph Ingerle, William S. Schwartz, and Albin Polasek; a pencil drawing of a nude by Tomanek; printed materials, including clippings and programs related to Tomanek's career; and photographs of Tomanek, his wife, Schwartz, Polasek, and works of art.

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:

Names:

Ingerle, Rudolph, 1879-1950
Polasek, Albin, 1879-1965
Schwartz, William S. (William Samuel), 1896-1977

Occupations:

Painters -- Illinois -- Chicago

Container Listing

Series 1: Joseph Tomanek Papers, 1918-1960

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Series includes letters from Rudolph Ingerle, William S. Schwartz, and Albin Polasek and a list of galleries and individuals. Also found are clippings primarily related to Tomanek's career; a pencil drawing of a nude by Tomanek; and photographs of Tomanek, his wife, William and Mrs. Schwartz, Polasek, and works of art. Programs include an auction and exhibition program, a program for the Society for Sanity in Art, Inc. Review which lists Tomanek as a 1938 first prize winner in oil painting, and a brochure for the Albin Polasek Foundation signed by Polasek's wife.

Box 1, Folder 1	Letters, 1943-1960, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	List of Galleries and Names, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Printed Material, Clippings, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Printed Material, Clippings, 1924-1929
Box 1, Folder 5	Printed Material, Clippings, 1930-1938
Box 1, Folder 6	Printed Material, Clippings, 1945-1953
Box 1, Folder 7	Printed Material, Programs, circa 1942-circa 1965, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Photographs of Tomanek and Others, 1918-circa 1960s
Box 1, Folder 9	Photographs of Works of Art, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Sketch by Joseph Tomanek, undated

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