



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Selina Trieff Papers, 1951-1981, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

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.

2021 February 11

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Selina Trieff papers
Date:	1951-1981
Identifier:	AAA.trieseli
Creator:	Trieff, Selina, 1934-
Extent:	0.5 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter Selina Trieff measure 0.5 linear feet and date from 1951-1981. The collection documents Trieff's career through personal and professional papers including correspondence, postcards from friend and mentor Ad Reinhardt, a 1951 art competition certificate, and audiovisual recordings of an interview with Trieff, a talk given by her husband, artist Robert Henry, and an exhibition lecture. Also found are clippings, articles, exhibition catalogs and announcements; photographs of Trieff, her friends, family, other artists, and paintings; and several drawings.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Selina Trieff in 1981.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Christopher DeMairo in 2021.

Preferred Citation

Selina Trieff papers, 1951-1981. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The 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 audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Selina Trieff (1934-2015) was a painter in Brooklyn, New York. After high school, she studied with Mark Rothko and Ad Reinhardt at Brooklyn College; Hans Hofmann in Provincetown; and Morris Kantor at the Art Students League. Trieff was most known for her unique style of expressionist portraits and self portraits, as well as her paintings of animals. Trieff had solo exhibitions at the Brooklyn Museum, Riverside Art Museum, California, and the Hudson River Art Museum, New York; and exhibited her work in group shows across the United States and Europe. Her work is found in collections at the Brooklyn Museum, New York Public Library, Provincetown Art Association and Museum, and many more.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter Selina Trieff measure 0.5 linear feet and date from 1951-1981. The collection documents Trieff's career through personal and professional papers including correspondence, postcards from friend and mentor Ad Reinhardt, a 1951 art competition certificate, and audiovisual recordings of an interview with Trieff, a talk given by her husband, artist Robert Henry, and an exhibition lecture. Also found are clippings, articles, exhibition catalogs and announcements; photographs of Trieff, her friends, family, other artists, and paintings; and several drawings.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as one series.

- Series 1: Personal and Professional Papers, 1951-1981 (Box 1, OV 2; 0.5 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Portrait painting
Women artists
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Interviews
Sound recordings
Video recordings

Names:

Henry, Robert, 1933-
Reinhardt, Ad, 1913-1967

Occupations:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Personal and Professional Papers, 1951-1981

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 2)

Scope and Contents: Files contain correspondence with other artists, colleagues, museums, and galleries about Trieff's work and exhibitions, some of which is accompanied by loan forms and shipping reports; letters regarding fellowships and awards; and postcards from Ad Reinhardt. Photographs depict Trieff, family members, friends, and other artists at personal gatherings, exhibitions, and other events. Some photographs of her paintings are also present. Printed material consists of newspaper clippings that reviewed Trieff's work and exhibitions that featured her work, and exhibition material such as catalogs, invitations, announcements, and posters. Recordings include a videocassette from the exhibition, *Women Artists Here and Now* (1975), an interview with Trieff, and a talk given by her husband, artist Robert Henry.

Box 1, Folder 1	Certificate, Latham Foundation International Poster Contest, 1951
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, Postcards from Ad Reinhardt, 1955-1962
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, Professional, 1951-1981
Box 1, Folder 4	Exhibition, "Women Artists Here and Now", 1976 1 Videocassettes (U-matic)
Box 1, Folder 5	Photographs, Artwork, 1953-1978
Box 1, Folder 6	Photographs, People and Events, 1953-1979
Oversize 2	Photographs, People and Events, 1960
Box 1, Folder 7	Printed Material, Clippings, 1957-1980
Box 1, Folder 8	Printed Material, Exhibition Catalogs, 1975-1979
Box 1, Folder 9	Printed Material, Exhibition Ephemera, 1956-1981
Oversize 2	Printed Material, Exhibition Ephemera, 1976
Box 1, Folder 10	Recording of Selina Trieff, 1978 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 11	Robert Henry Talk, Brooklyn College, 1971 1 Sound cassette
Oversize 2	Sketches, 1970s

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