



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Joseph S. Trovato Papers, circa 1875-1992, in the Archives of American Art

Allessandra Liberati

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.

2024 January 5

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1940-1989	4
Series 2: Writings, circa 1937-1973	7
Series 3: Exhibition Files, circa 1947-1992	8
Series 4: Personal Business Records , circa 1939-1982	9
Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1952-1976	11
Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1875-1963	12
Series 7: Artwork, circa 1962	13

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Joseph S. Trovato papers
Date:	circa 1875-1992
Identifier:	AAA.trovjose
Creator:	Trovato, Joseph S., 1912-1983
Extent:	2.9 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Joseph S. Trovato measure 2.9 linear feet and date from circa 1875-1992. They illustrate his career through correspondence, exhibition files, personal business records, printed and photographic material, and artwork.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Papers were lent for microfilming in 1980 by Joseph S. Trovato, and all except exhibition catalogs were subsequently donated 1981 and 1991 with unmicrofilmed material by Trovato's widow, Mrs. Ruth O. Trovato.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming (reel 2018) including exhibition catalogs and material relating to the Armory Show-50th Anniversary Exhibition arranged by Trovato for the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Utica, New York, in February 1963. Loaned materials were returned to the lender and are not described in the collection container inventory. Exhibition catalogs were returned to Trovato.

Related Materials

The Archives also hold an oral history interview with Joseph S. Trovato conducted 1979 July 29, by Robert Brown, twenty-four oral history interviews conducted by Trovato 1964-1965 in partnership with the Archives of American Art, and the 1913 Armory Show, 50th anniversary exhibition records.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection and material lent for microfilming are available on 35mm microfilm reel 2018 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

This collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared, by Alessandra Liberati in 2024.

Preferred Citation

Joseph S. Trovato papers, circa 1875-1992. 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. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the Smithsonian's Terms of Use for additional information.

Biographical / Historical

Joseph S. Trovato (1912-1983) was a painter and museum administrator who worked mainly in New York.

Trovato was born in Guardavalle, Italy before immigrating to the United States. He took part in the Armory Show for several years and helped to organize the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute's *Olympics in Art* (1980) exhibition. He taught classes at Hamilton College and did work for the Work Progress Administration in the 1940s. From 1964-1965 he completed twenty-four oral history interviews in partnership with the Archives of American Art.

Trovato died in 1983 in Utica, New York.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence is between Trovato, friends, colleagues, organizations, and galleries. Writings include lectures and research notes, as well as other writings by Trovato. Exhibition files include materials for the Armory Show, *Olympics in Art* (1980), and various other exhibitions. Personal business records contain materials related to Trovato's time at Hamilton College and the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute. Printed materials contains exhibition catalogs, monthly publications, and clippings. Photographic material is of artwork, and artwork includes wallpaper samples designed by Charles Burchfield.

Arrangement

This collection consists of seven series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1940-1989 (.8 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Series 2: Writings, circa 1937-1973 (.4 Linear feet: Boxes 1-2)
- Series 3: Exhibition Files, circa 1947-1992 (.2 Linear feet: Box 2)
- Series 4: Personal Business Records , circa 1939-1982 (.9 Linear feet: Boxes 2-3, OV 5)
- Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1952-1976 (.4 Linear feet: Boxes 3-4)
- Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1875-1963 (.1 Linear feet: Box 4)
- Series 7: Artwork, circa 1962 (.1 Linear feet: Box 4)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Sound recordings
Video recordings

Names:

Armory Show (1913: New York, N.Y.)
Armory Show 50th anniversary exhibition (1963 : Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute)
Burchfield, Charles Ephraim, 1893-1967
Duchamp, Marcel, 1887-1968
Hamilton College (Clinton, N.Y.)
Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute. Museum of Art
Soby, James Thrall, 1906-1979

Occupations:

Museum administrators -- New York (N.Y.)
Painters -- New York (State) -- Clinton

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1940-1989

.8 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is between Trovato, friends, colleagues, organizations, and galleries.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, circa 1962
Box 1, Folder 2	Ab-Al, circa 1965-1976
Box 1, Folder 3-4	Archives of American Art, circa 1964-1985
Box 1, Folder 5	Arnold, Paul; Arthur, Revington; Auburn, circa 1945-1076
Box 1, Folder 6	Bailey, Merrill; Baldwin, John; Batzell, Edgar, circa 1953-1978
Box 1, Folder 7	Beal, Rebecca; Besnecker, Thomas; Blackfield, Howard; Bloch, Anna, circa 1946-1989
Box 1, Folder 8	Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) (Herkimer County), circa 1967-1971
Box 1, Folder 9	Bocour, Leonard, circa 1971-1975
Box 1, Folder 10	Boylston, Hazel; Bryant, Edward, circa 1974-1979
Box 1, Folder 11	Burchfield, Charles, circa 1962-1966
Box 1, Folder 12	Burchfield, Louise, circa 1969-1981
Box 1, Folder 13	Burgess, Carson, circa 1976-1980
Box 1, Folder 14	Case, Reginald; Caufield, Sally; Chelsey, Roland; Christiana, Edward, circa 1972-1978
Box 1, Folder 15	Cimbalo, Robert, Codner, Earl; Colby, Victor; Coley, Edward; Coonralt, circa 1945-1976
Box 1, Folder 16	D'Agostino, Anthony; Dispirito, Henry; Dolinsky, Nathan, circa 1946-1983
Box 1, Folder 17	Doyle, William; Dunn, Alan; Duyer, James, circa 1966-1983

Box 1, Folder 18	Eaton, Myrwyn, Eaves, Winslow; Edmonds, Walter; Eidharn, Emile; Elgin, Jeffrey, circa 1945-1979
Box 1, Folder 19	Fillin, Walter; Fitzgerald, John; Fortess, Karl; Frazier, Paul, circa 1957-1977
Box 1, Folder 20	Freeman, Claire; Geer, Eva; Goodrich, Lloyd; Goldstein, Sydney, circa 1949-1983
Box 1, Folder 21	Grogan, Sara; Gruskin, Allan D.; Haff, Osgood, circa 1970-1983
Box 1, Folder 22	Hameline, Robert; Harding, Henry; Hayes, David; Herstand, Arnold, circa 1946-1982
Box 1, Folder 23	Hopper, Edward; Howlett, Roger; Hull, William, circa 1961-1977
Box 1, Folder 24	Irving, David; Jarecki, Stephen; Johnston, Thomas; Kaplan, Jacques, circa 1946-1985
Box 1, Folder 25	Karpel, Bernard; Knapp, Dee; Koener, Henry, circa 1946-1971
Box 1, Folder 26	Kraushaar, Antoinette; Kreimeyer, Myrtle; Kuhn, Brenda; Kuhn, Walt, circa 1946-1976
Box 1, Folder 27	Keisnadi; Landecker, Jessie, Lejwa, Madeleine; Leventhal, Edward; Lipman, circa 1961-1975
Box 1, Folder 28	Long, Walter; Loveless, James; Luce, Theo; Luks, Caroline and Peggy, circa 1963-1981
Box 1, Folder 29	Magafan, Ethel; Marin, John Jr.; Martin, Homer R.; Messer, Thomas , circa 1963-1983
Box 1, Folder 30	Miller, Fred; Miller, Kenneth Hayes; Mitchell, Fred; Muirheed, Bruce; Museum of the City of New York, circa 1960-1980
Box 1, Folder 31	National Endowment for the Arts; National Serigraph Society; Neel, Alice, circa 1977-1981
Box 1, Folder 32	Neuberger, Rey; Neumann, J. B.; Olmstead, Anna, circa 1964-1969
Box 1, Folder 33	Palmer, William; Parker, Paul; Penney, Charles; Penney, James, circa 1956-1983
Box 1, Folder 34	Phillips, Joanne; Pomerantz, Louis; Poor, Henry; Pratt, Emily, circa 1965-1980
Box 1, Folder 35	Pribble, Easton; Prior, Harris; Rathbone, Perry, circa 1950-1975
Box 1, Folder 36	RISD Museum; Roehrick, William; Root, Grace, circa 1956-1975

Box 1, Folder 37	Rosenzweig, Phyllis; Rothschild, Herbert; Rothschild, Lincoln; Rudd, circa 1967-1976
Box 1, Folder 38	Saunders, Silvia; Seliger, Charles; Smithsonian Institution, circa 1966-1974
Box 1, Folder 39	Spiller, Mortimer; Stamos, Theodoros; Stanley, W.; State of New York; Suplee, John, circa 1960-1980
Box 1, Folder 40	Thomason, Mrs. Eugene; Tobey, Eva; Trovato, Anthony; Trovato, Joseph R., circa 1940-1973
Box 1, Folder 41	Vandenbergh, Mary; Vose, Robert; Weaver, Randolph; Werba, Henry; Wheeter, Robert; White, Jack; White, William, circa 1950-1978
Box 1, Folder 42	Winters, Denny; Wollowitz, Charles; Yang, Mahonri; Zenk, Joseph, circa 1944-1972

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Writings, circa 1937-1973

.4 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Writings include lectures and research notes regarding the 50th anniversary exhibition of the Armory Show, as well as other writings by Trovato.

Box 1, Folder 43 "A General Survey of the History and Development of Painting and Sculpture from Prehistoric Times to the Present Time", circa 1939

Box 1, Folder 44 Interview with George Rickey, circa 1965

Box 1, Folder 45 "Marin Speaks and Stuglitz, Record of a Conversation of D. Mormon", circa 1937

Box 1, Folder 46 "What Makes It Good?", Round Table Discussion, circa 1950

Lectures

Box 1, Folder 47 Art, circa 1958-1960

Box 1, Folder 48 Artists of Central New York, circa 1962

Box 1, Folder 49 Burchfield, circa 1969-1973

Box 2, Folder 1 Committee to Rescue Italian Art, circa 1967

Box 2, Folder 2 Community Arts Program, circa 1955

Box 2, Folder 3 Impact of the Armory Show on American Art, circa 1963-1964

Box 2, Folder 4 Impressionism and Post Impressionism, circa 1960

Box 2, Folder 5 People, circa 1961

Box 2, Folder 6 Tamarind Lithographs, circa 1955

Box 2, Folder 7 Miscellaneous Lectures, circa 1950-1970

Box 2, Folder 8 Research Notes and Lists, circa 1962

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Exhibition Files, circa 1947-1992

.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Exhibition files include materials for the *Armory Show*, *Olympics in Art* (1980), and various other exhibitions. Included audio-visual materials are a 1/4" sound tape reel and a duplicate cassette tape containing audio of Trovato, Marcel Duchamp and James T. Soby discussing *The Armory Show of 1913 Revisited* (1963) and a U-Matic tape narrated by Trovato for the exhibition *Olympics in Art* (1980).

Box 2, Folder 9-10	Armory Show, circa 1963-1992 Folder 9 includes 1 1/4" sound tape reel and 1 sound cassette.
Box 2, Folder 11	Olympics In Art (1980), circa 1980 Includes one U-Matic Tape.
Box 2, Folder 12	Exhibitions On Painting And Sculpture, circa 1947-1981

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Personal Business Records , circa 1939-1982

.9 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, OV 5)

Scope and Contents: Personal business records contain materials related to Trovato's time at Hamilton College and the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute (MWPI) including correspondence, folders of material relating to multiple semesters spent teaching, installation plans for MWPI, photographs, and annual reports.

Hamilton College Files	
Box 2, Folder 13	Correspondence, circa 1966-1977
Box 2, Folder 14	Hamilton College Collection At The Munson-Williams Proctor Institute, circa 1964-1973
Box 2, Folder 15	"Learning About Pictures From Mr. Root, Class Topic", circa 1965
Box 2, Folder 16	First Semester, circa 1965
Box 2, Folder 17	Second Semester, circa 1966
Box 2, Folder 18	Spring Semester, circa 1974
Box 2, Folder 19	Spring Semester, circa 1976
Box 2, Folder 20	Notes On Facilities, circa 1965
Box 2, Folder 21	Clippings, circa 1960-1963
Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute Files	
Box 2, Folder 22	Correspondence, circa 1945-1982
Box 2, Folder 23	School of Art, circa 1977-1980
Box 2, Folder 24	Work Progress Administration, Library For Schools Visual Aid, circa 1939-1943
Box 3, Folder 1	Annual Reports, circa 1955-1980
Box 3, Folder 2	Installation Plans, circa 1967-1970
Oversize 5	Installation Plans, circa 1967-1970
Box 3, Folder 3	Teaching, circa 1965-1981
Box 3, Folder 4	Notes, circa 1967-1972
Box 3, Folder 5	Printed Material, circa 1961-1979

Box 3, Folder 6

Photographs, circa 1980

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1952-1976

.4 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)

Scope and Contents: Printed materials contains exhibition catalogs, monthly publications, and clippings.

Box 3, Folder 7	Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1961-1976
Box 3, Folder 8-9	Clippings, circa 1952-1969
Box 4, Folder 1-2	Magazines, circa 1962-1963
Box 4, Folder 3	Monthly Journals, circa 1963-1976

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1875-1963

.1 Linear feet (Box 4)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material includes photographs of artwork.

Box 4, Folder 4 Photographs of Artwork, circa 1875-1963

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Artwork, circa 1962

.1 Linear feet (Box 4)

Scope and Artwork includes wallpaper samples designed by Charles Burchfield.

Contents:

Box 4, Folder 5-6

Wallpaper Samples Designed By Charles Burchfield, circa 1962

[Return to Table of Contents](#)