



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Alfred James Tulk papers

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Alfred James Tulk papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.tulkalfr
<b>Date:</b>	1923-1986
<b>Extent:</b>	1.5 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Tulk, Alfred James, 1899-1988
<b>Language:</b>	English

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Papers were bequeathed to Tulk's daughter, Sheila Tulk Payne, who donated them to the Archives.

### 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

Born in London, England. Tulk received his Bachelors Degree from Yale University in 1923 and his Masters Degree from the University of Guanajuato, Mexico. Mural painting occupied most of his earlier years with commissions in painting, stained glass, and mosaics. He painted over 300 large murals between 1925 and 1954 for theatres, churches, hotels, restaurants, and private homes. During World War II Tulk worked with camouflage and the painting of altar triptychs for U.S. Chaplains in camps and on battleships. From 1960 to 1987 he painted landscapes, portraits, and abstract paintings.

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## Scope and Contents

Photographs, artwork, scrapbooks, and Tulk's autobiography document his career as an artist. Over 160 photographs (ca. 1920's-1980's) depict Tulk and his work. Eighty-three drawings and paintings range from student work at Yale to professional designs for the Rambusch Company and other design firms. Two scrapbooks assembled by Tulk contain reviews and exhibit announcements. His autobiography, describing his two-year residence in West Africa in the 1930's, and a descriptive list of murals painted between 1925-1960 are included among his notes and writings. Letters (1940-1986) are mostly business-related correspondence between Tulk and the Rambusch Company. Clippings (1936-1984) discuss the altar designs Tulk created for ships and camps during World War II and his work for the Rambusch Company.

Other materials include a 1985 video-taped interview with Tulk and many copyright certificates for his designs.

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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:

- Art and religion
- Christian art and symbolism
- Glass painting and staining
- Landscape painting -- Connecticut
- Mural painting and decoration
- Muralists
- Painting, Abstract -- Connecticut
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Religious aspects

Types of Materials:

- Drawings
- Interviews
- Scrapbooks
- Video recordings

Names:

- Rambusch (Firm)
- Rambusch Glass and Decorating Company

Occupations:

- Art teachers -- Connecticut
- Landscape painters -- Connecticut
- Mosaicists
- Portrait painters
- Stained glass artists

Geographic Names:

- Africa, West -- Description and Travel -- 1851-1950