



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Cecile Tyl research material on Beatrice Cuming, 1913-1991, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from  
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

2023/02/14

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Cecile Tyl research material on Beatrice Cuming
<b>Date:</b>	1913-1991
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.tylceci
<b>Creator:</b>	Tyl, Cecile
<b>Extent:</b>	0.2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Connecticut curator Cecile Tyl's research material on Connecticut painter Beatrice Cuming measures 0.2 linear feet and dates from 1913 to 1991. The papers were compiled and used in preparation for an exhibit at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London, Connecticut, co-curated by Tyl. Found are correspondence regarding the exhibition, copyprints of photographs of Cuming and her works of art, xeroxed research material on Cuming, and printed material. Also found is a dismantled scrapbook, likely made by Cuming, which concerns her childhood and professional artworks. Included is an award, a letter, newsclippings, and personal photographs.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1990-1991 by Cecile Tyl, who researched Cuming for an art appreciation course at the University of Connecticut which subsequently led her to co-curate a Cuming retrospective at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum. Tyl obtained the scrapbook, photographs and slides from Al Dugas, a tenant at the house in Uncasville where Cuming lived at the time of her death. Dugas informed Tyl that the bulk of Cuming's estate went to the Joslin Foundation, Boston, Massachusetts. Al Dugas kept photographs and other material they discarded.

### Available Formats

The collection was digitized in 2023 and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2023 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

### Preferred Citation

Cecile Tyl research material on Beatrice Cuming, 1913-1991. 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Beatrice (Bob) Cuming (1903-1974) was an illustrator and painter in Brooklyn, New York and New London, Connecticut. Cuming was known for her work with the Works Progress Administration and painted submarines during World War II.

Cecile Tyl is a curator in Uncasville, Connecticut.

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## Scope and Contents

Connecticut curator Cecile Tyl's research material on Connecticut painter Beatrice Cuming measures 0.2 linear feet and dates from 1913 to 1991. The papers were compiled and used in preparation for an exhibit at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London, Connecticut, co-curated by Tyl. Found are correspondence regarding the exhibition, copyprints of photographs of Cuming and her works of art, xeroxed research material on Cuming, and printed material. Also found is a dismantled scrapbook, likely made by Cuming, which concerns her childhood and professional artworks. Included is an award, a letter, newsclippings, and personal photographs.

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## Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

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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:

Women artists  
Women painters

### Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

### Names:

Cuming, Beatrice, 1903-1975

Occupations:

Curators -- Connecticut -- Uncasville

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Research Material on Beatrice Cuming, 1913-1991

#### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Cecile Tyl's correspondence concerns *Beatrice Cuming 1903-1974* (1990) at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum. Photographs are copyprints of Cuming painting and her works of art. Printed materials include scattered exhibition material and newsclippings regarding the Cumings retrospective exhibition curated by Tyl. Tyl's compiled research material concerns Cuming consists entirely of photocopies. Found are biographical material, letters, and printed material regarding Cuming's career. Slides are of works of art by Cuming, likely the ones included in the exhibition.

A dismantled scrapbook was likely created by Cuming and contains an American Watercolor Society Certificate of Merit; a letter from John Wanamaker regarding an art competition entered by Cuming at the age of ten; a childhood drawing and a Christmas card signed M. F.; and newspaper clippings on Cuming's participation in art contests as a child and on her professional exhibition career. Also found are photographs of Cuming, Cuming posing, Cuming with others, and others. Friends depicted include Tom Ingle, Margaret McCarthy, Ruby Morris, and Mrs. A. Ribero.

Box 1, Folder 1      [Correspondence, 1988-1989](#)

Box 1, Folder 2      [Photographs, circa 1990](#)

Box 1, Folder 3      [Printed Material, 1968-1991](#)

Box 1, Folder 4      [Research Material, Xeroxes, circa 1990](#)

Box 1, Folder 5      [Scrapbook, 1913-1967](#)

Box 1, Folder 6      [Slides, Works of Art, 1990](#)

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