



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Valentine Gallery Records, circa 1890-1960, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Funding for the processing of this collection was
provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Valentine Gallery records
Date:	circa 1890-circa 1960
Identifier:	AAA.valegall
Creator:	Valentine Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
Extent:	1.8 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English and French.
Summary:	The records of the New York City based Valentine Gallery measure 1.8 linear feet and date from circa 1890 to 1960. The bulk of the material documents the gallery's dealings with artists Louis Eilshemius, John Kane, Henri Matisse, and C.S. Price. Additionally, there is one scrapbook which contains printed materials regarding Valentine Gallery exhibitions from 1925-1936.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Valentine Gallery records were donated by gallery founder, Valentine Dudensing in 1958. Dudensing also lent the Archives of American Art gallery index cards for microfilming in 1959. Roy R. Neuberger donated materials regarding Louis Eilshemius in 1959 who received the material from Valentine Dudensing.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds material lent for microfilming (reel NY59-5) including gallery index cards. Loaned materials were returned to the lender and are not described in the collection container inventory.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection and material lent for microfilming are available on 35mm microfilm reels D22, D193, NY59-5, 911, 3829-3830 and 4781 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the collection as described in this finding aid does not reflect the order of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The Valentine Gallery records were microfilmed shortly after receipt on reels D22, D193, NY59-5, 911, 3829-3830 and 4781. All accretions were integrated and fully processed and described by Jayna Josefson in 2013 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

Valentine Gallery records, circa 1890-1960. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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Biographical / Historical

The Valentine Gallery was founded by F. Valentine Dudensing in 1926 and operated in New York City until 1947. The gallery hosted many exhibitions of Modern European art and specialized in School of Paris paintings.

F. Valentine Dudensing was born in 1892 in New York City. His father, Richard Dudensing was a well known art publisher and gallerist who owned Dudensing Galleries. Valentine served in World War I in the United States Aviation Corps and in 1920, married Margaret van der Gros. During a trip to Europe in the early 1920s, Dudensing became acquainted with the son of artist Henri Matisse, Pierre. Together, they conceived a gallery managed by Dudensing in New York while Matisse organized and curated art from Europe.

Dudensing opened his gallery in 1926 at 43 East 57th Street as the F. Valentine Dudensing Gallery. At this time, his father's gallery, the Dudensing Galleries, was located at 45 West 44th Street. Valentine Dudensing changed his gallery's name in 1927 to the Valentine Gallery to distinguish it from his father's gallery. The gallery was one of the first to bring Modern European works to New York City and hosted exhibitions of Giorgio de Chirico, Jean Lurçat, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, and André Dunoyer de Segonzac. Additionally, Valentine Gallery represented American artists including Louis Eilshemius, John Kane, and C.S. Price. Pierre Matisse left the partnership with Valentine Dudensing to open his own gallery in 1931.

In 1947, Valentine Dudensing closed his gallery and moved to France with his wife. He died in 1967.

Scope and Contents

The records of the New York City based Valentine Gallery measure 1.8 linear feet and date from circa 1890 to 1960. The bulk of the material documents the gallery's dealings with artists Louis Eilshemius, John Kane, Henri Matisse, and C.S. Price. Additionally, there is one scrapbook which contains printed materials regarding Valentine Gallery exhibitions from 1925-1936.

The artist's file for Eilshemius contains biographical information; correspondence between Valentine Dudensing and the artist, as well scattered letters from Carl Van Vecten, Alfred H. Barr, and museums and institutions; writings and notes; price lists and other financial and legal documents; printed material from Eilshemius's varied career and from his affiliation with the Valentine Gallery; photographs including portraits of the artist, and photos of installations and of works of art; and a scrapbook containing clippings and scattered other printed materials covering Eilshemius's shows at the Valentine Gallery.

Artists' files for John Kane, Henri Matisse, and C.S. Price contain scattered documentation. The file for John Kane includes correspondence between Valentine Dudensing and Kane's estate managers as well as museums and institutions, price lists, legal records, and printed materials. There are two letters from Henri Matisse to Valentine Dudensing regarding travel plans and a thank you message. The C.S. Price file consists of letters from Price regarding specific works of art, and scattered financial records.

A scrapbook dates from 1925-1936 and includes newspaper and magazine clippings about exhibitions and artists represented by the Valentine Gallery. Artists and exhibitions mentioned in the clippings include Alexander Brook, Giorgio de Chirico, Stuart Davis, Jean Lucrat, Carlos Merida, and Joseph Stella. Also, there is a poster created by Valentine Dudensing to fundraise for ambulances for France.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 2 series.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Artists Files, circa 1890-1960 (Box 1, 3; 1.3 linear feet)
 - Series 2: Scrapbook, 1925-1936 (Box 2, 4; 0.5 linear feet)
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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:

Painting, Modern -- 20th century

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Scrapbooks

Names:

Brook, Alexander, 1898-1980
Davis, Stuart, 1892-1964
De Chirico, Giorgio, 1888-
Dudensing, F. Valentine, 1892-1967
Eilshemius, Louis M. (Louis Michel), 1864-1941
F. Valentine Dudensing (Firm)
Kane, John, 1860-1934
Matisse, Henri, 1869-1954
Mérida, Carlos, 1891-1984
Price, C. S. (Clayton S.), 1874-1950
Stella, Joseph, 1877-1946
Van Vechten, Carl, 1880-1964

Functions:

Art galleries, Commercial -- New York (State)

Container Listing

Series 1: Artists Files, circa 1890-1960

1.3 Linear feet (Box 1, 3)

Arrangement: This series is arranged as 4 subseries.

Missing Title:

- 1.1. Louis Eilshemius, circa 1890-1960
- 1.2. John Kane, 1930-1942
- 1.3. Henri Matisse, 1927-1930
- 1.4. C.S. Price, 1940-1948

Scope and Contents: Found are scattered biographical materials, correspondence, printed materials, financial records, and photographs for artists Louis Eilshemius, John Kane, Henri Matisse, and C.S. Price.

Subseries 1.1: Louis Eilshemius, circa 1890-1960

Scope and Contents: This subseries consists of materials relating to Louis Eilshemius's career, his relationship with Valentine Dudensing, and his affiliation with the Valentine Gallery. Found are biographical sketches, correspondence, writings, contracts, price lists and lists of works of art, clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, music written by Eilshemius, published works by Eilshemius, photographs of the artist, installations, and works of art, and a scrapbook. Some of the Eilshemius letters are illustrated. A scrapbook contains clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Sketches and Essays, 1917-circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1931
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1932
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1933
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1934
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1935
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1936
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1938
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, 1939
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, circa 1930s
Box 1, Folder 11	"Ode to Valentine Dudensing," by Louis Eilshemius, 1932
Box 1, Folder 12	Poetry, by Louis Eilshemius, circa 1890

Box 1, Folder 13	Essay on Eilshemius by Charles Norman, 1937-1960 Notes: Includes correspondence regarding the article
Box 1, Folder 14	Notecards of Exhibitions, circa 1957
Box 1, Folder 15	Critical Reviews, circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 16	Contracts, 1931-1932
Box 1, Folder 17	Price Lists, 1932-1934
Box 1, Folder 18	List of Paintings at Valentine Gallery, 1942
Box 1, Folder 19	List of Paintings Stolen, circa 1930
Box 1, Folder 20	List of Books by Eilshemius, circa 1932
Box 1, Folder 21	Loan Receipt, 1934
Box 1, Folder 22-23	Clippings, 1934-1946 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 3
Box 1, Folder 24	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1930-circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 25	Exhibition Catalogs, 1897-1942
Box 1, Folder 26	Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1930s
Box 1, Folder 27	Exhibition Notecards, 1932-1957
Box 1, Folder 28	Advertisements for Framing Services, circa 1895 Notes: Eilshemius promotional material
Box 1, Folder 29	Self-Promotion Pamphlets, 1932 Notes: Entitled "Some Discoveries in Science and Art," by Dr. Louis Eilshemius, M.A., Etc.
Box 1, Folder 30	Music, To My Mother--Six Musical Moods, composition by Louis Eilshemius, 1897
Box 1, Folder 31	Music, Zapparella, by Louis Eilshemius, 1900 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 3
Box 1, Folder 32	Music, Oenone--And Eight Other Tone-Pictures, by Louis Eilshemius, 1911
Box 1, Folder 33	Mystery and Truth: A Sonnet Sequence, by Louis Eilshemius, 1907
Box 1, Folder 34	Companionship, by Louis Eilshemius, 1909

Box 1, Folder 35	Song of Spring and Blossoms of Unrequited Love, with art by Louis Eilshemius, circa 1960
Box 1	Photographs
Box 1, Folder 36	Portraits of Louis Eilshemius by Carl Van Vecten, circa 1930
Box 1, Folder 37	Portraits of Louis Eilshemius, circa 1890-circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 38	Installations, circa 1932
Box 1, Folder 39-41	Works of Art, Landscapes and Marine Scenes, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 42-43	Works of Art, Nudes, Nymphs, and Samoa, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 44	Works of Art, Africa, Italy, Spain, New York City, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 45	Works of Art, Figures, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 46-47	Works of Art, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 48	Scrapbook, 1925-1940 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 3
Box 3	Oversized Clippings, circa 1930 Notes: Material from Box 1, F22
Box 3	Oversized Music by Louis Eilshemius, 1900 Notes: Material from Box 1, F31
Box 3	Oversized Scrapbook, 1925-1936 Notes: Material from Box 1, F48

Subseries 1.2: John Kane, 1930-1942

Scope and Contents: This subseries consists of materials relating to John Kane and his affiliation with the Valentine Gallery. Materials include correspondence, pricelists and lists of works of art, loan records, and an exhibition catalog. Letters are from Kane's business manager, the executor of his estate, and from individuals and institutions that owned works of art by Kane.

Box 1, Folder 49	Correspondence, 1930
Box 1, Folder 50	Correspondence, 1931
Box 1, Folder 51	Correspondence, 1934
Box 1, Folder 52	Correspondence, 1935

Box 1, Folder 53	Correspondence, 1936
Box 1, Folder 54	Correspondence, 1937
Box 1, Folder 55	Correspondence, 1938
Box 1, Folder 56	Correspondence, 1939
Box 1, Folder 57	Correspondence, 1940
Box 1, Folder 58	Correspondence, 1941
Box 1, Folder 59	Correspondence, 1946
Box 1, Folder 60	Correspondence, 1948
Box 1, Folder 61	Lists of Works of Art, 1939
Box 1, Folder 62	Addresses and Lists of Contacts, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 63	Price Lists, 1934-1942
Box 1, Folder 64	Loan Records, 1934-1935
Box 1, Folder 65	Exhibition Catalog, 1935 Notes: Annotated with prices

Subseries 1.3: Henri Matisse

Scope and Contents: There are two letters from Henri Matisse to Valentine Dudensing written in French from Nice, France. In the first letter, Matisse thanks Dudensing for the presentation of the exhibition, and expresses his gratitude to Mrs. Dudensing. In the second, he announces his return from a long trip to Tahiti, Panama, Martinique, Guadeloupe and the U.S.. He discusses plans to return to Paris at the end of the month and hopes he has a chance to meet up with Dudensing.

Box 1, Folder 66	Correspondence, 1927-1930
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Subseries 1.4: C.S. Price, 1940-1948

Scope and Contents: This subseries consists of materials relating to C.S. Price's affiliation with the Valentine Gallery. Found is correspondence, price lists, and scattered financial notes. The bulk of the correspondence is from C.S. Price to Valentine Dudensing, but there are some letters between Dudensing and museums regarding works by Price.

Box 1, Folder 67	Correspondence, 1940
Box 1, Folder 68	Correspondence, 1942

Box 1, Folder 69	Correspondence, 1943
Box 1, Folder 70	Correspondence, 1944
Box 1, Folder 71	Correspondence, 1945
Box 1, Folder 72	Correspondence, 1946
Box 1, Folder 73	Correspondence, 1947
Box 1, Folder 74	Correspondence, 1948
Box 1, Folder 75	Correspondence, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 76	Price Lists, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 77	Financial Notes, 1948

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Series 2: Scrapbook, 1925-1936

0.5 Linear feet (Box 2, 4)

Scope and Contents: Found is a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and scattered photographs of works of art relating to exhibitions held at the Valentine Gallery. Clippings include artists: Peter Amo, Alexander Brook, Giorgio de Chirico, Glenn Colleman, Miguel Covarrubias, Stuard Davis, Andre Derain, Robert Laurent, Jean Lucrat, Henri Matisse, Carlos Mérida, Emile Payot, Andre Dunoyer de Segonzac, and Joseph Stella.

Box 2, Folder 1	Scrapbook, 1925-1936 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 4
Box 2, Folder 2	Loose Clippings, 1925-1936 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 4
Box 2, Folder 3	Loose Photos of Works of Art, circa 1930s
Box 4	Oversized Scrapbook, 1925-1936 Notes: Material from Box 2, F1-2

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