



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Charmion von Wiegand Papers, 1926-1937, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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

2023/07/18

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Charmion von Wiegand papers
Date:	1926-1937
Identifier:	AAA.vonwchar
Creator:	Von Wiegand, Charmion
Extent:	0.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of abstract painter, art critic, and art historian, Charmion von Wiegand, measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1926-1937. The bulk of the collection consists of writings by von Wiegand. Also found are three letters to her father, Karl Henry von Wiegand.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Provenance is unknown.

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

Charmion von Wiegand papers, 1926-1937. 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

Charmion von Wiegand (1896-1983) was an abstract painter, art critic, and art historian in New York City, New York. Von Wiegand grew up in Arizona and California and settled in New York after attending Barnard College and Columbia University. She began to paint in the mid-1920s when she started psychotherapy. Additionally, von Wiegand became a correspondent with Hearst newspapers.

Scope and Contents

The papers of abstract painter, art critic, and art historian, Charmion von Wiegand, measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1926-1937. The bulk of the collection consists of writings by von Wiegand. Also found are three letters to her father, Karl Henry von Wiegand.

Arrangement

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

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Women art critics
- Women art historians
- Women artists
- Women painters

Occupations:

- Art critics -- New York (State) -- New York
- Art historians -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Charmion von Wiegand Papers, 1926-1937

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Forming the bulk of the papers are von Wiegand's autobiographical writings in which she writes about her emotional, spiritual, and intellectual life with an emphasis on her childhood, family, and travels. The pages are generally numbered, with some unnumbered miscellaneous pages. These self-reflective writings may have been prompted by therapy, with several unnumbered pages titled "Analysis." Writings on art included here are not about von Wiegand's own paintings.

Additional writings include artist statements by Wiegand; a typescript of a diary fragment kept during a trip to Mexico; articles on art, including the opening of the Julian Levy Gallery; a partial outline by von Wiegand and her husband Joseph Freeman proposing a book about Russian artists; and an outline for an unpublished book, "The New Reality in Painting, a study of abstract movements in modern painting from Cubism to our own day in the United States," by Charmion Weigand [sic] and Carl Holty. Also found are three letters from von Wiegand to her father, Karl Henry von Wiegand, written while she was in Mexico City in 1937.

Box 1, Folder 1	Letters, 1937
Box 1, Folder 2	Writings, Artist Statements, circa 1930
Box 1, Folder 3-6	Writings, Autobiographical, 1926-1927
Box 1, Folder 7	Writings, Diary Typescript, 1937
Box 1, Folder 8	Writings, Outline by Charmion Wiegand and Carl Holty, circa 1930
Box 1, Folder 9	Writings, on Art, circa 1930-1936

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