



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Jane Wade Papers Regarding Curt Valentin, 1903-1971, in the Archives of American Art

Stephanie Ashley

Funding for the processing and digitization of this
collection was provided by The Walton Family Foundation.

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Jane Wade papers regarding Curt Valentin
Date:	1903-1971
Identifier:	AAA.wadejane
Creator:	Wade, Jane, 1925-
Extent:	0.6 Linear feet
Language:	This collection is in English and German.
Summary:	The Jane Wade papers regarding art dealer and New York gallery owner Curt Valentin, measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1903-1971. This small collection consists of papers donated by former Curt Valentin Gallery employee Jane Wade, which provide scattered documentation of Valentin's life and exhibitions at the Buchholz Gallery (renamed Curt Valentin Gallery in 1951) including biographical material, correspondence from artists Valentin represented, writings and notes, lists documenting clients, exhibitions held, and artwork by Picasso sold by the gallery, clippings of obituaries for Valentin, and a complete set of Buchholz Gallery exhibition catalogs from 1937-1948.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Jane Wade papers were donated by Jane Wade in 1976. The catalogs of exhibitions organized by Curt Valentin were donated in 1977 by Jane Wade. In 2018 the two collections were merged and named the Jane Wade papers regarding Curt Valentin.

Related Materials

The bulk of Curt Valentin's papers are held by the Museum of Modern Art Archives.

Available Formats

This collection was digitized in 2018 and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

Processing Information

The collection was donated separately in two accessions: The Jane Wade papers, and the Catalogs of exhibitions organized by Curt Valentin. Both accessions were microfilmed after donation on reels 2322 and 5742 respectively. Due to their related subject matter and provenance the two collections were merged as the Jane Wade papers regarding Curt Valentin. The collection was then processed, prepared for digitization, and described in a finding aid by Stephanie Ashley in 2018 and digitized with funding provided by The Walton Family Foundation.

Preferred Citation

Jane Wade papers regarding Curt Valentin, 1903-1971. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center.

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Biographical / Historical

Born in Germany in 1902, modern art dealer Curt Valentin immigrated to the United States in 1937 where he opened the Buchholz Gallery on West Forty-sixth Street in New York city. After two years he moved the gallery to West Fifty-seventh Street and in 1951 it was renamed the Curt Valentin Gallery.

Valentin's first job was with Alfred Flechtheim, the leading dealer in modern art in Berlin at that time. In 1934 he began working with Karl Buchholz in Hamburg, selling modern art classified as degenerate by the Nazi government from the rear of Buchholz's bookstore. In 1937 Valentin was granted a permit from the Reichskammer der bildenden Künste in Berlin to purchase and sell German artwork outside of Germany. He left Germany that same year with a number of pictures and came to the United States.

Valentin was a widely respected dealer who specialized in modern paintings, sculpture, and prints, and handled the work of major artists including Alexander Calder, John Flannagan, Gerhard Marcks, Marino Marini, and Henry Moore.

Valentin died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 52, while visiting Mario Marini in Italy in 1954.

Jane Wade was employed as Valentin's assistant and continued to help run the Curt Valentin Gallery after his death, until it closed in 1955. She then worked for Otto Gerson at Fine Arts Associates, where she helped to handle the works of some of the artists previously represented by Valentin.

Scope and Contents

The Jane Wade papers regarding art dealer and New York gallery owner Curt Valentin, measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1903-1971. This small collection consists of papers donated by former Curt Valentin Gallery employee Jane Wade, which provide scattered documentation of Valentin's life and exhibitions at the Buchholz Gallery (renamed Curt Valentin Gallery in 1951) including biographical material, correspondence from artists Valentin represented, writings and notes, lists documenting clients, exhibitions held, and artwork by Picasso sold by the gallery, clippings of obituaries for Valentin, and a complete set of Buchholz Gallery exhibition catalogs from 1937-1948.

Valentin's biographical material is in German and includes his baptismal certificate, a report book from Hamburg University, a letter of recommendation from Commetersche Kunsthandlung, a 1937 permit authorizing Valentin to buy and sell the work of German artists outside Germany, and his 1950 passport.

Valentin's correspondence is primarily with artists and includes letters from Ben-Zion, Reg Butler, Alexander Calder, Jan Cox, Lyonel Feininger, John Flannagan, Barbara Hepworth, Karl Knaths, Gerhard Marcks, André Masson, Henry Moore, Clifford Odets, Carl Pickhardt, Alton Pickens, John Piper, Kurt Roesch, and Graham Sutherland. There are also photocopies of three letters in German from Georg Kolbe. Many of the letters are substantial and provide details about the artists and their work. Also found are a letter vouching for

Valentin's loyalty to the United States from Alfred Barr, and two 1942 letters from France from art dealer Henry Kahnweiler, containing news of European artists including Picasso and André Masson.

Jane Wade's correspondence extends to her time working for Otto Gerson at Fine Arts Associates, and includes letters from some of the artists whose work was handled by Curt Valentin, including Alexander Calder, Lois Dailey, and Henry Moore. There are also thirteen letters and telegrams from David Smith, with some responses from Jane Wade and Otto Gerson, which document exhibitions and details of his artist-dealer relationship with Gerson and include sketches of his sculpture with information about prices. Also found in Wade's correspondence are letters from Gertrude Lennart and Marino Marini. Lennart describes the last days of Valentin's life as she accompanied him on a visit to Marini in Italy in August 1954.

There are three folders of condolence letters written upon Valentin's death, from artists, museum and gallery professionals, and other colleagues and friends.

Writings and notes include two appreciations of Valentin written after his death by André Masson and Henry Moore, and a sheet of notes written by John Flannagan with an accompanying note entitled "Some of Johns' thoughts...."

Printed material is comprised of news clippings of obituaries and reviews of a memorial exhibition for Valentin, in addition to a complete set of bound exhibition catalogs for Buchholz Gallery from 1937-1948. Also found is a bound collection of 1929 exhibition catalogs for Galerie Alfred Flechtheim.

Artwork includes a Christmas card from Valentin designed by an artist whose name is illegible; a print by Gerhard Marcks; and a colored pencil sketch of "127 Evil Eye II" on Curt Valentin letter head, with an address on the Rue de Seine written beside it.

Photographs include two of Valentin in his gallery and two of an unidentified woman, possibly Jane Wade, in the gallery; a folder of photographs of Valentin's apartment showing his art collection; a photo of a Robert Osborn cartoon about Valentin; and a photo of "Portrait of Curt Valentin" by Jacques Lipchitz.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as a single series.

- Series 1: Jane Wade Papers Regarding Curt Valentin, 1903-1971 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, Modern -- 20th century

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Prints
Sketches

Names:

Barr, Alfred H., Jr., 1902-1981
Ben-Zion, 1897-1987
Buchholz Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
Butler, Reg, 1913-1981
Calder, Alexander, 1898-1976

Cox, Jan, 1919-1980
Curt Valentin Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
Feininger, Lyonel, 1871-1956
Fine Arts Associates
Flannagan, John Bernard, 1895?-1942
Gerson, Otto
Hepworth, Barbara, Dame, 1903-1975
Kahnweiler, Daniel Henry, 1884-
Knaths, Karl, 1891-1971
Kolbe, Georg, 1877-1947
Lipchitz, Jacques, 1891-1973
Marcks, Gerhard
Marini, Marino, 1901-1980
Masson, André, 1896-1987
Moore, Henry, 1898-1986
Odets, Clifford, 1906-1963
Osborn, Robert Chesley, 1904-1994
Picasso, Pablo, 1881-1973
Pickens, Alton
Pickhardt, Carl E.
Piper, John, 1903-
Roesch, Kurt, 1905-
Smith, David, 1906-1965
Sutherland, Graham Vivian, 1903-
Universität Hamburg
Valentin, Curt, 1902-1954

Occupations:

Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York
Gallery owners -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Jane Wade Papers Regarding Curt Valentin, 1903-1971

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Arrangement: Papers are grouped by type. Correspondence is arranged alphabetically and includes notes at the folder level of correspondents found in each folder.

Scope and Contents: Valentin's biographical material is in German and includes his baptismal certificate, a report book from Hamburg University, a letter of recommendation from Commetersche Kunsthandlung, a 1937 permit authorizing Valentin to buy and sell the work of German artists outside Germany, and his 1950 passport.

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Jane Wade's correspondence extends to her time working for Otto Gerson at Fine Arts Associates, and includes letters from some of the artists whose work was handled by Curt Valentin, including Alexander Calder, Lois Dailey, and Henry Moore. There are also thirteen letters and telegrams from David Smith, with some responses from Jane Wade and Otto Gerson, which document exhibitions and details of his artist-dealer relationship with Gerson and include sketches of his sculpture with information about prices. Also found in Wade's correspondence are letters from Gertrude Lennart and Marino Marini. Lennart describes the last days of Valentin's life as she accompanied him on a visit to Marini in Italy in August 1954.

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Box 1, Folder 1

[Biographical Material, 1903-1936](#)

Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Material, Passport, 1950
	Correspondence
Box 1, Folder 3	Curt Valentin Correspondence, B, 1940-1952 Notes: Barr, Alfred; Ben-Zion; Butler, Reg
Box 1, Folder 4	Curt Valentin Correspondence, C, circa 1944 Notes: Calder, Alexander; Cox, Jan
Box 1, Folder 5	Curt Valentin Correspondence, F, circa 1939-circa 1942 Notes: Feinger, Lyonel; Flannagan, John; Flesch, Tetta
Box 1, Folder 6	Curt Valentin Correspondence, H, circa 1942 Notes: Hayter; Hepworth, Barbara
Box 1, Folder 7	Curt Valentin Correspondence, K, circa 1938-circa 1942 Notes: Kahnweiler, Henry; Kirchner; Knaths, Karl; Kolbe, Georg
Box 1, Folder 8	Curt Valentin Correspondence, M, circa 1937-circa 1954 Notes: Maillol; Marcks, Gerhard; Masson, André; Moore, Henry
Box 1, Folder 9	Curt Valentin Correspondence, O-P, circa 1947-circa 1948 Notes: Odets, Clifford; Pickhardt, Carl; Pickens, Alton; Piper, John
Box 1, Folder 10	Curt Valentin Correspondence, R-S, 1944-1951 Notes: Roesch, Kurt; Sutherland, Graham
Box 1, Folder 11	Curt Valentin Correspondence, Unidentified/Illegible, 1938-1954
Box 1, Folder 12	Jane Wade Correspondence, A-B, 1954 Notes: Albright Art Gallery; Beckmann, Quappi
Box 1, Folder 13	Jane Wade Correspondence, C-D, circa 1954 Notes: Calder, Alexander; Dailey, Lois
Box 1, Folder 14	Jane Wade Correspondence, G-L, circa 1954-1962 Notes: Grohmann, Will; Lefebvre-Foinet
Box 1, Folder 15	Jane Wade Correspondence, M-P, 1954-1971 Notes: Maurice; Marini, Marino; Moore, Henry; Ness, June; Pickens, Alton
Box 1, Folder 16	Jane Wade Correspondence, Smith, David, circa 1957-circa 1961
Box 1, Folder 17	Jane Wade Correspondence, Smith, David, circa 1954
Box 1, Folder 18	Jane Wade Correspondence, Z and Unidentified/Illegible, 1954 Notes: Zette

Box 1, Folder 19	Condolence Letters after Valentin's Death, A-H, 1954
Box 1, Folder 20	Condolence Letters after Valentin's Death, I-Z, 1954
Box 1, Folder 21	Condolence Letters after Valentin's Death, Unidentified/Illegible, 1954
Writings and Notes	
Box 1, Folder 22	Appreciations of Valentin by André Masson and Henry Moore, 1954
Box 1, Folder 23	Notes by John Flannagan, circa 1930s
Box 1, Folder 24	Short Story "Little Bush" by Unidentified Author, undated
Business Records	
Box 1, Folder 25	List of Clients/Contacts, circa 1955
Box 1, Folder 26	List of "Picasso Items Sold by the Valentin Gallery", circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 27	List of "Some Important Curt Valentin Exhibitions", circa 1955
Printed Material	
Box 1, Folder 28	Clippings, Obituaries, 1954
Box 2, Folder 1	Exhibition Catalogs, Galerie Alfred Flechtheim, 1929
Box 2, Folder 2	Exhibition Catalogs, Buchholz Gallery, 1937-1941
Box 2, Folder 3	Exhibition Catalogs, Buchholz Gallery, 1943-1944
Box 2, Folder 4	Exhibition Catalogs, Buchholz Gallery, 1944-1945
Box 2, Folder 5	Exhibition Catalogs, Buchholz Gallery, 1945-1946
Box 2, Folder 6	Exhibition Catalogs, Buchholz Gallery, 1946-1947
Box 2, Folder 7	Exhibition Catalogs, Buchholz Gallery, 1947-1948
Box 2, Folder 8	Artwork, circa 1940s
Box 2, Folder 9	Photographs of Valentin and Gallery, circa 1940s
Box 2, Folder 10	Photographs of Valentin's Apartment, circa 1940s
Box 2, Folder 11	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1940s

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