

A Finding Aid to the Anna Walinska Papers, 1927-2002, bulk 1935-1980, in the Archives of American Art

Rihoko Ueno

Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection was provided by Rosina Rubin.

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

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art	
Title:	Anna Walinska papers	
Date:	1927-2002 (bulk 1935-1980)	
Identifier:	AAA.walianna	
Creator:	Walinska, Anna	
Extent:	2.1 Linear feet	
Language: The collection is in English, Hebrew, French, Czech, and S		
Summary:	The papers of New York-based painter, teacher and art director Anna Walinska measure 2.1 linear feet and date from 1927 to 2002, with the bulk of material from 1935 to 1980. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, writings, travel diaries, printed material, scrapbooks, artwork, sketchbooks, and photographs.	

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated by Anna Walinska in two installations in 1976 and 1981. Rosina Rubin, Anna Walinska's niece, made a third donation of material in 2017.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also has the Guild Art Gallery records, which consists of material related to the gallery that was co-founded by Anna Walinska.

Available Formats

The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2018 and is available on the Archives of American Art website. Materials which have not been digitized include blank pages, blank versos of photographs, and duplicates. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages digitized.

Processing Information

The collection was fully processed, prepared for digitization, and described in a finding aid by Rihoko Ueno in 2017 with funding provided by Rosina Rubin.

Preferred Citation

Anna Walinska papers, 1927-2002, bulk 1935-1980. 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.

Biographical / Historical

Anna Walinska (1906-1997) was a New York artist, teacher and gallery director who traveled widely and is most well known for her paintings related to the subject of the Holocaust.

Anna Walinska was born in London, England in 1906 to labor organization leader Ossip Walinsky and poet Rosa Newman Walinska. She had two siblings, Emily and Louis. The family immigrated to New York City in 1914, and Anna Walinska began studying at the Art Students League in 1918. In 1926, she travelled to Paris and studied art at the Academie de Grande Chaumier with Andre L'Hote. France was her primary residence until 1930.

In 1935, Walinska and artist Margaret Lefranc co-founded the Guild Art Gallery at West 57th Street in New York and gave Arshile Gorky his first solo exhibition in the city. The gallery closed its doors in 1937. In 1939, Walinska was the Assistant Creative Director of the Contemporary Art Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. During this time, Walinska also pursued her own art and exhibited work in numerous group shows.

From 1954 to 1955, Walinska traveled around the world, visiting the capitals and major cities of many countries in Asia, the Middle East and Europe. Places she went included Japan, Burma (now known as Myanmar), Pakistan, Greece, Italy, France and Spain. During her four month stay in Burma, she painted a portrait of Prime Minister U Nu and she later became a highly respected portrait artist who painted numerous illustrious subjects such as First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, artists Louise Nevelson and Mark Rothko, and many others.

In 1957, Walinska became the artist-in-residence at the Riverside Museum where she also taught and exhibited with other artists. That same year, she had her first retrospective at the Jewish Museum in New York City.

Walinska exhibited widely and often. *Holocaust: Paintings and Drawings, 1953-1978*, which opened at the Museum of Religious Art at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, is probably the most well-known of her exhibitions and it traveled across the country to several other sites such as the War Memorial Building in Baltimore and Mercy College of Detroit. Works from this exhibition were acquired by multiple museums to become part of their permanent collections.

Walinkska died on December 19, 1997 at the age of 91 in New York City. In 1999, there was a retrospective of her work titled *Echoes of the Holocaust: Paintings, Drawings, and Collage, 1940-1989* held at Clark University's Center for Holocaust Studies. The Onisaburo Gallery at New York's Interfaith Center also held a solo exhibition titled *Portraits of Faith* (2000). Her art is part of the collections at the Denver Art Museum, National Portrait Gallery, National Museum of Women in the Arts, the Rose Art Museum, and other museums.

Scope and Contents

The papers of New York-based painter, teacher and art director Anna Walinska measure 2.1 linear feet and date from 1927 to 2002, with the bulk of material from 1935 to 1980. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, writings, travel diaries, printed material, scrapbooks, artwork, sketchbooks, and photographs.

Biographical material consists of awards, certificates, curriculum vitae, biographical outlines, exhibition lists, passports and other material. There is a partial transcript from a radio interview of Anna Walinska. Also included are limited financial records.

Correspondence includes Anna Walinska's letters to her family from her 1954-1955 trip abroad to multiple countries in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. There is personal and professional correspondence with friends, artists and art institutions. Notable correspondents include Milton Avery, Louise Nevelson, Beata Welsing, Bracha Hacohen, William Littlefield, and Walinska's brother Louis Walinsky.

Writings consist of Walinska's notes, notebooks, lectures, essays, and a handwritten prospectus for Guild Art Gallery. There is one folder of writings by others about Walinska at the end of the series. There are four travel diaries that describe Walinska's trip around the world from 1954-1955, during which she traveled to many countries, and later trips to locations such as Israel and Trinidad.

Printed Material include clippings about Anna Walinska, group and solo exhibition catalogs, announcements, event invitations, and course catalogs for the Master Institute of United Art in New York City, where Walinska taught painting and drawing classes.

There are three scrapbooks: one scrapbook is about Guild Art Gallery, the second scrapbook is about the *Holocaust* exhibition, the third oversized scrapbook documents Walinska's career and activities overall.

Artwork consists of two bound sketchbooks as well as drawings and sketches in a variety of mediums from pencil and ink to watercolors and oils.

Photographs are of Walinska, friends, family, artists, artwork, exhibition installations, and other subjects. One album includes photos of Anna Walinska and her travels, along with images of friends and colleagues. The second album includes photographs of Walinska's solo exhibition at Sunken Meadow Gallery (1959). There is also one folder of photocopies of photos of assorted artwork by Walinska.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 8 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1927-2002 (Box 1; 11 folders)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1949-1995 (Box 1; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 3: Writings, circa 1935-circa 1983 (Box 1; 8 folders)
- Series 4: Travel Diaries, 1954-1973 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1942-2002 (Boxes 1-2; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 6: Scrapbooks, circa 1929-1980 (Boxes 2, 4; 0.5 linear feet)
- Series 7: Artwork, circa 1929-1963 (Box 3; 5 folders)
- Series 8: Photographs, circa 1932-1980 (Box 3; 0.3 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Asia--Description and travel Drawing--Study and teaching Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945), in art Middle East--Description and travel Painting -- New York (State) -- New York Trinidad and Tobago--Description and travel Women artists Women educators Women painters

Types of Materials:

Drawings Interviews Photographs Scrapbooks Sketchbooks Sketches Transcripts Travel diaries

Names:

Avery, Milton, 1885-1965 Beata, Welsing Guild Art Gallery Hacohen, Bracha Littlefield, William Horace, 1902-1969 Nevelson, Louise, 1899-1988 Walinsky, Louis Joseph, 1908-2001

Occupations:

Educators -- New York (State) -- New York Gallery directors -- New York (State) -- New York Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Places:

Europe -- description and travel Israel -- Description and Travel

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1927-2002

11 Folders (Box 1)				
	ope and ntents:	exhibition transcript	cal material consists of awards, certificates, curriculum vitae, biographical outlines, lists, passports, membership cards and other material. There is also a partial of Anna Walinska talking about her work for a radio interview. Limited financial clude bills, receipts, and expenses for framing and transportation of artwork.	
Arr	angement:	This series	s is arranged alphabetically by folder title.	
Available The bulk of Formats:		The bulk o	of this series has been digitized except for duplicates and blank pages of passports.	
E	Box 1, Folde	r 1	American Society of Contemporary Artists Membership Card, 1973	
E	Box 1, Folde	r 2	Awards and Certificates, 1957-circa 1980	
Box 1, Folder 3 Box 1, Folder 4 Box 1, Folder 5 Box 1, Folder 6 Box 1, Folder 7 Box 1, Folder 8 Box 1, Folder 9 Box 1, Folder 10 Box 1, Folder 11		r 3	Bills and Receipts, circa 1962-circa 1980	
		r 4	Biographical Outlines and Exhibitions List, circa 1969-2002	
		r 5	Curriculum Vitae, circa 1975	
		r 6	Framing Costs, circa 1961-circa 1980	
		r 7	Miscellaneous Financial Records, circa 1958-circa 1980	
		r 8	Partial Transcript of WEVD Radio Interview, 1979	
		r 9	Passports, 1927-1929	
		r 10	Passports, 1954-1962	
		r 11	Shipping and Transportation Costs, 1960, 1980	

Series 2: Correspondence, 1949-1995

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Correspondence includes Anna Walinska's letters to her family, usually addressed to her sister Emily Rubin and her father Ossip Walinsky, during her extended 1954-1955 trip abroad to countries in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. There is also personal and professional correspondence with friends, artists, and art institutions about Walinska's work, travel, and exhibitions. Notable correspondents include Milton Avery, Joseph Breitenbach, Mona Sullivan, Saul Raskin, Louise Nevelson, Beata Welsing, Elizabeth Erlanger, Ahron Ben-Shmuel, Bracha Hacohen, William Littlefield, and Walinska's brother Louis Walinsky.

Arrangement: Family correspondence comes first, followed by alphabetical correspondence. Correspondents with less than four letters were placed in the "miscellaneous" alphabetical folders. One folder of "first names only" correspondence and one folder of unidentified correspondence are at the end of the series.

Available The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for duplicates.

Formats:

Box 1, Folder 12	Family Letters from Travels Abroad, 1954 November-December
Box 1, Folder 13	Family Letters from Travels Abroad, 1955 January
Box 1, Folder 14	Family Letters from Travels Abroad, 1955 February
Box 1, Folder 15	Family Letters from Travels Abroad, 1955 March
Box 1, Folder 16	Family Letters from Travels Abroad, 1955 April
Box 1, Folder 17	Family Letters from Travels Abroad, 1955 May
Box 1, Folder 18	Artists Equity Association, 1953
Box 1, Folder 19	Avery, Milton, 1958-1963
Box 1, Folder 20	A, Miscellaneous, 1954-1981
Box 1, Folder 21	Baltimore City Council, 1979-1980
Box 1, Folder 22	Burma Trip Event Invitations and RSVPs, circa 1954-1955
Box 1, Folder 23	B, Miscellaneous, 1955-1983 Notes: Includes one letter from Ahron Ben-Shmuel and one letter from Jospeph Breitenbach
Box 1, Folder 24	Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1977-1980
Box 1, Folder 25	City of Baltimore Art Commission, 1980
Box 1, Folder 26	Courie, Maria, circa 1959-1962

Box 1, Folder 27	C, Miscellaneous, 1957-1981
Box 1, Folder 28	D, Miscellaneous, 1955-1979
Box 1, Folder 29	Elster, Samuel K., 1967-1980
Box 1, Folder 30	E, Miscellaneous, 1954-1982 Notes: Includes one letter from Elizabeth Erlanger
Box 1, Folder 31	F, Miscellaneous, 1959-1979
Box 1, Folder 32	G, Miscellaneous, 1956-1991
Box 1, Folder 33	Hacohen, Bracha and David, 1955-1967
Box 1, Folder 34	Hebrew Union College, 1979-1980
Box 1, Folder 35	H, Miscellaneous, 1960-1985
Box 1, Folder 36	I, Miscellaneous, 1974-1979
Box 1, Folder 37	J, Miscellaneous, 1961-1989
Box 1, Folder 38	K, Miscellaneous, 1958-1980
Box 1, Folder 39	Lerner, Max, 1955
Box 1, Folder 40	Littlefield, William, 1965-1966
Box 1, Folder 41	L, Miscellaneous, 1954-1995
Box 1, Folder 42	Mercy College of Detroit, 1980-1981
Box 1, Folder 43	Museum of Modern Art, 1960-1961
Box 1, Folder 44	M, Miscellaneous, 1957-1980 Notes: Includes one letter to and one letter from the Metropolitan Museum of Art Curator Henry Geldzahler
Box 1, Folder 45	Nathan, Robert R., 1954-1982
Box 1, Folder 46	Nevelson, Louise, 1959-1961
Box 1, Folder 47	N, Miscellaneous, 1961-1980
Box 1, Folder 48	O, Miscellaneous, 1958
Box 1, Folder 49	Perlis, Leo, 1961-1979

Box 1, Folder 50	P, Miscellaneous, 1956-1976
Box 1, Folder 51	R, Miscellaneous, 1953-1990 Notes: Includes one letter from Paul Raskin and two letters from Eleanor Roosevelt
Box 1, Folder 52	Singer, Israel, 1979
Box 1, Folder 53	S, Miscellaneous, 1954-1995 Notes: Includes one letter from Mona Sullivan and two letters from the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum Director James Johnson Sweeney
Box 1, Folder 54	Thant, (Mr. and Mrs.), 1955-1961
Box 1, Folder 55	T, Miscellaneous, 1963-1981
Box 1, Folder 56	V, Miscellaneous, 1979
Box 1, Folder 57	Walinsky, Louis J., 1954-1980
Box 1, Folder 58	Welsing, Beata, circa 1956-1966
Box 1, Folder 59	W, Miscellaneous, 1956-1985
Box 1, Folder 60	Y, Miscellaneous, 1975-1981
Box 1, Folder 61	Z, Miscellaneous, 1949-1980
Box 1, Folder 62	First Names Only Correspondence, A-S, 1961-1980
Box 1, Folder 63	Unidentified Correspondence, circa 1960-circa 1979

Series 3: Writings, circa 1935-circa 1983

8 Folders (Box 1)						
Scope and Writings include two bound notebooks on art, loose notes on art, a handwritten prosp for the Guild Art Gallery which Walinska co-founded, an art lecture for a symposium essay for Walinska's <i>Holocaust</i> exhibition, and an art talk delivered to a group of Bur artists. All writings are by Walinska except for one folder of writings by others.						
	rrangement: Walinska's notebooks and notes on are at the beginning of the series, followed by the of the writings in alphabetical order by title or subject. Writings by others are at the end					
Available The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for duplicates. Formats:						
Box 1, Folder 64		Notebook on Art, circa 1952-circa 1969				
Box 1, Folder	65	Notebook on Art, circa 1964-circa 1965				
Box 1, Folder	66	Notes on Art, circa 1949-circa 1983				
Box 1, Folder	67	Art Lecture at Congress for Jewish Culture Symposium, 1957				
Box 1, Folder	68	Guild Art Gallery Prospectus, circa 1935				
Box 1, Folder	69	Holocaust Exhibition Essay Typescript Draft, circa 1980				
Box 1, Folder	70	"Talk Delivered to Group of Burmese Artists", 1955				
Box 1, Folder	71	Writings about Anna Walinska by Others, circa 1959-1980				

Series 4: Travel Diaries, 1954-1973

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)				
Scope and Contents:	There are four bound travel diaries and one diary comprised of loose pages. Three diaries hold detailed accounts of Walinska's trip around the world from 1954-1955, during which she traveled to many countries: Japan, China, Myanmar (formerly Burma), India, Pakistan Greece, Italy, France and Spain, among other places. The diaries also mention progress or paintings and mentions people sitting for portraits. The fourth bound diary is about a 1962 trip to Israel. The disbound diary chronicles a 1973 trip to Trinidad.			
Arrangement: This series is arranged chronologically.				
Available The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for blank pages. Formats:				
Box 1, Folde	er 72	Travel Itinerary, 1954		
Box 1, Folde	er 73	Travel Diary, 1954 November-1955 March		
Box 1, Folder 74		Travel Diary, 1955 March-April		
Box 1, Folde	er 75	Travel Diary, 1955 April-May		
Box 1, Folde	er 76	Travel Diary from Israel Trip, 1962		
Box 1, Folde	er 77	Travel Diary from Trinidad Trip, 1973		

Series 5: Printed Material, 1942-2002

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

- Scope and This series consists of clippings about Anna Walinska, group and solo exhibition catalogs, announcements, event invitations, and course catalogs for the Master Institute of United Arts (also known as the Riverside Museum) in New York City, where Walinska taught painting and drawing classes.
- Arrangement: Materials in this series are grouped together by document type, then arranged chronologically within those groupings.
- Available The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for duplicates. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have only had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages digitized.

Box 1, Folder 78	Clippings, 1957-1980		
Box 1, Folder 79	Clippings, 2000-2002 Image(s): Clipping		
Box 1, Folder 80	Exhibition Catalogs, 1942-1946		
Box 1, Folder 81	Exhibition Catalogs, 1953-1959		
Box 1, Folder 82	Exhibition Catalogs, 1960-1962		
Box 2, Folder 1	Exhibition Catalogs, 1963-1964		
Box 2, Folder 2	Exhibition Catalogs, 1965-1968		
Box 2, Folder 3	Exhibition Catalogs, 1971-1980, 2001		
Box 2, Folder 4	Exhibition Catalogs - Undated, circa 1945-circa 1970		
Box 2, Folder 5	Exhibition Announcements, 1952-1959		
Box 2, Folder 6	Exhibition Announcements, 1960-1969		
Box 2, Folder 7	Exhibition Announcements, 1973-1980		
Box 2, Folder 8	Exhibition Announcements, 1996-2002		
Box 2, Folder 9	Exhibition Announcements - Undated, circa 1950-circa 1980		
Box 2, Folder 10	Event Invitations, 1954-circa 1997		
Box 2, Folder 11	Master Institute of United Arts Course Catalogs, 1960-1970		

Series 6: Scrapbooks, circa 1929-1980

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2, 4)

- Scope and Contents: There are three scrapbooks in this series. The scrapbook about the Guild Art Gallery, cofounded and directed by Anna Walinska, contains exhibition catalogs and reviews including printed material related to Arshile Gorky's first solo exhibition in New York City. The *Holocaust* exhibition scrapbook includes articles, announcements, exhibition schedules, and other material. The large oversized scrapbook documents Walinska's career and activities overall, mostly from the 1930s to the 1960s, and includes a range of materials from photographs and catalogs to announcements and articles about her travels, artwork, and shows.
- Available The bulk of this series has been digitized. A few catalogs were only partially digitized because they were pasted onto the pages of the scrapbooks so not all the content was visible.

Box 2, Folder 12	Guild Art Gallery Scrapbook, 1936-1937
Box 2, Folder 13	Holocaust: Paintings and Drawings Exhibition Scrapbook, 1979-1980
Box 4, Folder 1	Oversized Scrapbook, circa 1929-circa 1971

Series 7: Artwork, circa 1929-1963

5 Folders (Box 3)					
Scope and Artwork includes two bound sketchbooks with drawings, mostly in watercolor but als pencil and oil paint, pasted onto the pages. Some of the artwork include titles and da Also included are drawings and watercolor sketches of various subjects, such as per and studies of paintings, as well as abstract images.					
Arrangement:	ent: Sketchbooks are at the beginning of the series, followed by drawings and sketches loosely sorted by medium, such as watercolor, pencil, and ink.				
Available This series has been digitized in its entirety. Formats:					
Box 3, Folde	er 1	Sketchbook, circa 1932-circa 1957			
Box 3, Folder 2 Box 3, Folder 3 Box 3, Folder 4		"20 Drawings" Scrapbook, 1936-1963			
		Ink Drawings, 1932-1952			
		Pencil Drawings, circa 1929, 1961			
Box 3, Folder 5		Watercolor Sketches and Studies, 1930-1954			

Series 8: Photographs, circa 1932-1980

0.3 Linear feet (Box 3)				
Scope and Contents: Photographs are of Walinska, friends, family, artists, artwork, exhibition installation houses. The series mostly consists of black and white photographs, but also in color slides of artwork. One photograph album includes photos of Anna Walinska, Beata Welsing, Arshile Gorky, Burmese Prime Minister U Nu in the midst of get portrait painted, and travel to Burma and Japan. The second album includes photo of Walinska's solo exhibition at Sunken Meadow Gallery (1959) along with limited material. There is also one folder of photocopies of photos of paintings by Walinska				
•			hs are arranged of this series has	d by subject. s been digitized, except for duplicates.
	Box 3, Folde	r 6	Anna Walinska,	a, 1958-1980
	Box 3, Folde	r 7	Anna Walinska	a with Other Artists, circa 1979
	Box 3, Folde	r 8	Friends, Collea	agues and Others, circa 1936-circa 1970
Box 3, Folder		r 9	Ossip Walinsky Culture, 1954	y and Louise Nevelson Speaking at Congress for Jewish
	Box 3, Folde	r 10	Color Slides of	f Artwork, 1975-1976
	Box 3, Folde	r 11	Collages, 1960-	D-1961
	Box 3, Folde	r 12	Paintings, 1936	6-1957
Box 3, Folder 13 Box 3, Folder 14		Portraits by Anr	na Walinska, 1955-circa 1965	
		r 14	Retrospective E	Exhibition Installation at the Jewish Museum, 1957
	Box 3, Folde	r 15	Holocaust: Pain	ntings and Drawings Exhibition Installations, 1979
	Box 3, Folde	r 16	Album of Sunke	en Meadow Gallery Exhibition, 1959
	Box 3, Folde	der 17 Album of Fam		ly, Friends and Travel, circa 1933-circa 1976
	Box 3, Folde	r 18	Interior of Hous Notes:	se, 1974 Probably father Ossip Walinsky's home
	Box 3, Folde	r 19	Photocopies of Notes:	f Artwork, 1932-1974 Includes artwork title, date and dimensions on verso of each page