



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Valerie Harrisse Walter Papers, 1911-1979, in the Archives of American Art.

Ricky Gomez

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Valerie HARRISSE Walter papers
Date:	1911-1979
Identifier:	AAA.waltvale
Creator:	Walter, Valerie HARRISSE, b. 1892
Extent:	1.2 Linear feet
Language:	English , French , Italian .
Summary:	The papers of Valerie HARRISSE Walter measure 1.2 linear feet and date from 1911 to 1979. The papers document her career as a sculptor through correspondence with colleagues and art institutions; an description of an experience with a gorilla for a sculpture piece, notes, and other writings; a resume, one watercolor painting, list of works and other professional activity files; scrapbooks of primarily photographs and clippings; exhibition catalogs, clippings, and other printed material; and photographs and albums of Walter, her sculpture pieces, and subjects that posed for her pieces.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Material on reel D239 lent for microfilming 1965 and portions subsequently donated 1983, along with unmicrofilmed material by Valerie H. Walter via Mrs. Henderson Braddick, niece of Walter.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming on reel D239. Loaned materials were returned to the lender and are not described in the collection container inventory.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reel D239 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2021.

Preferred Citation

Valerie HARRISSE Walter papers, 1911-1979. 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. Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Valerie HARRISSE Walter (1892-1984) was a sculptor in Baltimore, Maryland.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Valerie HARRISSE Walter measure 1.2 linear feet and date from 1911 to 1979. The papers document her career as a sculptor through correspondence with colleagues and art institutions; a description of an experience with a gorilla for a sculpture piece, notes, and other writings; a resume, one watercolor painting, list of works and other professional activity; scrapbooks of primarily photographs and clippings; exhibition catalogs, clippings, and other printed material; and photographs and albums of Walter, her sculpture pieces, and subjects that posed for her pieces.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into six series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1924-1979 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Writings, circa 1927 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: Professional Activity Files, 1911-1977 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 4: Scrapbooks, 1915-1963 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1923-1971 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1915-1978 (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:

Women artists
Women sculptors

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Sound recordings

Occupations:

Sculptors -- Maryland -- Baltimore

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1924-1979

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is primarily from colleagues and art museums concerning Walter's works, especially concerning using gorillas as subjects for her pieces.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1924-1929
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1930-1939
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1944-1949
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1955, 1960, 1968
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1973-1979

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Series 2: Writings, circa 1927

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Writings consist of an article by Walter on her impressions of the first National Service School, a charred notebook documenting her experience meeting with a gorilla to use as the subject for one of her sculptures, and miscellaneous writings and notes.

Box 1, Folder 6 "A Gorilla", circa 1927

Box 1, Folder 7 "A Gorilla" Notebook, circa 1927
Notes: Notebook is charred and in fragile condition.

Box 1, Folder 8 "Impressions of the First National Service School", undated

Box 1, Folder 9 Miscellaneous Writings and Notes, undated

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Series 3: Professional Activity Files, 1911-1977

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Professional material includes a handwritten resume, list of artwork, one watercolor painting of a gorilla, and subject files on animals and women athletes. Also included are two audio cassette recordings from an unveiling ceremony for one of Walter's pieces at John Hopkins University.

Box 1, Folder 10	Gorilla Watercolor Painting, 1922
Box 1, Folder 11	List of Works, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Receipts for Works of Art, 1975
Box 1, Folder 13	Resume, circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 14	Subject File, Gorilla/Zoo Animals, 1911-1977
Box 1, Folder 15	Subject File, Skaters and Women Athletes, 1939-1954
Box 1, Folder 16	"Unveiling of Walter's Sculpture", 1977 November 3 2 Sound cassettes Notes: A presentation of sculpture given to the Anthropology Department at John Hopkins University by Valerie Walter. It is unclear whether the presentation spans both cassettes or if one of the cassettes is a duplicate.

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Series 4: Scrapbooks, 1915-1963

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Language: French, Italian.

Scope and Contents: Scrapbooks consist of six scrapbooks containing primarily clippings related to animals, Walter, and her works. Also mixed in are photographs of Walter's sculptures and animals that served as the subjects for some of her pieces. Some of the clippings are in French and Italian.

Box 1, Folder 17	Scrapbook I, circa 1932
Box 1, Folder 18	Scrapbook II, 1922-1951
Box 1, Folder 19	Scrapbook III, 1922-1963
Box 1, Folder 20	Scrapbook IV, 1928-1936
Box 1, Folder 21	Scrapbook V, 1915-1954
Box 1, Folder 22	Scrapbook VI, 1924-1944

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1923-1971

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Printed material consists of articles on Walter's and her works, clippings, exhibition catalogs, and some of Walter's sketches. Some of the clippings are in French and Italian.

Box 1, Folder 23	Articles, 1934, 1962
Box 1, Folder 24-25	Clippings, 1924-1971 Language: French, Italian.
Box 1, Folder 26	Exhibition Catalogs, 1923-1940
Box 1, Folder 27	Sketches, 1943
Box 1, Folder 28	Miscellaneous, 1934-1939

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Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1915-1978

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Language: French, Italian.

Scope and Contents: Photographic material consists primarily of photographs of Walter, her sculptures, and seven photo albums. Photo albums are more scrapbook in nature containing clippings, in addition to photographs of sculpture pieces. Some of the included printed material is in French and Italian.

Box 1, Folder 29	Personal, 1924-1963
Box 1, Folder 30-32	Sculptures, 1927-1960
Box 1, Folder 33	Subjects for Sculptures, 1927-1963
Box 1, Folder 34	Album I, circa 1915-1924
Box 1, Folder 35	Album II, circa 1922
Box 1, Folder 36	Album III, 1920-1928
Box 1, Folder 37	Album IV, 1927-1934
Box 1, Folder 38	Album VI, circa 1930
Box 1, Folder 39	Album VII, 1924-1978
Box 2, Folder 1	Album XIII, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Negatives, undated
Box 2, Folder 3-4	Miscellaneous, 1916-1950

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