



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Tamara Webster Papers Relating to Frederick Hammersley, circa 1917-circa 1920s, 1961-1996, in the Archives of American Art

Rihoko Ueno and Stephanie Ashley

The collection was digitized in 2022 with funding
provided by the Frederick Hammersley Foundation.

2015 September 1, 2021 April 5

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Tamara Webster papers relating to Frederick Hammersley
Date:	circa 1917-circa 1920s 1961-1996
Identifier:	AAA.webstama
Creator:	Webster, Tamara, 1917-2011
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Tamara Webster papers relating to Frederick Hammersley measure 0.2 linear feet and date from circa 1917-circa 1920s, and 1961 to 1996. Webster was a mixed-media artist who operated the Tamara Webster Gallery in Cambria, California and was a friend of Frederick Hammersley. The papers include letters and holiday cards all written by Hammersley to Webster, and some Hammersley exhibition catalogs and clippings Hammersley sent to Webster. Also found are photographs of Hammersley in his Albuquerque studio, and photos of his artwork, his exhibitions, and other subjects.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Tamara Webster papers relating to Frederick Hammersley were donated to the Archives of American Art in 2015 via Karen Kile, the director of the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also has the Frederick Hammersley papers, 1897-2008 and the Bardene Allen Papers, circa 1965-2009.

Available Formats

The collection was digitized in 2022 and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

Processing Information

This collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Rihoko Ueno in 2015. The collection was prepared for digitization by Stephanie Ashley and digitized in 2022 with funding provided by the Frederick Hammersley Foundation.

Preferred Citation

Tamara Webster papers relating to Frederick Hammersley, circa 1917-circa 1920s, 1961-1996. 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

Tamara Webster (1917-2011) was a gallery owner and mixed-media artist in Cambria, California.

Webster incorporated painting, weaving, mosaic, ethnic jewelry, furniture, woodwork, and sculpture into her artwork. She moved to Cambria in the early 1970s and operated the Tamara Webster gallery in two locations before moving it to her home studio. Webster befriended abstract painter Frederick Hammersley while living in California. After Webster moved to New Mexico in 1971 the two artists corresponded and remained friends for many years.

Scope and Contents

The Tamara Webster papers relating to Frederick Hammersley measure 0.2 linear feet and date from circa 1917-circa 1920s, and 1961 to 1996. Webster was a mixed-media artist who operated the Tamara Webster Gallery in Cambria, California, and a friend of Frederick Hammersley. The papers include letters and holiday cards all written by Hammersley to Webster, and some Hammersley exhibition catalogs and clippings Hammersley sent to Webster. Also found are photographs of Hammersley in his Albuquerque studio, and photos of his artwork, his exhibitions, and other subjects.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 3 series.

- Series 1: Letters, 1970-1996 (3 folders; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Printed Material, 1961-1990 (2 folders; Box 1)
 - Series 3: Photographs, circa 1917-circa 1920s, 1972-1995 (8 folders; Box 1)
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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:

Women art dealers
Women artists

Names:

Hammersley, Frederick, 1919-2009

Occupations:

Art dealers -- California -- Cambria
Gallery owners -- California -- Cambria
Mixed-media artists -- California -- Cambria

Container Listing

Series 1: Letters, 1970-1996

3 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series consists of Frederick Hammersley's letters and cards to Tamara Webster, whom he affectionately refers to as "Tommy." There are letters regarding sales of artwork, a few postcards, and Christmas cards, some of which are handmade.

Available Formats: Series is digitized in entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1 [Christmas Cards from Frederick Hammersley, 1974-1996](#)

Box 1, Folder 2 [Letters from Frederick Hammersley, 1970-1988](#)

Box 1, Folder 3 [Letters from Frederick Hammersley, 1989-1995](#)

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Series 2: Printed Material, 1961-1990

2 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes exhibition catalogs and announcements for Frederick Hammersley's group and solo shows. There are also news clippings of articles and published cartoon strips that Hammersley mailed to Webster.

Available Formats: Series is digitized in entirety.

Box 1, Folder 4 [Clippings and Cartoons, circa 1985-1990](#)

Box 1, Folder 5 [Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, 1961-1987](#)

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Series 3: Photographs, circa 1917-circa 1920s, 1972-1995

8 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Photographs are of Frederick Hammersley and his Albuquerque studio, his artwork, his exhibitions, and his cats, among other subjects.

There are also several photographs of Hammersley's sister Susie Stone, including some taken during a Getty Museum tour. Additional photos of artwork seen on the Getty tour are housed in a separate folder. Two photographs taken by Hammersley's father Harold Hammersley are of a family group and a skiing event.

Available Formats: Series is digitized in entirety.

Box 1, Folder 6	Photographs of Hammersley Artwork, circa 1972-1995
Box 1, Folder 7	Photographs of Hammersley Exhibitions, 1975-1995
Box 1, Folder 8	Photographs of Hammersley in Albuquerque Studio, 1978-1995
Box 1, Folder 9	Photographs of Cats, 1976-1988
Box 1, Folder 10	Photographs of Getty Museum, 1984 Notes: Paintings and sculptures from Getty Museum art tour.
Box 1, Folder 11	Photographs of Susie Hammersley Stone, 1984-1995
Box 1, Folder 12	Photographs of Trip to Turkey, 1989
Box 1, Folder 13	Photographs by Harold Hammersley, circa 1917-circa 1920s

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