



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Herman J. Wechsler Papers, 1913-1976, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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## Collection Overview

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives of American Art  |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Herman J. Wechsler papers   |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1913-1976   |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | AAA.wechherm  |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Wechsler, Herman Joel, 1904-  |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 2 Linear feet   |
| <b>Language:</b>   | Collection is in English.   |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | The papers of art historian and gallery director Herman J. Wechsler measure 2.0 linear feet and date from 1913-1976. The collection primarily documents Wechsler's art historical publications and to a lesser extent the activities of F.A.R. Gallery. Records include business and personal correspondence, drafts of published and unpublished writings, personal business records, printed material, loose scrapbook pages, and photographs of Wechsler and his family. |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1977-1981 by Mrs. Herman J. Wechsler, Wechsler's widow.

### Processing Information

Collection processed in 2015 by intern, Christen P. Brown.

### Preferred Citation

Herman Wechsler papers, 1913-1976. 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. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Herman Joel Wechsler (1904-1976) was an art historian and gallery director in New York, New York. Wechsler founded the Fine Arts Reproductions (F.A.R.) Gallery in 1934 which remained in business for the remainder of his life. Wechsler is known for writing *An Introduction to Prints and Print Making* (published in 1960), *French Impressionists* (1955), *Gods and Goddesses in Art and Legend* (1950), and *Great Prints and Printmakers* (1967). Wechsler died in 1976 and was survived by his wife Rachelle and daughter Antonia.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of New York art historian and gallery director Herman J. Wechsler measure 2.0 linear feet and date from 1913-1976. The collection primarily documents Wechsler's art historical publications and to a lesser extent the activities of F.A.R. Gallery. Records include business and personal correspondence, drafts of published and unpublished writings, personal business records, printed material, loose scrapbook pages, and photographs of Wechsler and his family.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1950-1975 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)
  - Series 2: Writings, 1913-circa mid-1900s (Box 1; 0.8 linear feet)
  - Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa mid-1900s-1976 (Box 2; 6 folders)
  - Series 4: Printed Material, 1932-1976 (Box 2; 0.6 linear feet)
  - Series 5: Scrapbook, 1935-1940 (Box 2; 2 folders)
  - Series 6: Photographs, circa mid-1900s-1975 (Box 2; 3 folders)
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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Photographs  
Scrapbooks

Names:

Far Gallery

Occupations:

Art historians -- New York (State) -- New York  
Authors -- New York (State) -- New York  
Gallery directors -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1950-1975

#### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

**Scope and Contents:** Correspondence includes letters from magazine publishers with copies of Wechsler's writings that to be published, letters from art dealers and galleries, and letters from family and friends.

**Arrangement:** Folders are arranged alphabetically by surname of the correspondents. Four or more letters signed by the same correspondent are housed in their own folder; three or less letters signed by the same person are housed in the alphabetical folder according to their surname.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1  | American Express Company, 1972-1975                   |
| Box 1, Folder 2  | Arkus, Leon Anthony, 1971                             |
| Box 1, Folder 3  | Aufhauser, Alfred, 1971-1972                          |
| Box 1, Folder 4  | B, 1972-1973  |
| Box 1, Folder 5  | C, 1967-1972  |
| Box 1, Folder 6  | Compassionate Arts/Fellowship of Reconciliation, 1972 |
| Box 1, Folder 7  | D, 1972-1973  |
| Box 1, Folder 8  | F, 1966-1974  |
| Box 1, Folder 9  | Goodstadt, George, 1974-1975                          |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Kearney, Jude, 1974-1975                              |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | L, 1972-1975  |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Lewis, Freeman, 1950-1962                             |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | M, 1968-1970  |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | McLeod, Bettie, 1972-1974                             |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | Neumann, J.B., 1949                                   |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Rubin, William, 1972                                  |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | Scher, Jack O., 1972-1973                             |

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 18 | Smith, Janet E., 1972-1975                |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | W, 1966-1972                              |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Wechsler, Antonia, 1972                   |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | Wechsler, Herman J. to others, 1952, 1972 |
| Box 1, Folder 22 | General Correspondence, 1968-1975         |

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## Series 2: Writings, 1913-circa mid-1900s

*0.8 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Writings include various unpublished works by Wechsler such as "A Journey Through the World of Art," "The Art of Greece and Rome," and "The Beginnings of Modern Art – The Impressionists." Also included are drafts of chapters from books Wechsler wrote with hand written annotations and the manuscript of "Andrea dal Castagno Florentine Painter." Research notes about the artists he was writing about, his own personal notebook, materials and lists used for his writings, and other incomplete and miscellaneous drafts of writings can be found here as well.

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 23    | "A Journey Through the World of Art", circa mid-1900s                |
| Box 1, Folder 24    | Abrams, Harry N. Work in Progress, 1973                              |
| Box 1, Folder 25    | "Andrea dal Castagno Florentine Painter", circa mid-1900s            |
| Box 1, Folder 26    | "Giotto", circa mid-1900s  |
| Box 1, Folder 27    | "Girolamo Savonarolo", circa mid-1900s                               |
| Box 1, Folder 28    | "Gods and Goddesses in Art and Legend", circa mid-1900s              |
| Box 1, Folder 29    | Incomplete Writings, circa mid-1900s                                 |
| Box 1, Folder 30    | Lives of Modern French Painters, circa mid-1900s                     |
| Box 1, Folder 31    | "Lorenzo the Magnificent", circa mid-1900s                           |
| Box 1, Folder 32    | "Niccolo Machiavelli", circa mid-1900s                               |
| Box 1, Folder 33    | Notebook of Quotations, 1913   |
| Box 1, Folder 34-35 | Notes, circa mid-1900s - 1962  |
| Box 1, Folder 36    | "Rodrigo Borgia", circa mid-1900s                                    |
| Box 1, Folder 37    | "The Art of China and Japan", circa mid-1900s                        |
| Box 1, Folder 38    | "The Art of Greece and Rome", circa mid-1900s                        |
| Box 1, Folder 39    | "The Beginnings of Modern Art - The Impressionists", circa mid-1900s |
| Box 1, Folder 40-42 | "The French Impressionists", circa mid-1900s                         |
| Box 1, Folder 43    | "The Renaissance", circa mid-1900s                                   |
| Box 1, Folder 44-45 | Unused material on French Painters for Abrams Book, circa mid-1900s  |

Box 1, Folder 46-48 "Vincent Van Gogh, His Life and Art" materials, circa mid-1900s

Box 1, Folder 49-51 Miscellaneous Writings, circa mid-1900s

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## Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa mid-1900s-1976

### 6 Folders (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: This series documents Wechsler's business and financial information concerning bills and late payments, royalty statements, a list of color plates used in his book *Great Prints and Printmakers*, gala invitations, and supplementary card requests showing the sale of F.A.R. Gallery.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Box 2, Folder 1 | American Express Company, 1971  |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Application for Supplementary Card, 1971-1972                           |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Gala Invitations, 1971-1972   |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | List of Color Plates for Great Prints and Print Makers, circa mid-1900s |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | New York Telephone, 1976  |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | Royalty Statements, 1970-1973   |

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## Series 4: Printed Material, 1932-1976

## 0.6 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes published copies of books written by Wechsler. Other books found here were either edited by Wechsler or published by F.A.R. Gallery. Clippings, magazines, a poster, a UNICEF catalog, tear sheets, prints of artwork used for his writings, and printed material concerning F.A.R. Gallery are also found here. Additionally of note is a facsimile of Henri Matisse's sketchbook for his cut-out gouache, *Parakeet and Mermaid* (1955).

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 7     | Articles about Posters, circa 1971   |
| Box 2, Folder 8     | Book, An Introduction to Prints and Print Making by Herman J. Wechsler, 1960 |
| Box 2, Folder 9     | Book, Gods and Goddesses in Art and Legend by Herman J. Wechsler, 1950       |
| Box 2, Folder 10    | Book, Great Prints and Printmakers by Herman J. Wechsler, 1967               |
| Box 2, Folder 11    | Book, On Prints and Printmakers by Various Authors, 1962                     |
| Box 2, Folder 12    | Book, P'Sich by Mariana, 1945  |
| Box 2, Folder 13    | Book, The Pocket Book of Old Masters edited by Herman J. Wechsler, 1949      |
| Box 2, Folder 14    | Business Cards and Gallery Notes, 1966                                       |
| Box 2, Folder 15-16 | Clippings, 1949-1973   |
| Box 2, Folder 17    | Clippings, Audubon's Birds of America, 1932                                  |
| Box 2, Folder 18    | Facsimile of Henri Matisse Sketchbook, 1951-1955                             |
| Box 2, Folder 19    | <a href="#">F.A.R. Gallery Printed Material, circa mid-1900s, circa 1948</a> |
| Box 2, Folder 20    | Galleys, 1973  |
| Box 2, Folder 21    | Magazine, France in New York Monthly, 1952                                   |
| Box 2, Folder 22    | Magazine, Parnassus, 1932  |
| Box 2, Folder 23    | Magazine, The Literary World, 1934   |
| Box 2, Folder 24    | Magazine, The Poster as a Mirror Reproduction, circa mid-1900s               |
| Box 2, Folder 25    | Poster, A Portfolio of Watercolors by Winslow Homer, 1937                    |
| Box 2, Folder 26    | Prints used for writings, circa mid-1900s                                    |

Box 2, Folder 27      Tear sheets, 1973, 1975-1976

Box 2, Folder 28      UNICEF Catalog, 1976

Box 2, Folder 29      Miscellaneous, circa mid-1900s

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## Series 5: Scrapbook, 1935-1940

### *2 Folders (Box 2)*

Scope and Contents: Once dismantled scrapbook contains loose pages with clippings and exhibition announcements about F.A.R Gallery.

Box 2, Folder 30-31 F.A.R. Gallery Scrapbook Pages, 1935-1940

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## Series 6: Photographs, circa mid-1900s-1975

### 3 Folders (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Photographs depict Wechsler and his family, F.A.R. Gallery, and a contact sheet of a images of a miniature stone statue.

|                  |                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Box 2, Folder 32 | Family, 1975                         |
| Box 2, Folder 33 | <a href="#">F.A.R. Gallery, 1969</a> |
| Box 2, Folder 34 | Photo Contact Sheet, circa mid-1900s |

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