



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Florence Weinstein Papers, 1929-1983, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Florence Weinstein papers
Date:	1929-1983
Identifier:	AAA.weinflor
Creator:	Weinstein, Florence, b. 1895
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Language:	The bulk of the collection is in English. Some correspondence is in French.
Summary:	The papers of New York painter and ceramicist Florence Weinstein measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1929 to 1983. The collection provides scattered documentation of Weinstein's career through records including correspondence, biographical notes, printed materials, photographs of Weinstein and her work, and a drawing by Sylvie Weinstein.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 1977 and 1983 by Florence Weinstein.

Location of Originals

The collection contains a photocopy of an essay by Gregory Weinstein, father of Florence, titled "A Helpful Thrill." The original essay was retained by Florence Weinstein.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reel 3957 available for use 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 Sarah Mundy in 2022.

Preferred Citation

Florence Weinstein papers, 1929-1983. 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

Florence Weinstein (1895-1989) was a painter and ceramicist in New York, New York.

Weinstein was born to Gregory and Eugenie, immigrants from Lithuania and Russia, who married in 1890 in New York City; her two sisters, Eleanore and Sylvie, were also accomplished artists. After graduating from Adelphi College with a bachelor's degree in English, Weinstein taught high school, held held various other jobs during World War I, and visited France to travel and study French. She attended the Alliance Française from 1922 to 1923 and the École des Arts de la Sorbonne from 1931 to 1932.

In college, Weinstein studied classical and Renaissance art, but was impressed by Georgia O'Keefe's "non-classical" approach after viewing O'Keefe's exhibition at the 231 Gallery. While she spent summers in Provincetown during the late 1930s and early 1940s where she was surrounded by artists, she only dabbled in painting and sculpture and lacked confidence in her artistic abilities.

After the death of her sister Sylvie in 1945, Weinstein took a leave of absence from teaching and spent time in New Mexico. Upon her return to New York she sought to capture the beauty of the New Mexico landscape in her painting. Her sister Eleanor suggested she take a free class led by Barnett Newman. In 1948, she took courses at the Subjects of the Artist School founded by Newman, William Baziotis, David Hare, Robert Motherwell, and Mark Rothko. The school was short-lived, but the experience helped propel Weinstein to retire from teaching in 1951 and focus solely on being an artist. She was initially a painter, but she began exploring ceramics and sculpture in 1969.

Weinstein died in 1989.

Scope and Contents

The papers of New York painter and ceramicist Florence Weinstein measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1929 to 1983. The collection provides scattered documentation of Weinstein's career and comprises correspondence from Robert Motherwell, William Littlefield, Paul Borduas, Andrée Golbin, and others; biographical notes by Weinstein; printed materials consisting of announcements and catalogs for Weinstein's exhibitions, press releases, and clippings; photographs of Weinstein, her home, and works of art; and artwork by Littlefield and Weinstein's sister, Sylvie.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

American studio craft movement
Women artists

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Names:

Borduas, Paul-Emile, 1905-1960
Golbin, Andrée, 1923-2006
Littlefield, William Horace, 1902-1969
Motherwell, Robert
Weinstein, Sylvie L., 1906-1945

Occupations:

Ceramicists -- New York (State) -- New York
Painters -- New York (State) -- New City

Container Listing

Series 1: Florence Weinstein Papers, 1929-1983

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The series comprises correspondence from Robert Motherwell, William Littlefield, Paul Borduas, Andrée Golbin, and others; biographical notes by Weinstein; printed materials consisting of announcements and catalogs for Weinstein's exhibitions, press releases, and clippings; photographs of Weinstein, her home, and works of art; and artwork by Littlefield and Weinstein's sister, Sylvie.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1931-1983
Box 1, Folder 2	Writing by Florence Weinstein, Biographical Notes, circa 1976
Box 1, Folder 3	Writing by Gregory Weinstein, "A Helpful Thrill" Essay, 1952 Notes: The essay is a photocopy of an original dated 1952.
Box 1, Folder 4	Printed Materials, Clippings, 1929-1969
Box 1, Folder 5	Printed Materials, Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Florence Weinstein, circa 1955-1976
Box 1, Folder 6	Printed Materials, Exhibition Catalogs for Sylvie Weinstein, 1935-1941
Box 1, Folder 7	Printed Materials, Press Releases, 1959-1969
Box 1, Folder 8	Photographs, Weinstein and Home, 1952-1978
Box 1, Folder 9	Photographs, Works of Art, circa 1955-circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 10	Artwork, Painted Drawing by Sylvie Weinstein, 1939
Box 1, Folder 11	Artwork, Painting by William Littlefield, 1962

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