



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Willard Gallery Records,  
circa 1940-1956, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

Funding for the processing of this collection was  
provided by the Smithsonian Women's Committee.

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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Willard Gallery records
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.willagall
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1940-1956
<b>Extent:</b>	0.6 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Willard Gallery
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The records of New York Willard Gallery measure 0.6 linear feet and date from circa 1940 to 1956. The collection relates to artist David Smith and includes printed materials regarding exhibitions, artist statements, a set of notecards containing detailed information on artworks by Smith, and correspondence between Smith, Marian Willard, and Smith's wife Dorothy Dehner, and with galleries and clients concerning exhibitions, loans, and sales.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Willard Gallery records were lent for microfilming from 1959-1974. Records relating to David Smith were donated in 1966 and 1974 by Marian Willard.

### Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm of material lent for microfilming on reels NWI-1, NLG-1, N69-114, N69-116-N69-118, and 822. Reel NWI-1 contains four notebooks dated 1936-1959, with reproductions of works by Morris Graves, and three notebooks dated 1917-1959, with reproductions of works by Mark Tobey. Reel NLG-1 includes correspondence between Gatch and Marian Willard, concerning Gatch's business relations with dealer J. B. Neumann, exhibitions and sales. Also included are clippings and biographical notes. Reels N69-114 and N69-116 contain scrapbooks, 1936-1969, including clippings, catalogs, photographs and occasional correspondence documenting Marian Willard's founding in 1936 of the East River Gallery, later (1938) the Neumann-Willard Gallery; her introduction of rental art, an innovation in the American art trade, and gallery exhibitions of various artists. Considerable exhibition and critical material for artists regularly shown by the Gallery is included: Lyonel Feininger, David Smith, Loren MacIver, David Hayes, Mark Tobey, Ezio Martinelli and Louis Schanker. Also included letters one from Lyonel Feininger, Lewis Mumford and Archibald MacLeish, congratulating Miss Willard on the Gallery's opening. Reels N69-116-N69-118 contain scrapbooks, 1928-1969, containing photographs, exhibition catalogs, critical articles, incidental correspondence, and price lists for the following artists: Juan Luis Bunuel, Sylvia Braverman, Leo Kenney, Thomas Stearns, Lenore Tawney, Morris Graves, David Hayes, Genichiro Inokuma, Tadashi Sato, Richard Lippold, Philip McCracken, Charles Seliger,

and Mark Tobey. Reel 822 contains a scrapbook of the Willard Gallery, 1972 and a scrapbook containing clippings and announcements about Ann Wilson, 1972, and about William Pettet, 1973.

Loaned materials were returned to the donor and are not described in the collection container inventory.

## Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reels NDSmithA and 986 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Additional material was lent for microfilming and is available on 35mm microfilm reels NWI-1, NLG-1, N69-114, N69-116-N69-118, and 822.

## Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2020.

## Preferred Citation

Willard Gallery records, circa 1940-1956. 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

Willard Gallery was established as the East River Gallery in New York, New York, by Marian Willard in 1936. The gallery exhibited the works of artists including Sylvia Braverman, Alexander Calder, Lyonel Feininger, Loren MacIver, David Hayes, Ezio Martinelli, Louis Schanker, David Smith, and Mark Tobey. In 1938, the gallery's name was changed to the Neumann-Willard Gallery; it later became the Willard Gallery after Willard's marriage to Dan Johnson. Willard and Johnson ran the gallery until their retirement in 1970, at which point their daughter Miani Johnson took over operations until the gallery's closure in 1987.

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## Scope and Contents

The records of New York Willard Gallery measure 0.6 linear feet and date from circa 1940 to 1956. The collection relates to artist David Smith and includes printed materials regarding exhibitions, artist statements, a set of notecards containing detailed information on artworks by Smith, and correspondence

between Smith, Marian Willard, and Smith's wife Dorothy Dehner, and with galleries and clients concerning exhibitions, loans, and sales.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as one series.

- Series 1: Willard Gallery Records Relating to David Smith, circa 1940-1956 (Boxes 1-2; 0.6 linear feet)
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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:

Art, Modern -- 20th century -- United States  
Women art dealers

Names:

Dehner, Dorothy, 1901-1994  
Neumann-Willard Gallery (New York, N.Y.)  
Smith, David, 1906-1965  
Willard, Marian, 1904-

Functions:

Art galleries, Commercial -- New York (State)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Willard Gallery Records Relating to David Smith, circa 1940-1956

*0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)*

Box 1, Folder 1	Business Records, Exhibitions and Publicity, circa 1940-circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 2-4	Business Records, Notecards, 1940s-1950s
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1940-1944
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1945-1947
Box 2, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1947-1951
Box 2, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1952-1955
Box 2, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1956, 1966
Box 2, Folder 4	Correspondence, undated

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