



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Robert Strong Woodward letters and papers

Archives of American Art
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Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Robert Strong Woodward letters and papers
Date:	1890-1985
Identifier:	AAA.woodrobe
Creator:	Woodward, Robert Strong, 1885-1957
Extent:	1.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1986 by Florence Haeberle, Robert Woodward's cousin. She received Woodward's letters to Helen Schermerhorn, after Schermerhorn's death, from Helen's sister-in-law, Mrs. Henry Schermerhorn of Providence, Rhode Island.

Related Materials

Also available at the Archives of American Art are the F. Earl Williams papers relating to Robert Strong Woodward, 1928-1985.

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.

Biographical / Historical

Robert Strong Woodward (1885-1957) was a landscape and still-life painter from Boston, Mass. Prolific painter of still lifes, as well as landscapes and rural scenes of western Mass. and southern Vermont. At 21, a revolver accident left him paralyzed, and he was confined to a wheelchair. Painting, which had been his hobby, became his career. His only formal art training was at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where he studied for less than a year. In 1919, he won the first Hallgarten prize for landscape at the National Academy of Design. He had regular exhibitions at Vose Galleries of Boston and at regional museums.

Scope and Contents

Papers relating to the personal life and career of Robert Strong Woodward, and to the vogue for New England painting in the first half of the twentieth century, and includes letters, a ledger, writings, works of art, photographs, and printed material.

Scope and Contents

Included are numerous letters, 1902-1953, to longtime friends Helen and Anna D. Schermerhorn, including letters to Helen describing assemblage artist Joseph Cornell's early family life, Woodward's admiration of Cornell and a fragment of a letter to Cornell. The ledger lists Woodward's work handled by dealers and works in transit, 1937-1947.

Scope and Contents

Writings, 1970 and 1985, by others about Woodward include a draft of a biography for a Deerfield Academy exhibition catalog, a biographical account for the Heath Historical Society, and manuscripts from a tribute on the centennial of Woodward's birth. Writings by Woodward include a poem titled, "Night Verses to the Little Shops." Included in the works of art by Woodward, 1898-1904 and undated, are childhood sketches of greeting cards for his mother, and a sketchbook. Photographs, 1898-1904, are of family, homes and buildings, works of art and exhibitions. Printed material includes exhibition announcements and catalogs, 1919-1985, and newspaper and magazine clippings, 1928-1985.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

Names:

Cornell, Joseph
Woodward, Robert Strong, 1885-1957

Occupations:

Painters -- Massachusetts