



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the William Wyman Papers, 1914-2015, bulk 1946-1992, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

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Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	William Wyman papers
Date:	1914-2015 (bulk 1946-1992)
Identifier:	AAA.wymawill
Creator:	Wyman, William, 1922-1980
Extent:	6.8 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of ceramicist, educator, and sculptor William Wyman measure 6.8 linear feet and date from 1914 to 2015 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1946 to 1992. The collection documents Wyman's career through biographical materials, including a sound recording, personal and professional correspondence, writings and notes including notes on Wyman's glaze formulas, professional activity files documenting Wyman's exhibitions, projects, and teaching, personal business records documenting sales and consignments, printed material about Wyman's career, personal photographs and photos of works of art, and some artwork including sketchbooks.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The William Wyman papers were donated in 1982, 1983, and 2017 by Marilyn R. Pappas, Wyman's friend and partner.

Related Materials

Also in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview of Michael Cohen, cofounder of Herring Run Pottery, conducted August 11, 2001 at his home in Pelham, M.A. by Gerry Williams for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2022.

Preferred Citation

William Wyman papers, 1914-2015. 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. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

William Wyman (1922-1980) was a ceramicist, educator, and sculptor active in Massachusetts.

Wyman was born in Boston in 1922. After serving in World War II as a U.S. Marine, he enrolled in the Massachusetts College of Art graduating in 1950. He went on to receive his Master of Arts degree from Columbia University in 1951 and later attended Alfred University during their 1953 summer session. Wyman became a professional ceramicist after finishing his education, establishing Herring Run Pottery with Michael Cohen in 1962. In 1965, Wyman spent three months in Honduras as a consultant for the Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) to develop pottery. Wyman was later inspired by the Mayan ruins he saw in Honduras to create works he called "temples."

Wyman taught at the University of Maryland, DeCordova Museum, Massachusetts College of Art, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Florida International University, and was also an instructor for numerous workshops held across the country. From 1975 to 1978, Wyman was the recipient of National Endowment for the Arts grants to procure apprentices and to fund ceramic and sculpture projects.

Wyman died of a brain tumor in 1980.

Scope and Contents

The papers of ceramicist, educator, and sculptor William Wyman measure 6.8 linear feet and date from 1914 to 2015 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1946 to 1992.

Biographical materials consist of address and appointment books, diplomas and certificates, identification and military records, and a sound recording of a conversation between Wyman and his apprentice Pamela Hoss. Correspondence is between Wyman and his wife Lisbeth Wyman, his partner Marilyn Pappas, colleagues, curators and collectors, and galleries regarding exhibitions, teaching, apprentices, and personal relationships.

Writings and notes include Wyman's glaze formulas, notebooks kept by Wyman while attending Columbia and Alfred Universities, and a few writings by others. Wyman's professional activity files include exhibition, membership, project, and teaching files. Personal business records include sales and consignment records, records of sales to collector Sandra Grotta, income and expense books, artwork transaction books, Maria Friedrich and the Impressions Gallery records, and files regarding Wyman's estate and other legal records.

Printed materials primarily relate to Wyman's exhibitions and career. Photographic materials include photos of Wyman and colleagues, personal photographs, and photos of works of art, along with three photo albums relating to Wyman's artwork and his time in the U.S. Marines during World War II. Artwork found in the collection includes a few prints, seven sketchbooks, drawings, and sketches of ceramics projects, portraits, figure drawings, and structural drawings.

Collection material created after Wyman's death was managed by Pappas and typically relates to articles about his career, sales and exhibitions of his artwork, and other business affairs.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as eight series.

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1922-1992 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1914-2015 (0.8 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 3: Writings and Notes, 1949-1980 (0.8 linear feet; Boxes 2-3, 8)
- Series 4: Professional Activity Files, circa 1950-2014 (0.3 linear feet; Box 2, OV 10)
- Series 5: Personal Business Records, 1946-2011 (2.0 linear feet; Boxes 2-4)
- Series 6: Printed Materials, 1948-2001 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 4-5, 8)
- Series 7: Photographic Materials, circa 1939-circa 1980 (1.2 linear feet; Boxes 5-6, 8)
- Series 8: Artwork, 1929-1979 (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 6-7, OV 9)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Ceramics

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Interviews

Sketchbooks

Sound recordings

Names:

Alfred University

Columbia University

Friedrich, Maria

Pappas, Marilyn

Occupations:

Ceramicists -- Massachusetts

Educators -- Massachusetts

Sculptors -- Massachusetts

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1922-1992

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The series contains six address books, four appointments books, Wyman's diploma from Columbia University and other certificates, identification and travel documents, military records regarding Wyman's service in the U.S. Marines during WWII, resumes, and an open studio guest book possibly belonging to Marilyn Pappas. Also included is a sound recording of a conversation between Wyman and his apprentice Pamela Hoss accompanied by a transcript of the conversation.

Box 1, Folder 1-4	Address Books, 1940s-1970s Notes: 6 books
Box 1, Folder 5-8	Appointment Books, 1972-1979 Notes: 4 books
Box 1, Folder 9	Certificates and Diplomas, 1941-1966
Box 1, Folder 10	Conversation Between Wyman and Pamela Hoss (Apprentice to Wyman), circa 1977 1 Sound cassette (Includes transcript)
Box 1, Folder 11	Identification and Travel Documents, 1922-1978
Box 1, Folder 12	Military Records, 1942-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 13	Open Studio Guestbook, 1992 Notes: Guestbook possibly from the studio of Marilyn Pappas.
Box 1, Folder 14	Resumes, 1960s-1970s

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1914-2015

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is with colleagues, galleries, and collectors and curators regarding exhibitions and sales, teaching, apprenticeships, and other topics related to Wyman's career. Personal correspondence is with his wife Lisbeth Wyman and Marilyn Pappas, his partner until his death in 1980. Much of the correspondence in 1980 consists of sympathy letters to Pappas. The correspondence after Wyman's death is with Pappas concerning Wyman's artwork and business affairs.

Box 1, Folder 15	Letters with Lisbeth Wyman, 1969-1977
Box 1, Folder 16	Letters with Marilyn Pappas, circa 1975
Box 1, Folder 17	Collectors and Curators, 1981-1992 Notes: Includes typescript of article on Wyman by Susan J. Montgomery.
Box 1, Folder 18-19	General, undated
Box 1, Folder 20	General, 1914
Box 1, Folder 21	General, 1949-1965
Box 1, Folder 22	General, 1966-1968
Box 1, Folder 23	General, 1969-1971
Box 2, Folder 1	General, 1972-1974
Box 2, Folder 2	General, 1975-1976
Box 2, Folder 3	General, 1977-1978
Box 2, Folder 4	General, 1979-1980
Box 2, Folder 5	General, 1994, 2015

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Series 3: Writings and Notes, 1949-1980

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, 8)

Scope and Contents: Writings by Wyman include artist statements, proposals, evaluations, lecture notes, and notes on glaze formulas, teaching, writing ideas, and life as a working artist. Also found are Wyman's student notebooks on ceramics kept while attending Columbia and Alfred Universities. Additionally, a dream log can be found in Series 5 in a notebook that also contains income records.

Other writings are by Wolf Kahn and Bruce MacDonald, and also include poetry and writings by unidentified authors, and drafts of articles about Wyman together with the published items.

Box 2, Folder 6-8	By Wyman, General, 1949-1970s Notes: Includes a notebook regarding Wyman's move from Miami to Boston with apprentices.
Box 3, Folder 22	By Wyman, Dream Log, 1967-1973 Notes: Log can be found in the back of an income book in Series 5.
Box 2, Folder 9-11	By Wyman, Notes - Formulas, 1954-1979
Box 2, Folder 12	By Wyman, Notebook - Formulas and Test Data, 1963-1977
Box 2, Folder 13	By Wyman, Notebook - Spanish Language Notes, circa 1965
Box 2, Folder 14	By Wyman, Student Notes on Ceramics, 1951
Box 2, Folder 15-16	By Wyman, Student Notebooks from Columbia and Alfred Universities, 1951-1953
Box 2, Folder 17	By Others, General, circa 1960s Notes: Includes writings by Wolf Kahn, Bruce MacDonald, and unidentified authors.
Box 2, Folder 18	By Others, Drafts for Article on Wyman by Marilyn Pappas, 1980
Box 2, Folder 19	By Others - Draft, Magazine Layout, and Published Article on Wyman by Israel Horowitz, 1969-1970
Box 8, Folder 1	By Others - Draft, Magazine Layout, and Published Article on Wyman by Israel Horowitz, 1969-1970
Box 2, Folder 20	By Others, Drafts for Wyman's Memorial Service Announcement, 1980

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Series 4: Professional Activity Files, circa 1950-2014

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2, OV 10)

Scope and Contents: The series consists of files for a retrospective exhibition held after Wyman's death and for an exhibition at the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center. Also found here are meeting minutes, membership lists, reports, and a few other membership records; project materials that include structural drawings for a kiln; and teaching files containing lecture material, faculty correspondence, and a booklet on craft education created by Wyman.

Box 2, Folder 21	Exhibition at Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, 1982
Box 2, Folder 22	Exhibition, Retrospective, 1981-1986
Box 2, Folder 23	Exhibition, General, 1961-2014
Box 2, Folder 24	Membership Records, circa 1960s
Box 2, Folder 25	Project Materials, 1954-circa 1975
Oversize OV 10	Project Materials, 1954-circa 1975
Box 2, Folder 26	Teaching Records, circa 1960-circa 1975
Box 2, Folder 27	Teaching Records, Craft Education Booklet by Wyman, circa 1950

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Series 5: Personal Business Records, 1946-2011

2 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4)

Scope and Contents: Files in the series consist of Wyman's legal and financial records relating to his art career and personal events. Files include apprentice payment logbooks, record books containing photographs and sketches of artwork along with transactional information regarding each piece, consignment and sales records, records of sales to collector Sandra Grotta, donations, income and expense books, and tax records. Files for the Brooklyn Museum, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Worcester Craft Center, and Maria Friedrich contain loan and sales records, inventories, receiving forms, and correspondence. Personal records relate to Wyman's estate, divorce records, and a scholarship fund created in his name after his death.

Folder 22 in Box 3 contains a dream log from Series 3, Writings and Notes.

Box 2, Folder 28-30	Apprentice Payment Logbooks, 1959-1978 Notes: 3 logbooks
Box 3, Folder 1-3	Apprentice Payment Logbooks, 1963-1972 Notes: 3 logbooks
Box 3, Folder 4-5	Artwork Record Books, 1960s-1980 Notes: Books were received with photographs of Wyman's artwork placed between pages that correspond to the record for each piece of artwork.
Box 3, Folder 6	Brooklyn Museum , 1991
Box 3, Folder 7	Consignment Records, circa 1966-1978
Box 3, Folder 8	Donations, 1991
Box 3, Folder 9	Expense Book for Travel, 1975
Box 3, Folder 10-13	Financial Records, 1946-1980
Box 3, Folder 14	Gallery at 24, 1979
Box 3, Folder 15-21	Income and Expense Books, 1954-1979 Notes: 7 books. Book in Folder 21 includes information regarding Wyman's NEA grant in 1977.
Box 3, Folder 22	Income Book, 1967-1978 Notes: Includes a dream log in the back of the notebook that Wyman recorded from 1967 to 1973.
Box 3, Folder 23	Legal, 1969-1979
Box 3, Folder 24	Maria Friedrich, General, 1985-1995
Box 4, Folder 1	Maria Friedrich, General, 1979-1983

Box 4, Folder 2	Maria Friedrich, Correspondence Between Friedrich and Marilyn Pappas, 1980-1990
Box 4, Folder 3	Maria Friedrich, Correspondence Between Friedrich and Marilyn Pappas, circa 1990 Notes: Includes photographs of artwork and a sketch.
Box 4, Folder 4	Maria Friedrich, Regarding Helen Drutt's Wyman Pots Consignment, 1985-1992
Box 4, Folder 5-6	Maria Friedrich, Inventory Cards and Photographs, 1970s-1980s
Box 4, Folder 7	Maria Friedrich, Inventory Lists, circa 1983
Box 4, Folder 8	Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 2011
Box 4, Folder 9	Personal Release Form and Other Material Related to Film on Wyman by Alice Bourie, 1981-1982
Box 4, Folder 10	Sales to Sandra Grotta, 1974-1982
Box 4, Folder 11-17	Sales Records, 1957-1980
Box 4, Folder 18-19	Tax Records, 1962-1979
Box 4, Folder 20	William Wyman Scholarship Fund, 1980
Box 4, Folder 21	Worcester Craft Center, 1979-1981
Box 4, Folder 22	Wyman's Estate, Regarding, 1980-1981

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Series 6: Printed Materials, 1948-2001

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 4-5, 8)

Scope and Contents: The series contains artwork reproductions, booklets, brochures and pamphlets, bulletins and newsletters, clippings, announcements and catalogs for Wyman's exhibitions, magazines, press releases, and a few miscellaneous items.

Box 8, Folder 2	Artwork Reproductions, 1969
Box 4, Folder 23-24	Booklets, circa 1955-1980
Box 4, Folder 25	Brochures and Pamphlets, 1950-1980
Box 4, Folder 26	Bulletins and Newsletters, 1951-1980
Box 4, Folder 27	Business Cards, circa 1960s
Box 4, Folder 28	Clippings, circa 1956-circa 1972
Box 4, Folder 29-30	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Wyman, 1960s-1970s
Box 5, Folder 1-3	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Wyman, circa 1950-2001
Box 5, Folder 4	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Others, 1948-1976
Box 5, Folder 5	Magazines, 1959-1980
Box 5, Folder 6	Miscellaneous Printed Materials, circa 1960-circa 1980
Box 5, Folder 7	Press Releases, 1959-1988

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Series 7: Photographic Materials, circa 1939-circa 1980

1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 5-6, 8)

Scope and Contents: Photographic materials include images of Wyman, Lisbeth Wyman and Marilyn Pappas, Leigh-Ann Cataldo, Bob Huff, Michael Cohen at Herring Run Pottery, Wyman's students, and of Wyman and Arturo Machado while working in Honduras for the Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) in 1965. Also included is a photograph album of Wyman in the U.S. Marines during WWII, and two other photograph albums containing mostly photographs of Wyman's work, with some drawings of ceramics with prices, business cards, and clippings. Other images are of works of art, ceramics equipment, and various workshops and classes conducted by Wyman at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts and other locations across the country.

Box 5, Folder 8-9	Wyman, circa 1939-1970s
Box 5, Folder 10	Wyman and Lisbeth Wyman, 1953
Box 5, Folder 11	Wyman with Lisbeth Wyman and Leigh-Ann Cataldo, 1952
Box 5, Folder 12	Wyman and Marilyn Pappas, 1978
Box 5, Folder 13	Wyman's Yard at Home, circa 1976
Box 5, Folder 14	Wyman Working for A.I.D. in Honduras, 1965
Box 5, Folder 15	Wyman in Miami, 1978
Box 5, Folder 16	Wyman with Memorial Fountain in Weymouth, M.A., circa 1965
Box 5, Folder 17	Wyman with Bob Huff, circa 1972
Box 5, Folder 18	Wyman with Michael Cohen at Herring Run Pottery, circa 1960s
Box 5, Folder 19-20	Wyman with Others, 1960s-1970s
Box 5, Folder 21-27	Personal, circa 1945-1970s
Box 8, Folder 4	Personal, circa 1960-circa 1975
Box 8, Folder 5	Photograph Album, Wyman During WWII as U.S. Marine, 1942-1946
Box 5, Folder 28	Photographs Album 1, circa 1960s
Box 8, Folder 3	Photographs Album 1, circa 1960s
Box 6, Folder 1	Photograph Album 1, Loose Materials, circa 1960s
Box 6, Folder 2	Photograph Album 2, circa 1960s

Box 6, Folder 3	Photograph Album 2, Loose Materials, circa 1960s
Box 6, Folder 4	Students of Wyman, 1960s-1970s
Box 6, Folder 5-7	Works of Art by Wyman, 1960s-1970s
Box 8, Folder 6	Works of Art by Wyman, circa 1960s
Box 6, Folder 8	Works of Art by Wyman, List for Slide Sets, circa 1980
Box 6, Folder 9-13	Works of Art by Wyman, Slide Sets, circa 1955-1970s
Box 6, Folder 14	Works of Art by Wyman, Transparencies of Temples, 1980
Box 6, Folder 15	Works of Art by Unidentified Artists, circa 1960s

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Series 8: Artwork, 1929-1979

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 6-7, OV 9)

Scope and Contents: The series contains seven sketchbooks with figure drawings, sketches of forms and structures, portraits, and project sketches. Also included are drawings by children, drawings of hockey players by Wyman, "Jester Lounge" drawings, sketches by Wyman shortly before his death, and a few prints.

Box 6, Folder 16	Drawings by Children, 1960s
Box 6, Folder 17	Drawings of Hockey Players, 1929-1940
Box 6, Folder 18	Drawings and Sketches, circa 1960s Notes: Includes "Jester Lounge" drawings.
Oversize OV 9	Drawings and Sketches, "Jester Lounge", circa 1960s
Box 6, Folder 19	Prints, circa 1960s
Box 7, Folder 1	Prints, circa 1960s
Box 6, Folder 20	Sketches, undated
Box 7, Folder 2	Sketches, circa 1973
Box 7, Folder 3	Sketches Before Wyman's Death, circa 1979
Box 6, Folder 21	Sketches for Projects, 1950s-1960s
Box 6, Folder 22	Sketchbook, "Ceramic Corners Azuma, Calif.", circa 1970
Box 6, Folder 23	Sketchbook, Portraits, 1976
Box 7, Folder 4	Sketchbook, circa 1960s
Box 7, Folder 5	Sketchbook, 1965-1972
Box 7, Folder 6	Sketchbook, 1973-1979
Box 6, Folder 24	Sketchbook, 1977-1979
Box 7, Folder 7	Sketchbook, 1979

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