



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Alex Yaworski papers, 1924-2012

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Alex Yaworski papers
<b>Date:</b>	1924-2012
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.yawoalex
<b>Creator:</b>	Yaworski, Alex Francis (1907-1997)
<b>Extent:</b>	2.4 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of Alex Yaworski measure 2.4 linear feet and date from 1924 to 2012. The papers document his career as a painter through correspondence, professional activity files, printed material, artwork, and photographs.

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## Administrative Information

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2023.

### Preferred Citation

Alex Yaworski papers, 1924-2012. 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 in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Alex Yaworski (1907-1997) was a painter in Chicago, Illinois and Kansas City, Missouri. Yaworski was born in what is now Odessa, Ukraine in 1907, and his family immigrated to the United States in 1909, settling around the Lake Superior area. Yaworski graduated from the American Academy of Art in Chicago in 1931. He worked for various

companies such as Sears Roebuck and Poster Products where he illustrated posters and advertisements, and he designed and illustrated Christmas book covers and greeting cards. Yaworski died on March 25, 1997.

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## Biographical / Historical

Donated in 2023 and 2024 by Don Yaworski, Alex Yaworski's son.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of Alex Yaworski measure 2.4 linear feet and date from 1924 to 2012. The papers document his career as a painter through correspondence, professional activity, printed material, artwork, and photographs.

Correspondence consists of letters to his son, Don Yaworski, and family members, Sophie Yaworski Fay and Linda Buchanan. Also included are letters to and from art institutions and businesses in regards to exhibitions and professional memberships.

Professional activity files include resumes, biographical statements, notes and journal entries, price lists, and work with various organizations and art galleries. Some of the organizations and galleries include: Artist Guild of Chicago, American Watercolor Society, Thor Gallery, Union League Civic and Arts Foundation, and the Midwest Watercolor Society. Also included is a compilation of biographical material on Yaworski from a blog created by Don Yaworski.

Printed material consists of articles featuring his works in "American Artists" Magazine, clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and newsletters.

Artwork include sketches and paintings by Yaworski, handmade greeting cards, and a collection of commercially printed holiday and greeting cards that feature his works.

Photographic material consists of photographs of Yaworski, his family, and friends. There are also photographs of Yaworski giving painting demonstrations, and photographs and transparencies of his artwork.

Unprocessed born-digital material consists of one thumb drive with various types of documents.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into six series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1948-1996 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1)
  - Series 2: Professional Activity Files (0.4 linear feet; Box 1, 3)
  - Series 3: Printed Material, 1934-1997 (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
  - Series 4: Artwork, circa 1946-1982 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 2-3, OV 4)
  - Series 5: Photographic Material, 1924-1996 (0.2 linear feet; Box 2)
  - Series 6: Unprocessed Born-Digital Material, undated (0.1 linear feet; Box 2)
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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Occupations:

Painters -- Illinois -- Chicago  
Painters -- Missouri -- Kansas City

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1948-1996

#### *0.5 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Correspondence consists of letters to his son, Don Yaworski, and family members, Sophie Yaworski Fay and Linda Buchanan. Also included are letters to and from art institutions and businesses in regards to exhibitions and professional memberships.

Box 1, Folder 1	American Artists Group, Inc., 1966-1982
Box 1, Folder 2-11	Don and Dorothy Yaworski, 1971-1993
Box 1, Folder 12	Sophie Yaworski Fay and Linda Buchanan, 1986-1989
Box 1, Folder 13-17	Correspondence, 1948-1996

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## Series 2: Professional Activity Files, 1945-1997, 2012

### 0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 1, 3)

Scope and Contents: Professional activity files consists of resumes, biographical statements, notes and journal entries, price lists, and work with various organizations and art galleries. Some of the organizations and galleries include: Artist Guild of Chicago, American Watercolor Society, Thor Gallery, Union League Civic and Arts Foundation, and the Midwest Watercolor Society. Also included is a compilation of biographical material on Yaworski from a blog created by Don Yaworski.

Box 1, Folder 18-19	Artist Guild of Chicago, 1945-1981
Box 3, Folder 1	Awards, Artists Guild of Chicago, 1949-1974
Box 1, Folder 20-21	American Watercolor Society, 1953-1979
Box 3, Folder 2	Awards, American Watercolor Society, 1953-1975
Box 3, Folder 3	Awards, National Society of Painters in Casein and Acrylic, Inc., 1963-1973
Box 1, Folder 22	Thor Gallery, 1966-1974
Box 1, Folder 23	Notes, 1967-1983
Box 1, Folder 24	Municipal Art League of Chicago, 1974, 1992
Box 1, Folder 25	Price Lists, 1977
Box 1, Folder 26	Midwest Watercolor Society, 1979-1983
Box 1, Folder 27	Iowa Watercolor Society, 1981
Box 1, Folder 28	Union League Civic and Arts Foundation, 1981-1984
Box 1, Folder 29	Resumes, 1981, 1997
Box 1, Folder 30	Journal Entries, 1983-1997
Box 1, Folder 31	Art Institute of Chicago, Art Rental Gallery Income, 1984-1986
Box 1, Folder 32	Biographical Statements, 1997
Box 3, Folder 5	Municipal Art League of Chicago, Award of Excellence, 1997
Box 1, Folder 33	Alex Yaworski Blog Site by Don Yaworski, 2012
Box 3, Folder 4	Awards, 1958-1986

Box 1, Folder 34

Miscellaneous, 1952-1989

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## Series 3: Printed Material, 1934-1997

### 0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Printed material consists of articles featuring his works in "American Artists" Magazine, clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and newsletters.

Box 1, Folder 35 "American Artists" Magazine Articles, 1951, 1955

Box 1, Folder 36-37 Clippings, 1934-1997

Box 1, Folder 38 Exhibition Announcements, 1953-1977

Box 1, Folder 39 Exhibition Catalogs, 1955-1975

Box 2, Folder 1-6 Exhibition Catalogs, 1967-1992

Box 2, Folder 7 "Stars & Gripes" Newsletter, 1944

Box 2, Folder 8 Miscellaneous, 1974-1990

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## Series 4: Artwork, circa 1946-1982

### 0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, OV 4)

Scope and Contents: Artwork consists of sketches and paintings by Yaworski, handmade greeting cards, and a collection of commercially printed holiday and greeting cards that feature his works.

Box 2, Folder 9	American Artist Group Christmas Cards, undated
Box 2, Folder 10-11	Christmas Cards, undated
Box 2, Folder 12	Greeting Cards to Maurine Yaworski, circa 1946
Box 2, Folder 13	Greeting Card Designs, undated
Box 3, Folder 6	Greeting Cards and Designs, 1957-1974
Box 3, Folder 7	Paintings, circa 1946
Box 2, Folder 14	Paintings, undated
Box 2, Folder 15	Sketches, 1965-1975
Box 3, Folder 8	Sketches, circa 1954
Oversize 4	Sketches, circa 1982

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## Series 5: Photographic Material, 1924-1996

### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material consists of photographs of Yaworski, his family, and friends. There are also photographs of Yaworski giving painting demonstrations, and photographs and transparencies of his artwork.

Box 2, Folder 16-17	Personal, 1924-1992
Box 2, Folder 18	Watercolor Workshop, 1981
Box 2, Folder 19	Painting Demonstration, 1996
Box 2, Folder 20	Seagrams Advertising Poster, undated
Box 2, Folder 21-22	Artwork, undated
Box 2, Folder 23	Transparencies, Artwork, undated

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## Series 6: Unprocessed Born-Digital Material, undated

### *0.1 Linear feet (Box 2)*

Scope and Contents: Unprocessed born-digital material consists of one thumb drive with various types of documents.

Box 2, Folder 24

Thumb Drive, undated

1 USB flash drive

Notes: Documentation accompanying flash drive lists materials as video demonstrations of paintings, resumes, awards and honors, biography, and photographs of artwork.

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