



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Zorach Family Papers,  
1900-1987, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Hanson

Funding for the processing of this collection was  
provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art

October 2008

Archives of American Art  
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Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	The Zorach Family papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.zorazora
<b>Date:</b>	1900-1987
<b>Extent:</b>	4.4 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Zorach Family
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Zorach Family papers measure 4.4 linear feet and consist of materials relating to the lives and careers of sculptor and painter William Zorach, his wife painter and weaver Marguerite, and their children, painter and multi-media artist Dahlov Ipcar and collector and art dealer Tessim Zorach. The bulk of the papers consists of letters to Tessim regarding his parent's artwork. Additional materials include scattered letters to William Zorach; writings and notes by William, Marguerite, and Tessim; a sketchbook and drawings by William; prints by Marguerite; Marguerite's scrapbook; printed materials; and photographs of the Zorach family and of William Zorach in his studio and at work.

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

William Zorach lent papers for microfilming to the Archives of American Art in 1959. Tessim Zorach donated materials between 1976-1987.

### Separated Material

The Archives of American Art also holds material lent for microfilming on reels NY59-1-NY59-4 and NY59-19. Loaned materials were returned to the lender and are now held by the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division. This material is not described in the collection container inventory or finding aid.

### Location of Originals

The originals of the materials loaned for microfilming are most likely part of William Zorach's papers at the Library of Congress.

### Related Material

The Archives of American Art holds the Dahlov Ipcar papers, 1906-1997. Also found is one oral history interview with William Zorach conducted by John D. Morse on April 2, 1959 and

an oral history interview with Dahlov Ipcar conducted by Robert F. Brown on November 13, 1979.

The bulk of William Zorach's papers are held by the Library of Congress.

## Alternative Forms Available

Portions of the collection and material lent for microfilming are available on 35mm microfilm reels NY59-1-NY59-4, NY59-19, and 4957-4961 at the 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 Zorach Family papers were arranged and microfilmed in 1994. They were reprocessed by Jayna Hanson in October 2008 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

## Preferred Citation

The Zorach Family papers, 1900-1987. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions on Access

Use of originals requires an appointment.

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## Biographical Note

William Zorach (1887-1966) was a modernist painter and sculptor working primarily in New York city, along with his wife Marguerite (1887-1968) who worked as a fauvist painter, printmaker, and textile artist. Their children were painter Dahlov Ipcar (1917-) and art collector Tessim Zorach (1915-1995.)

Born in Lithuania, William Zorach immigrated to the United States where his family settled in Cleveland, Ohio. An early interest in art led to a printmaking apprenticeship. He then moved to New York City and enrolled in the National Academy of Design where he studied painting and drawing. In 1910, Zorach traveled to Paris to study and where he met his wife Marguerite Thompson at the La Palette art school. Marguerite grew up in Fresno, California and studied art at Stanford University. Both artists were heavily influenced by the fauvist and cubist art movements.

Returning to America, Marguerite and William married and both continued to create and experiment with varied media. Their paintings were featured in the 1913 New York City Armory Show and they are credited with being among the first artists to introduce European modernist styles to American modernism. The Zorachs were very close both as a couple and as working active artists.

In the 1920s, Marguerite began to experiment with textiles and created large, fine art tapestries and hooked rugs. Also, she used batik dying techniques on fabrics. William also expanded his genre by creating direct sculpture in 1918, which would become his primary medium.

In 1915, William and Marguerite started a family with their son, Tessim. Two years later, their daughter Dahlov was born. The Zorachs divided the year and lived in New York City, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. In 1923, the family bought a farm on Georgetown Island, Maine where they lived, worked, and entertained friends.

Dahlov and Tessim were exposed to art from an early age. Dahlov showed artistic promise as a child and her parents supported her creativity by allowing her to express herself without formal training. Dahlov pursued painting and later became an illustrator for children's books. Additionally, she wrote fantasy novels and short stories. Dahlov married Adolf Ipcar in 1936. Like the rest of his family, Tessim Zorach developed an interest of art and along with his wife Peggy, he amassed a large private collection of ancient to modern art.

William and Marguerite continued to sculpt and paint until their deaths in 1966 and 1968, respectively.

Together, Dahlov and Tessim established the Collection of the Zorach Children which coordinated donations of their parents' art to many museums throughout the United States and the world. The artwork of both artists is found in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Brooklyn Museum, Whitney Museum of American Art, Delaware Art Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Farnsworth Art Museum, Portland Museum of Art, National Gallery of Art, National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Philips Collection, and educational institutions such as Colby College, University of Vermont, Williams College, Bowdoin College, and the University of Virginia. In addition William has works associated with many public buildings, among them: Radio City Music Hall, New York City Municipal Court, the U.S. Post Office in Washington D.C. as well as Farleigh Dickinson University.

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## Scope and Content Note

The Zorach Family papers measure 4.4 linear feet and consist of materials relating to the lives and careers of sculptor and painter William Zorach, his wife painter and weaver Marguerite, and their children, painter and multi-media artist Dahlov Ipcar and collector and art dealer Tessim Zorach. The bulk of the papers consists of letters to Tessim regarding his parent's artwork. Additional materials include scattered letters to William Zorach; writings and notes by William, Marguerite, and Tessim; a sketchbook and drawings by William; prints by Marguerite; Marguerite's scrapbook; printed materials; and photographs of the Zorach family and of William Zorach in his studio and at work.

The majority of correspondence is between Tessim Zorach and various museums and galleries concerning exhibitions and donations of his parents' works of art. There are scattered letters to William Zorach among the correspondence. Business records consist of materials relating to the Collection of the Zorach Children, including lists of works of art by the Zorach's, a file relating to an exhibition of Zorach artwork at the Brooklyn Museum, and photographs of works of art considered for donation.

Writings and Notes include a typescript of an article written by Marguerite Zorach, writings by William Zorach, a typescript of *Young Poems* by William and Marguerite, as well as articles written by others about the Zorachs. Artwork by Marguerite Zorach includes two prints and a tracing. Also found is one sketchbook, and additional drawings by William Zorach. There is one unsigned lithograph.

The majority of exhibition announcements, catalogs, and clippings concern William and Marguerite Zorach although there are two announcements for Dahlov Ipcar. There is one scrapbook of clippings about Marguerite.

The papers include photographs of Marguerite and William Zorach, their parents, baby photos of Tessim and Dahlov, family pictures of the Zorachs, and of Marguerite and William in their studios. There are several folders of William Zorach working in his studios and additional photos of him carving a relief sculpture and a sculpture for the Southwest Bank. Most of these photographs contain detailed annotations written by William Zorach about the work. There is one folder of photographs of William in France in 1910-1911, including one of Zorach in Roi Partridge's studio. There is one photograph of Zorach taken by Ansel Adams in Yosemite, a photo of Zorach working by Arnold Newman, and several taken by Imogen Cunningham.

Other photographs are of works of art, most of which depict William's works.

Artifacts include Marguerite's batik tools and approximately fifty commercially made printing blocks.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 9 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Information, circa 1907-1969 (Box 1, 6; 3 folders)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1922-1982 (Box 1-2; 1.75 linear feet)
- Series 3: Business Records, 1967-1971, circa 1960s-1970s (Box 2-3; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 4: Writings and Notes, circa 1930s-1973, 1987 (Box 3; 8 folders)
- Series 5: Artworks, 1900-circa 1920s (Box 3, 6; 12 folders)
- Series 6: Scrapbooks, 1922-1953 (Box 3; 1 folder)
- Series 7: Printed Material, 1912-1982 (Box 3; 0.25 linear feet)
- Series 8: Photographs, 1908-1966 (Box 3-5; 1.0 linear feet)
- Series 9: Artifacts, circa 1910s, circa 1950s (Box 4; 0.5 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 -- Collectors and collecting -- New York (State) -- New York  
Art, American  
Artist couples  
Artists' studios -- Photographs  
Women painters -- New York (State) -- New York  
Works of art

Types of Materials:

Articles  
Drawings  
Interviews  
Notes  
Photographs  
Prints  
Scrapbooks  
Sketchbooks  
Writings

Names:

Adams, Ansel, 1902-1984  
Art Students League (New York, N.Y.)  
Brooklyn Museum  
Cunningham, Imogen, 1883-1976  
Ipcar, Dahlov, 1917- 2017  
Newman, Arnold, 1918-2006  
Partridge, Roi, 1888-1984  
Zorach, Marguerite, 1887-1968  
Zorach, Tessim  
Zorach, William, 1887-1966

Occupations:

Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York  
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York  
Weavers

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Information, circa 1907-1969

*(Box 1, 6; 3 folders)*

Scattered biographical and personal materials include an architectural plan for William Zorach's memorial, a proposed plan for the Kiener Memorial Fountain in St. Louis, a certificate, and short biographies.

Biographical information for Marguerite Thompson Zorach consists of a record from Fresno High School in California.

Box 1, Folder 1	William Zorach, circa 1930s-1960s, 1964 <i>(See also OV6)</i>
Box 1, Folder 2	Marguerite Thompson Zorach, circa 1907
Box 1, Folder 3	Tessim Zorach, 1969 January 14 <i>(See also OV6)</i>
Oversize 6, Folder	Oversized William Zorach, 1964 <i>(See Box 1, F1)</i>
Oversize 6, Folder	Oversized Tessim Zorach, 1969 January 14 <i>(See Box 1, F3)</i>

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1922-1982

*(Box 1-2; 1.75 linear feet)*

The majority of correspondence consists of letters written to Tessim Zorach regarding his parents' works and exhibitions from various scholars, galleries, and museums. Included are scattered letters written to William Zorach. Also found is a photocopy of a letter by Marguerite Zorach to Jessica Dismorr.

Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1922, 1947, 1950, 1955-1956
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1960, 1963-1964
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1966
Box 1, Folder 7-9	Correspondence, 1967 <i>(3 folders)</i>
Box 1, Folder 10-12	Correspondence, 1968 <i>(3 folders)</i>
Box 1, Folder 13-15	Correspondence, 1969 <i>(3 folders)</i>
Box 1, Folder 16-18	Correspondence, 1970 <i>(3 folders)</i>
Box 1, Folder 19-20	Correspondence, 1971 <i>(2 folders)</i>
Box 1, Folder 21-22	Correspondence, 1972 <i>(2 folders)</i>
Box 1, Folder 23-24	Correspondence, 1973 <i>(2 folders)</i>
Box 1, Folder 25	Correspondence, 1974
Box 2, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1974
Box 2, Folder 2-3	Correspondence, 1975 <i>(2 folders)</i>
Box 2, Folder 4-5	Correspondence, 1976 <i>(2 folders)</i>
Box 2, Folder 6-7	Correspondence, 1977

	<i>(2 folders)</i>
Box 2, Folder 8-9	Correspondence, 1978 <i>(2 folders)</i>
Box 2, Folder 10-12	Correspondence, 1979 <i>(3 folders)</i>
Box 2, Folder 13-14	Correspondence, 1980 <i>(2 folders)</i>
Box 2, Folder 15-16	Correspondence, 1981 <i>(2 folders)</i>
Box 2, Folder 17	Correspondence, 1982
Box 2, Folder 18	Correspondence, circa 1960s-1970s

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## Series 3: Business Records, 1967-1971, circa 1960s-1970s

*(Box 2-3; 0.3 linear feet)*

This series consists of the records of the art Collection of the Zorach Children, managed by Dahlov Ipcar and Tessim Zorach. Included are lists of watercolors and drawings, exhibition files from a Zorach show at the Brooklyn Museum, photos of works of art considered for gifts by the Zorach Collections, and a page from a ledger showing artists account.

Box 2, Folder 19	Artist Account, 1971
Box 2, Folder 20	Brooklyn Museum Exhibition, 1967-1968
Box 2, Folder 21	Zorach Collection Forms, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 22	Photos of Works of Art- Considered as Gifts, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 23-24	Lists of Works of Art, 1968 <i>(2 folders)</i>
Box 3, Folder 1	Lists of Works of art, 1968

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## Series 4: Writings and Notes, circa 1930s-1966, 1987

*(Box 3; 8 folders)*

Writings and notes are by William, Marguerite, and Tessim Zorach. Found are William Zorach's explanation of the symbolism of his sculpture at the Second National Bank in Houston, Texas, typescripts of Marguerite's "The Holy Land," and *Young Poems* edited by Carl M. Schmalz, Jr., and a speech given by Tessim in 1987.

Box 3, Folder 2	Symbolism of Zorach Sculpture--Second National Bank, Houston, Texas, circa 1940s
Box 3, Folder 3	"The Holy Land" by Marguerite Zorach, circa 1930s
Box 3, Folder 4	<i>Young Poems</i> by William and Marguerite Zorach, edited by Carl M. Schmalz, Jr., 1966
Box 3, Folder 5	"Reminiscences of Provincetown" by Tessim Zorach, 1987 July 6
Box 3, Folder 6	"Zorach's Carved Sculpture," by Roberta Tarbell, 1972-1976
Box 3, Folder 7	Unidentified Writings, circa 1960s
Box 3, Folder 8	Unidentified Notes, circa 1930s-1960s

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## Series 5: Artwork, 1900-circa 1920s,

*(Box 3, 6; 12 folders)*

Artwork includes a sketchbook and drawings by William Zorach, two prints and a tracing by Marguerite Zorach, and an unsigned lithograph.

Box 3, Folder 9	Sketchbook by William Zorach, 1900
Box 3, Folder 10-14	Drawings by William Zorach, circa 1900 <i>(5 folders)</i>
Box 3, Folder 15	Prints by Marguerite Zorach, circa 1920s <i>(2 prints)</i>
Box 3, Folder 16	Tracing by Marguerite Zorach, circa 1910s <i>(See also OV6)</i>
Box 3, Folder 17	Unsigned Lithograph, circa 1900
Oversize 6, Folder	Oversized Tracing by Marguerite Zorach, circa 1910s <i>(See Box 3, F16)</i>

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## Series 6: Scrapbooks, 1922-1953

*(Box 3; 1 folder)*

There is one scrapbook of clippings relating to Marguerite Zorach.

Box 3, Folder 18

Marguerite Zorach Scrapbook, 1922-1953

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## Series 7: Printed Material, 1912-1982

(Box 3; 0.25 linear feet)

Clippings, articles, brochures, program, exhibition announcements and catalogs, newsletters, and press releases are about Marguerite and William Zorach and their daughter Dahlov Ipcar. Printed articles from the *Fresno Morning Republican* in which Marguerite describes her time spent traveling through Asia. Also found are printed reproductions of artwork by William and Marguerite Zorach.

Box 3, Folder 19	Articles by Marguerite Zorach, 1913-1914
Box 3, Folder 20	Brochures, circa 1930, 1967, 1974
Box 3, Folder 21	Clippings, 1912, 1930-1939
Box 3, Folder 22	Clippings, 1943-1949
Box 3, Folder 23	Clippings, 1953-1954, 1957
Box 3, Folder 24	Clippings, 1960-1969
Box 3, Folder 25	Clippings, 1970-1979
Box 3, Folder 26	Clippings, 1980-1981
Box 3, Folder 27	Clippings, circa 1930s-1940s
Box 3, Folder 28	Event Programs, 1972-1979
Box 3, Folder 29-32	William Zorach Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1936-1981 (4 folders)
Box 3, Folder 33	Marguerite Zorach Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1923-1981
Box 3, Folder 34	Dahlov Ipcar Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1974, 1977
Box 3, Folder 35	General Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1969-1981
Box 3, Folder 36	Newsletters, 1968-1982
Box 3, Folder 37	Press Releases, 1960
Box 3, Folder 38	Reproductions of Works of Art, circa 1967

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## Series 8: Photographs, 1908-1966

(Box 3-5; 1.0 linear feet)

Photographs are of the Zorach family, including William, Marguerite, Tessim, and Dahlov, and the parents of William and Marguerite. Some photographs of the Zorach family were taken at their home in Maine, Yosemite Valley, and Europe. Other photos are of Marguerite and William in their studios in Paris and New York. Also found are a series of photographs depicting William carving a relief sculpture and making a plaster cast. Most of these photographs contain detailed annotations written by William Zorach about the work. There are photographs of models and friends of the Zorach family including Gaston and Isabella Lachaise, Bertram Harman, Elmer Brubeck, and Alex Warshawsky. Photographers of Zorach include Ansel Adams, Imogene Cunningham and Arnold Newman. Also found are photographs of works of art by William Zorach.

Box 3, Folder 39	William Zorach and His Parents, 1908, circa 1910s
Box 3, Folder 40	William Zorach in France, 1910-1911 (Includes one photograph of Zorach in Roi Partridge's studio)
Box 3, Folder 41	William Zorach, 1913-1914, 1920 (Includes one small photograph of Zorach in Yosemite taken by Ansel Adams)
Box 3, Folder 42	William Zorach At Work, 1930, 1943 (See also Box 5) (Includes photograph by Arnold Newman)
Box 3, Folder 43	William Zorach At Work, circa 1940s
Box 3, Folder 44	William Zorach At Work, circa 1940s-1950s (Depicts the stages of Zorach carving a relief sculpture; many of the photographs are annotated by Zorach)
Box 3, Folder 45	William Zorach, 1950-1955
Box 3, Folder 46-47	William Zorach At Work, circa 1955 (2 folders) (Depicts the stages of Zorach creating a sculpture for the Bank of the Southwest; many of the photographs are annotated by Zorach)
Box 3, Folder 48	William Zorach, 1956 (See also Box 5) (Photographs taken by Imogene Cunningham)
Box 3, Folder 49	William Zorach, circa 1950s (See also Box 5) (Steps in Making a Plater Cast; annotated)
Box 3, Folder 50	William Zorach, 1956-1966



Box 3, Folder 51	Marguerite and William Zorach, circa 1928 (Zorachs with Isabelle and Gaston Lachaise on a picnic)
Box 3, Folder 52	Marguerite Zorach and Thompson Family, 1908-1911
Box 3, Folder 53	Marguerite Zorach, 1912-1913, 1966
Box 4, Folder 1	Zorach Family, 1915-1920
Box 4, Folder 2	Zorach Family and Friends, 1929, circa 1950s
Box 4, Folder 3	Friends, 1910-1912, 1915, 1920
Box 4, Folder 4	Models, circa 1940s (See also Box 5)
Box 4, Folder 5	Houses and Studios, circa 1930s
Box 4, Folder 6	Travel, circa 1920s
Box 4, Folder 7	Exhibition Installations, 1943, 1960, 1967-1968
Box 4, Folder 8	Art-Related Events, 1962, circa 1960s
Box 4, Folder 9-19	Sculpture by William Zorach, circa 1950s (11 folders)
Box 4, Folder 20	Works of Art by William Zorach, circa 1950s
Box 4, Folder 21	Works of Art by Marguerite Zorach, circa 1930s-1960s
Box 4, Folder 22	Unidentified Photographs, circa 1960s
Box 5, Folder	Oversized William Zorach by Arnold Newman, 1943 (See Box 3, F42)
Box 5, Folder	Oversized William Zorach by Imogene Cunningham, 1956 (See Box 3, F48)
Box 5, Folder	Oversized William Zorach Making a Plaster Cast, circa 1950s (See Box 3, F49)
Box 5, Folder	Oversized Models, circa 1940s

*(See Box 4, F4)*

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## Series 9: Artifacts, circa 1910s, circa 1950s

*(Box 4; 0.5 linear feet)*

Artifacts include printing blocks depicting William Zorach creating a relief sculpture and of Marguerite Zorach's etchings; some are unidentified. Also found are Marguerite's batik tools.

Box 4, Folder 23          Commercial Printing Blocks, circa 1950s

Box 4, Folder 24          Marguerite Zorach's Batik Tools, circa 1910s

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