



Cooper Hewitt

Smithsonian Design Museum

Trude Guermonprez collection, 1950-1976

2011

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Libraries
Title:	Trude Guermonprez collection
Date:	1950-1976
Identifier:	SIL-CH.1993-121-118
Creator:	Guermonprez, Trude, 1910-1976
Extent:	3 Boxes
Language:	Undetermined .
Summary:	This archive includes interesting documents related to Trude Guermonprez's life and work as a weaver. The archives are especially related to the designer's work for her major clients, like Holland America Line and Owens Corning Fiberglass; other pieces in this archive are related to Guermonprez's work for custom curtains made for major synagogues and her designs, interior fabrics, screens and rugs realized in conjunction with J.P. Oud, Architects Associated, New York; Eric Mendelsohn, Warren Callister, etc. The correspondence and the photographs in this collection provide insight into the designer's private life. Included in this collection are press articles, brochures, correspondence, postcards, photographs, color slides, notebooks, textiles, and textile wood patterns.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

All materials were donated to the museum by Mr. Eric and Mrs. Sylvia Elsesser in 1993.

Other Finding Aids

No finding aid available.

Restrictions

Unprocessed; access is limited. Permission of Library Director required. Policy.

Biographical Note

Trude Guermonprez is an experienced weaver as well as a designer, artist, craftsman and teacher. She has executed architectural commissions and has done interior design for industry. Her work is of great variety in character and form. Guermonprez started weaving in Halle, Germany at the Municipal School of Arts and Crafts. Six years of weaving in a Dutch rug shop preceded her coming to America, at the invitation of Anni Albers, to teach at Black Mountain College, and later to northern California to join her friend Marguerite Wildenhain, at Pond Farm Workshops in a producing-teaching cooperative. She served as Chairman of the Craft Department at The California College of Arts and Crafts. Though she designed fabrics for New York

textile manufacturers, her works were mainly custom produced for architects and individuals. In 1970 she was honored the Craftsmanship Medal from the American Institute of Architects.

Guermonprez published works in *Art and Architecture*, 1949; *Shuttlecraft Weaving Magazine*, 1957; and *Research in Crafts*, 1961.

She also participated in the following exhibitions: de Young Museum; American Wallhangings, London; Oakland Art Museum; Pasadena Art Museum; U.S. Information Agency State Department Show, traveling Europe exhibition; "Craftsmen of the West", "Fabrics International" and "10 American Weavers" at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. In 2000 at Staatliche Galerie Moritzburg Halle Landeskunstmuseum, Halle (Salle), Germany: "From Bauhaus to the Pacific: The Impact of Emigration on Marguerite Wildenhain and Trude Guermonprez".

Arrangement

Unprocessed; Included in this collection are press articles, brochures, correspondence, postcards, photographs, color slides, notebooks, textiles, and textile wood patterns.

Bibliography

The tapestries of Trude Guermonprez : The Oakland Art Museum, November 13-December 26, 1982. Oakland, Calif. : Oakland Museum, 1982.

Location of Other Archival Materials Note

The North Carolina State Archives web site has material in its collection related to Guermonprez as a teacher and artist-in-residence at Black Mountain College.

Location of Other Archival Materials Note

The Archives of American Art has oral history interviews of Merry Renk conducted 2001 Jan. 18-19 by Arline M. Fisch for Nanette L. Laitman's, Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America. Guermonprez is only mentioned.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Weaving -- History -- 20th century -- Sources

Types of Materials:

Announcements
Articles
Awards
Blueprints
Brochures

Business cards
Clippings
Correspondence
Designs (textile)
Exhibition catalogs
Financial records
Journals (periodicals)
Lecture notes
Patterns (design elements)
Photographs
Postcards
Posters
Proposals
Sketches
Slides (photographs)
Textiles

Names:

Akron Art Institute
American Crafts Council. Museum of Contemporary Crafts
American Institute of Architects
Black Mountain College (Black Mountain, N.C.)
California College of Arts and Crafts
Cooper-Hewitt Design Archive
Guermonprez, Paul.
Guermonprez, Trude, 1910-1976
Herr, Gordon.
Herr, Jane.
Holland Amerika Lijn
Johnson Wax -- Art collections
Larson, Jack Lenor.
Mendelsohn, Erich, 1887-1953
Municipal School of Arts and Crafts (Halle an der Saale, Germany)
Oakland Art Museum
Oud, J. J. P. (Jacobus Johannes Pieter), 1890-1963
Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation
Pasadena Art Museum
Pond Farm Workshop
San Francisco Folk Art Museum
Staatliche Galerie Moritzburg Halle, Landeskunstmuseum Sachsen-Anhalt
Wildenhain, Frans, 1905-1980
Wildenhain, Marguerite

Occupations:

Textile designers -- United States
Weavers -- United States