Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the De Hirsh Margules Papers, 1888-2001, bulk 1923-1965, in the Archives of American Art

Justin Brancato

June 11, 2009

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	De Hirsh Margules papers
Date:	1888-2001 (bulk 1923-1965)
Identifier:	AAA.margde
Creator:	Margules, De Hirsh, 1899-1965
Extent:	5.5 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter De Hirsh Margules measure 5.5 linear feet and date from 1888-2001, with the bulk dating from 1923-1965. The papers contain biographical material, and business and personal correspondence, including letters from Alfred Stiegliz, John Marin, Henry Miller, Max Schnitzler, Charles J. Connick, Louis M. Eilshemius, Alex King, and Myron Lechay. Also found are writings, printed material, scrapbooks, photographs, works of art and audio recordings documenting Margules' personal life and professional career.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers were donated to the Archives in 2005 by Elita Agee.

Processing Information

The papers were processed by Justin Brancato in May, 2009.

Preferred Citation

De Hirsh Margules papers, 1888-2001, bulk 1923-1965. Archives of America Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

The De Hirsh Margules papers are open for research. Use requires an appointment.

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Biographical Note

De Hirsh Margules (1899-1965) was a painter in New York, NY. Margules was born in Jasse, Romania and arrived in New York City at only ten months of age. His parents were in the Yiddish Theater; his father, Edouard was a playwright/director, and his mother, Rosa, was an actress. Margules received much of his art education outside of the conventional art institutional framework. Early on, he studied with Edwin Randby in Pennsylvania from 1917-1918, but it was really his neighbor, the painter Benno Greenstein, who encouraged Margules to pursue a career in the arts. From 1919-1921 he studied period architecture, design and decoration at the New York Evening School of Art and Design.

By 1922, Margules began working nights as a police reporter for the City News Association of New York, a job he would hold until 1942. However, he continued to study and paint during the day, this time working with Myron Lechay.

In 1927 Margules took a leave of absence from the City News Association to travel to Paris. He studied at the Musée du Louvre, and painted landscapes in Montmartre, Paris; Fontenay-près-Vézelay, Burgundy; and Tunis, Africa. In 1929 Margules returned to New York and met artist/dealer Alfred Stieglitz, who quickly became his most trusted friend and advisor. It was through Stieglitz that Margules was introduced to John Marin, Georgia O'Keeffe, Paul Rosenfeld, Stuart Davis and Jan Matulka. While Margules would benefit from his relations with all of these artists, it was John Marin who would become his most important mentor. He felt that Marin was the only one who could help him with the formal problems he was having with painting.

Margules lived most of his life in Greenwich Village and was a well-known member of the colorful and vivacious arts community. He was commonly recognized by his affable demeanor, but mostly it was his attire, particularly the dark blue beret that he was rarely seen without. To his friends he was known simply as "the Baron."

De Hirsh Margules has been called an abstract realist. He used saturated colors and bold textures in the construction of his abstract landscapes, but more specifically it was his interest in the concept of "time painting" or "time perspective" that propelled his work. It was through the physical rendering and representation of his subject matter that he explored the psychological concepts of time. From 1936-1937 Margules established "Another Place," an exhibition space set up in his New York City apartment at 43 West 8th Street. Over a two year period there were fourteen solo-exhibitions by Margules and other artists.

He taught painting in 1951 at Ball State College in Muncie, Indiana, and at the New York Equity Workshop in 1952. In 1951 Elaine de Kooning wrote a piece about his working methods in the December edition of *Art News*.

De Hirsh Margules died from a heart attack in 1965. He was 65 years old.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of painter De Hirsh Margules measure 5.5 linear feet and date from 1888-2001, with the bulk dating from 1923-1965. The papers contain biographical material, and business and personal correspondence, including letters from Alfred Stiegliz, John Marin, Henry Miller, Max Schnitzler, Charles J. Connick, Louis M. Eilshemius, Alex King, and Myron Lechay. Also found are writings, printed material, scrapbooks, photographs, works of art and audio recordings documenting Margules' personal life and professional career.

Biographical material consists of Margules' curriculum vitae, address books, war ration books, press credentials, passports, naturalization documents, membership and social security cards, and memorial material on De Hirsh and Blanche Margules.

Correspondence of De Hirsh Margules covers both personal and business matters. Family correspondents include his wife Blanche London, her parents, De Hirsh's mother Rosa and his sister Sam. There is correspondence with Jean and Harrison Horblit, friends and business associates of the Margules, as well as correspondence with his girlfriend, Marieli Kailin Mandel. Other correspondents include Alfred Stieglitz, John Marin, Henry Miller, Max Schnitzler, Charles J. Connick, Louis M. Eilshemius, Alex King, Myron Lechay, and two letters from New York

Governor Herbert H. Lehman. There are single letters from Sasha Kolin; New York City Mayor John V. Lindsay; Lawrence F. O'Brien, special assistant to President John F. Kennedy; Buckminster Fuller. This last letter was not addressed exclusively to Margules. Other personal correspondence includes letters, postcards and greeting cards from family members and friends. Other business correspondents include galleries and museums such as Babcock Galleries, Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, Niveau Gallery, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Brooklyn Museum, Buffalo Fine Arts Academy, Ferargil Gallery, Feigl Gallery, Guggenheim Museum, Worcester Art Museum and Walker Art Center.

Writings consist mostly of poems by De Hirsh Margules, sometimes appearing in multiple draft forms, as well as a longer work titled "Mulberry Bend." Also included within the series are notebooks filled with poems and works of prose, the latter expounding upon his theories and ideas. Writings by other authors range from poetry to works of prose, criticism and biography, including A. Lincoln Gillespie, Jr., Kenneth Lawrence Beaudoin, David Weber, Aaron Frankel, James Grady, Dick Higgins, and Esther Gilman, among others. There are three illustrated writings by Alfred Jensen. Audio recordings contain a sound tape reel of De Hirsh Margules reciting his poems *Rainbow* and *Mulberry Bend*.

Printed material includes newspaper and magazine clippings, press releases, exhibition announcements, catalogues and books. Scrapbooks include printed material, newspaper and magazine clippings, and exhibition announcements on the career of De Hirsh Margules. Also included are two scrapbooks by Blanche London Margules, representing newspaper clippings of her writing, among others.

Works of Art include an oil painting on wood and sketchbooks by Margules. Also included are six collages in a series by Kenneth Lawrence Beaudoin titled "Eye Poems"; and text-based drawings/writings by A. Lincoln Gillespie, Jr.

Photographs, transparencies and slides include works of art by De Hirsh and Blanche London Margules. Also included are personal photographs of the Margules', their friends, family and students, and two folders of photographs of Marieli Kailin Mandel.

Arrangement

The De Hirsh Margules papers are organized into 8 series:

Missing Title:
- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1888-1978, undated (Box 1, 6; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1923-2000, undated (Box 1-3; 2.8 linear feet)
- Series 3: Writings, 1936-1965, undated (Box 4; 1.0 linear feet)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1933-2001, undated (Box 5; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 5: Scrapbooks, 1922-1957, undated (Box 5, 7; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 6: Photographs, 1926-1992, undated (Box 5, 7; 0.8 linear feet)
- Series 7: Works of Art, 1948, undated (Box 6, 7; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 8: Audio Recordings, undated (Box 6; 1 folder)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Poets -- New York (State) -- New York
Works of art

Types of Materials:

Collages
Notebooks
Oil paintings
Photographs
Poems
Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks
Sound recordings
Writings

Names:

Babcock Galleries
Beaudoin, Kenneth Lawrence, 1913-
Brooklyn Museum
Buffalo Fine Arts Academy
Connick, Charles J., 1875-1945
Eilshemius, Louis M. (Louis Michel), 1864-1941
Feigl Gallery
Ferargil Galleries
Frankel, Aaron
Fuller, R. Buckminster (Richard Buckminster), 1895-
Gillespie, Al Lincoln, Jr.
Gilman, Esther
Grady, James
Higgins, Dick, 1938-
Horblit, Harrison D.
Horblit, Jean
Jensen, Alfred, 1903-1981
King, Alex
Kolin, Sacha, 1911-1981
Lechay, Myron, 1898-1972
Lehman, Herbert H. (Herbert Henry), 1878-1963
Lindsay, John V.
Mandel, Marieli Kailin
Margules, Blanche London
Marin, John, 1870-1953
Miller, Henry, 1891-
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)
Niveau Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
O'Brien, Lawrence F.
Schnitzler, Max, 1903-
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946
Walker Art Center
Weber, David A.
Whitney Museum of American Art
Worcester Art Museum

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1888-1978, undated

(Box 1, 7; 0.2 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material consists of Margules' curriculum vitae, address books, war ration books, press credentials, passports, naturalization documents, membership and social security cards, and memorial material on De Hirsh and Blanche Margules.

Box 1, Folder 1	Curriculum Vitae, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Memorial Events, De Hirsh Margules, 1965
Box 1, Folder 3	Memorial Events, Blanche London Margules, 1948
Box 1, Folder 4	Address Books, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Membership and Social Security Cards, 1926-1978, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Press Credentials, 1933-1942, 1958
Box 1, Folder 7	War Ration Books, 1942-1947
Box 1, Folder 8	Registration Certificate for Selective Service, 1941
Box 1, Folder 9	Passports, 1926, 1932
Box 1, Folder 10	Naturalization, 1899, 1906
Box 1, Folder 11	Gerrit Vander Veenpenning Award, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	General Documents, 1888
Box 1, Folder 13	Religious Document, 1928 (Oversized material housed in Box 7)
Box 1, Folder 14	Diaries and Autograph Book by Marieli Kailin Mandel, 1936, 1947
Box 7, Folder	Oversized Religious Document, 1928 (Oversized material from Box 1, Folder 13)

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1923-2000, undated

(Box 1-3; 2.8 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: Included within this series is the personal and business correspondence of De Hirsh Margules. Correspondence with the family includes his wife Blanche London, her parents, De Hirsh's mother Rosa and his sister Sam. There is correspondence with Jean and Harrison Horblit, friends and business associates of the Margules, as well as correspondence with his girlfriend, Marieli Kailin Mandel. Other correspondents include Alfred Stieglitz, John Marin, Henry Miller, Max Schnitzler, Charles J. Connick, Louis M. Eilshemius, Alex King, Myron Lechay, and two letters from New York Governor Herbert H. Lehman. There are single letters from Sasha Kolin; New York City Mayor John V. Lindsay; Lawrence F. O'Brien, special assistant to President John F. Kennedy; Buckminster Fuller; and Armin D. Lehmann, a member of Hitler Youth and courier in the Führerbunker at the end of Adolf Hitler's rein. This last letter was not addressed exclusively to Margules. Other personal correspondence includes letters, postcards and greeting cards from family members and friends. Other business correspondents include galleries and museums such as Babcock Galleries, the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, Niveau Gallery, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Brooklyn Museum, Buffalo Fine Arts Academy, Ferargil Gallery, Feigl Gallery, Guggenheim Museum, Worcester Art Museum and Walker Art Center.

The letters are arranged alphabetically by either institution or surname, while the material within each folder is arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 15-18	Estate Correspondence, 1923-1968, 1994-2000, undated (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 19	De Hirsh Margules Housing, 1939-1963
Box 1, Folder 20-23	Blanche Margules, 1933-1935, 1945-1947, undated (4 folders)
Box 1, Folder 24	Rosa Margules, 1957-1962
Box 1, Folder 25	Sam Margules, 1939, 1954-1962
Box 1, Folder 26	Family, 1934-1937, 1948-1962
Box 1, Folder 27	Babcock Galleries, 1953, 1993-1998, undated
Box 1, Folder 28	Jean and Harrison Horblit, 1964-1970, undated
Box 1, Folder 29-31	Marieli Kailin Mandel, 1945-1951 (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 1-3	Marieli Kailin Mandel, 1951-1953 (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 4	Marieli Kailin Mandel, 1954-1955
Box 2, Folder 5-6	Marieli Kailin Mandel, 1959-1961, undated

	(2 folders)
Box 2, Folder 7	Marieli Kailin Mandel, American Citizenship Attempts, 1942-1948, undated
Box 2, Folder 8	John Marin, 1935-1936, 1953-1956, undated
Box 2, Folder 9	Henry Miller, 1935, 1940-1941, 1954, undated
Box 2, Folder 10	The Museum of Modern Art, 1936-1949, 1959
Box 2, Folder 11	Niveau Gallery, undated
Box 2, Folder 12	Charles Norman, 1964
Box 2, Folder 13	Dorothy Norman, 1940-1949, 1961-1964, 1993-1994, undated
Box 2, Folder 14	Parker Pen Company, 1959-1961
Box 2, Folder 15	Mark Rosenthal, 1989, undated
Box 2, Folder 16	Sascha, 1940
Box 2, Folder 17	Max Schnitzler, 1942-1943, 1964
Box 2, Folder 18	Alfred Stieglitz, 1933-1938, 1957
Box 2, Folder 19	Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1934-1936, 1952-1965, undated
Box 2, Folder 20	Miscellaneous Addresses, undated
Box 2, Folder 21	Correspondence A, 1936-1964, undated
Box 2, Folder 22-23	Correspondence B, 1934-1965, undated (2 folders)
Box 2, Folder 24-25	Correspondence C, 1934-1964, undated (2 folders)
Box 2, Folder 26	Correspondence D, 1940-1948, 1953-1964, undated
Box 2, Folder 27	Correspondence E, 1935-1946, 1953-1962
Box 2, Folder 28	Correspondence F, 1936-1964, 1973, undated
Box 2, Folder 29	Correspondence G, 1928-1965, undated
Box 3, Folder 1	Correspondence H, 1935-1965, undated

Box 3, Folder 2	Correspondence I-J, 1953-1965
Box 3, Folder 3	Correspondence K, 1936-1964, undated
Box 3, Folder 4-6	Correspondence L, 1927-1965, undated (3 folders)
Box 3, Folder 7-8	Correspondence M, 1936-1960, 1964, undated (2 folders)
Box 3, Folder 9	Correspondence N, 1939, 1953-1961
Box 3, Folder 10	Correspondence O, 1947, 1964, undated
Box 3, Folder 11-14	Correspondence P, 1935-1965, undated (4 folders)
Box 3, Folder 15	Correspondence R, 1935-1964, undated
Box 3, Folder 16-17	Correspondence S, 1936-1965, 1985, undated (2 folders)
Box 3, Folder 18	Correspondence T, 1935-1965, undated
Box 3, Folder 19	Correspondence U, 1949, 1963-1964, undated
Box 3, Folder 20	Correspondence V, 1936-1955, 1962
Box 3, Folder 21-22	Correspondence W-Z, 1936-1964, 1989-1994, undated (2 folders)
Box 3, Folder 23	Correspondence, Unidentified, 1939-1954, undated

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Series 3: Writings, 1936-1965, undated

(Box 4; 1.0 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: Writings consist mostly of poems by De Hirsh Margules, sometimes appearing in multiple draft forms, as well as a longer work titled "Mulberry Bend." Also included within the series are notebooks filled with poems and works of prose, the latter expounding upon his theories and ideas. Writings by other authors range from poetry to works of prose, criticism and biography, including A. Lincoln Gillespie, Jr., Kenneth Lawrence Beaudoin, David Weber, Aaron Frankel, James Grady, Dick Higgins, Esther Gilman, among others. There are three illustrated writings by Alfred Jensen.

Audio recordings (series 8) contain a reel-to-reel tape of De Hirsh Margules reciting his poems *Rainbow* and *Mulberry Bend*.

Box 4, Folder 1	Writings by De Hirsh Margules, 1963, undated
Box 4, Folder 2	Writings by De Hirsh Margules, St. Michael, undated
Box 4, Folder 3-5	Writings by Others, 1936-1965, undated (3 folders)
Box 4, Folder 6	Writings by Alfred Jensen, undated
Box 4, Folder	Poems by De Hirsh Margules
Box 4, Folder 7-9	Mulberry Bend Draft (Part 1), 1955, undated (3 folders)
Box 4, Folder 10-11	Mulberry Bend Draft (Part 2), undated (2 folders)
Box 4, Folder 12-13	Miscellaneous, 1936-1964 (2 folders)
Box 4, Folder 14-16	Miscellaneous, undated (3 folders)
Box 4, Folder 17-18	Notebooks, 1959, undated (2 folders)
Box 4, Folder 19	Notes, 1961, undated
Box 4, Folder 20	Travel Diary, Blanche London, 1925

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1933-2001, undated

(Box 5; 0.2 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes newspaper and magazine clippings, press releases, exhibition announcements, catalogues and books. Several of the books are inscribed by the authors including, Joseph Stella, Joseph King, Michael Fraenkel, Abraham Walkowitz and Henrietta Weigel.

Box 5, Folder 1	Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, circa 1933-2001
Box 5, Folder 2	Press Releases, 1941-1946, undated
Box 5, Folder 3	Solo Exhibition Announcements, 1939-1961
Box 5, Folder 4	Group Exhibition Announcements, 1943-1964, undated
Box 5, Folder 5	Catalogs, 1944-1964, undated
Box 5, Folder 6	Catalogs, signed, 1944-1964
Box 5, Folder	Books
Box 5, Folder 7	The Brooklyn Bridge by Joseph Stella (inscribed), undated
Box 5, Folder 8	The Count by Joseph King (inscribed), 1935
Box 5, Folder 9	Death in a Room by Michael Fraenkel (inscribed), 1936
Box 5, Folder 10	Four Stories by Joseph Kling (inscribed), 1936
Box 5, Folder 11	Improvisations of New York by Abraham Walkowitz, 1948
Box 5, Folder 12	Paper Dolls Out of Rain by Henrietta Weigel (inscribed), 1954

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Series 5: Scrapbooks, 1922-1957, undated

(Box 5, 7; 0.2 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: Scrapbooks include printed material, newspaper and magazine clippings, and exhibition announcements on the career of De Hirsh Margules. Also includes two scrapbooks compiled by Blanche Margules, consisting of newspaper clippings of her writing, and one scrapbook compiled by Harry Salpeter.

Box 5, Folder 13	De Hirsh Margules, 1941-1945 (1 volume)
Box 5, Folder 14	De Hirsh Margules, loose pages, circa 1943-1948 (Oversized materials housed in Box 7)
Box 5, Folder 15	De Hirsh Margules, loose pages, 1936-1947, undated (Oversized material housed in Box 7)
Box 5, Folder 16	Harry Salpeter, 1947-1957, undated (1 volume)
Box 5, Folder 17	Blanche Margules, 1922-1929, undated (2 volume)
Box 7, Folder	Oversized Scrapbook by De Hirsh Margules, loose pages, circa 1943-1948 (Oversized material from Box 5, folder 14)
Box 7, Folder	Oversized Scrapbook by De Hirsh Margules, loose pages, 1936-1947, undated (Oversized material from Box 5, folder 15)

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Series 6: Photographs, 1926-1992, undated

(Box 5, 7; 0.8 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: Included are photographs, transparencies and slides of works of art by De Hirsh and Blanche London Margules. Also included are personal photographs of the Margules, their friends, family and students. There are two folders of photographs of Marieli Kailin Mandel.

Box 5, Folder 18-19	Works of Art by De Hirsh Margules, undated (2 folders)
Box 5, Folder 20	Works of Art by Blanche London Margules, undated
Box 5, Folder 21	Works of Art in the collection of Jean Horblit, 1992
Box 5, Folder 22-23	De Hirsh Margules, 1932-1957, undated (2 folders)
Box 5, Folder 24-25	Personal Life, undated (2 folders)
Box 5, Folder 26	Blanche London Margules, undated
Box 5, Folder 27	Robert Berdecio, 1963
Box 5, Folder 28	Edmond Mc Kenna, undated
Box 5, Folder 29-30	Marieli Kailin Mandel, undated (2 folders)
Box 5, Folder 31	Photographs by Miscellaneous Artists, 1926 (Oversized material housed in Box 7)
Box 5, Folder 32-33	Transparencies of Works of Art by De Hirsh Margules, undated (2 folders)
Box 5, Folder 34	Transparencies of De Hirsh Margules, undated
Box 5, Folder 35	Transparencies of Personal Life, undated
Box 5, Folder 36	Glass Lantern Slide of Work of Art by De Hirsh Margules, undated
Box 5, Folder 37	Slides of Works of Art in the Collection of Jean Horblit, 1992
Box 5, Folder 38	Slides of De Hirsh Margules, undated
Box 5, Folder 39	Slides of Marieli Kailin Mandel, undated

Box 5, Folder 40	Negatives of Marieli Kailin Mandel, undated
Box 7, Folder	Oversized Photographs by Miscellaneous Artists, 1926, undated (Oversized material from Box 5, folder 31)

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Series 7: Works of Art, 1948, undated

(Box 6, 7; 0.4 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: This series consists of an oil painting on wood and sketchbooks by De Hirsh Margules. Also included are six collages in a series by Kenneth Lawrence Beaudoin titled "Eye Poems," and text-based drawings, writings by A. Lincoln Gillespie, Jr.

Box 6, Folder 1	De Hirsh Margules, painting on wood, undated (Oversized material housed in Box 7)
Box 6, Folder 2	De Hirsh Margules, sketchbooks, undated
Box 6, Folder 3	Kenneth Lawrence Beaudoin, "Eye Poems,", 1948
Box 6, Folder 4	A. Lincoln Gillespie Jr., drawing, 1948
Box 7, Folder	Oversized Oil Painting by De Hirsh Margules (on wood), undated (Oversized material from Box 6, folder 1)

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Series 8: Audio Recordings, undated

(Box 6; 1 folder)

Scope and Contents: One sound tape reel (7-inch) recording of De Hirsh Margules reciting the written works *Rainbow* and *Mulberry Bend*.

Box 6, Folder 5	De Hirsh Margules recitation of Rainbow and Mulberry Bend, undated (1 sound tape reel)

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