



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

**A Finding Aid to the Anna Walinska
Papers, 1927-2002, bulk 1935-1980,
in the Archives of American Art**

**Funding for the processing and digitization of
this collection was provided by Rosina Rubin.**

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Creator:	Walinska, Anna
Title:	Anna Walinska papers
Dates:	1927-2002, 1935-1980
Quantity:	2.1 linear Feet
Abstract:	The papers of New York-based painter, teacher and art director Anna Walinska measure 2.1 linear feet and date from 1927 to 2002, with the bulk of material from 1935 to 1980. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, writings, travel diaries, printed material, scrapbooks, artwork, sketchbooks, and photographs.
Language:	Multiple languages
Language:	The collection is in English, Hebrew, French, Czech, and Spanish.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The papers were donated by Anna Walinska in two installations in 1976 and 1981. Rosina Rubin, Anna Walinska's niece, made a third donation of material in 2017.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also has the Guild Art Gallery records, which consists of material related to the gallery that was co-founded by Anna Walinska.

Existence and Location of Copies

The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2018 and is available on the Archives of American Art website. Materials which have not been digitized include blank pages, blank versos of photographs, and duplicates. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages digitized.

Processing Information

The collection was fully processed, prepared for digitization, and described in a finding aid by Rihoko Ueno in 2017 with funding provided by Rosina Rubin.

Preferred Citation

Anna Walinska papers, 1927-2002, bulk 1935-1980. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Conditions Governing Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., research center.

Biographical / Historical

Anna Walinska (1906-1997) was a New York artist, teacher and gallery director who traveled widely and is most well known for her paintings related to the subject of the Holocaust.

Anna Walinska was born in London, England in 1906 to labor organization leader Ossip Walinsky and poet Rosa Newman Walinska. She had two siblings, Emily and Louis. The family immigrated to New York City in 1914, and Anna Walinska began studying at the Art Students League in 1918. In 1926, she travelled to Paris and studied art at the Academie de Grande Chaumier with Andre L'Hote. France was her primary residence until 1930.

In 1935, Walinska and artist Margaret Lefranc co-founded the Guild Art Gallery at West 57th Street in New York and gave Arshile Gorky his first solo exhibition in the city. The gallery closed its doors in 1937. In 1939, Walinska was the Assistant Creative Director of the Contemporary Art Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. During this time, Walinska also pursued her own art and exhibited work in numerous group shows.

From 1954 to 1955, Walinska traveled around the world, visiting the capitals and major cities of many countries in Asia, the Middle East and Europe. Places she went included Japan, Burma (now known as Myanmar), Pakistan, Greece, Italy, France and Spain. During her four month stay in Burma, she painted a portrait of Prime Minister U Nu and she later became a highly respected portrait artist who painted numerous illustrious subjects such as First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, artists Louise Nevelson and Mark Rothko, and many others.

In 1957, Walinska became the artist-in-residence at the Riverside Museum where she also taught and exhibited with other artists. That same year, she had her first retrospective at the Jewish Museum in New York City.

Walinska exhibited widely and often. *Holocaust: Paintings and Drawings, 1953-1978*, which opened at the Museum of Religious Art at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, is probably the most well-known of her exhibitions and it traveled across the country to several other sites such as the War Memorial Building in Baltimore and Mercy College of Detroit. Works from this exhibition were acquired by multiple museums to become part of their permanent collections.

Walinska died on December 19, 1997 at the age of 91 in New York City. In 1999, there was a retrospective of her work titled *Echoes of the Holocaust: Paintings, Drawings, and Collage, 1940-1989* held at Clark University's Center for Holocaust Studies. The Onisaburo Gallery at New York's Interfaith Center also held a solo exhibition titled *Portraits of Faith* (2000). Her art is part of the collections at the Denver Art Museum, National Portrait Gallery, National Museum of Women in the Arts, the Rose Art Museum, and other museums.

Scope and Contents

The papers of New York-based painter, teacher and art director Anna Walinska measure 2.1 linear feet and date from 1927 to 2002, with the bulk of material from 1935 to 1980. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, writings, travel diaries, printed material, scrapbooks, artwork, sketchbooks, and photographs.

Biographical material consists of awards, certificates, curriculum vitae, biographical outlines, exhibition lists, passports and other material. There is a partial transcript from a radio interview of Anna Walinska. Also included are limited financial records.

Correspondence includes Anna Walinska's letters to her family from her 1954-1955 trip abroad to multiple countries in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. There is personal and professional correspondence with friends, artists and art institutions. Notable correspondents include Milton Avery, Louise Nevelson, Beata Welsing, Bracha Hacothen, William Littlefield, and Walinska's brother Louis Walinsky.

Writings consist of Walinska's notes, notebooks, lectures, essays, and a handwritten prospectus for Guild Art Gallery. There is one folder of writings by others about Walinska at the end of the series. There are four travel diaries that describe Walinska's trip around the world from 1954-1955, during which she traveled to many countries, and later trips to locations such as Israel and Trinidad.

Printed Material include clippings about Anna Walinska, group and solo exhibition catalogs, announcements, event invitations, and course catalogs for the Master Institute of United Art in New York City, where Walinska taught painting and drawing classes.

There are three scrapbooks: one scrapbook is about Guild Art Gallery, the second scrapbook is about the *Holocaust* exhibition, the third oversized scrapbook documents Walinska's career and activities overall.

Artwork consists of two bound sketchbooks as well as drawings and sketches in a variety of mediums from pencil and ink to watercolors and oils.

Photographs are of Walinska, friends, family, artists, artwork, exhibition installations, and other subjects. One album includes photos of Anna Walinska and her travels, along with images of friends and colleagues. The second album includes photographs of Walinska's solo exhibition at Sunken Meadow Gallery (1959). There is also one folder of photocopies of photos of assorted artwork by Walinska.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 8 series.

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1927-2002 (Box 1; 11 folders)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1949-1995 (Box 1; 0.4 linear feet)

Series 3: Writings, circa 1935-circa 1983 (Box 1; 8 folders)

Series 4: Travel Diaries, 1954-1973 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)

Series 5: Printed Material, 1942-2002 (Boxes 1-2; 0.4 linear feet)

Series 6: Scrapbooks, circa 1929-1980 (Boxes 2, 4; 0.5 linear feet)

Series 7: Artwork, circa 1929-1963 (Box 3; 5 folders)

Series 8: Photographs, circa 1932-1980 (Box 3; 0.3 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Archives of American Art under the following terms:

Subjects:

Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York
Art galleries, Commercial -- New York (State) -- New York
Asia--Description and travel
Drawing--Study and teaching
Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945), in art
Middle East--Description and travel
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Painting -- New York (State) -- New York
Trinidad and Tobago--Description and travel
Women painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Interviews
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks
Sketches
Transcripts
Travel diaries

Names:

Avery, Milton, 1885-1965

Beata, Welsing
Guild Art Gallery
Hacohen, Bracha
Littlefield, William Horace, 1902-1969
Nevelson, Louise, 1899-1988
Walinsky, Louis Joseph, 1908-2001

Geographic Names:

Europe -- description and travel
Israel -- description and travel

Series Descriptions/Container Listing

1: Biographical Material, 1927-2002

11 folders; Box 1

Biographical material consists of awards, certificates, curriculum vitae, biographical outlines, exhibition lists, passports, membership cards and other material. There is also a partial transcript of Anna Walinska talking about her work for a radio interview. Limited financial records include bills, receipts, and expenses for framing and transportation of artwork.

This series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

The bulk of this series has been digitized except for duplicates and blank pages of passports.

Box	Folder	
1	1	American Society of Contemporary Artists Membership Card, 1973
1	2	Awards and Certificates, 1957-circa 1980
1	3	Bills and Receipts, circa 1962-circa 1980
1	4	Biographical Outlines and Exhibitions List, circa 1969-2002
1	5	Curriculum Vitae, circa 1975
1	6	Framing Costs, circa 1961-circa 1980
1	7	Miscellaneous Financial Records, circa 1958-circa 1980
1	8	Partial Transcript of WEVD Radio Interview, 1979
1	9	Passports, 1927-1929
1	10	Passports, 1954-1962
1	11	Shipping and Transportation Costs, 1960, 1980

2: Correspondence, 1949-1995

0.4 linear Feet; Box 1

Correspondence includes Anna Walinska's letters to her family, usually addressed to her sister Emily Rubin and her father Ossip Walinsky, during her extended 1954-1955 trip abroad to countries in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. There is also personal and professional correspondence with friends, artists, and art institutions about Walinska's work, travel, and exhibitions. Notable correspondents include Milton Avery, Joseph Breitenbach, Mona Sullivan, Saul Raskin, Louise Nevelson, Beata Welsing, Elizabeth Erlanger, Ahron Ben-Shmuel, Bracha Hacoheh, William Littlefield, and Walinska's brother Louis Walinsky.

Family correspondence comes first, followed by alphabetical correspondence. Correspondents with less than four letters were placed in the "miscellaneous" alphabetical folders. One folder of "first names only" correspondence and one folder of unidentified correspondence are at the end of the series.

The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for duplicates.

Box	Folder	
1	12	Family Letters from Travels Abroad, 1954 November-December
1	13	Family Letters from Travels Abroad, 1955 January

1	14	Family Letters from Travels Abroad, 1955 February
1	15	Family Letters from Travels Abroad, 1955 March
1	16	Family Letters from Travels Abroad, 1955 April
1	17	Family Letters from Travels Abroad, 1955 May
1	18	Artists Equity Association, 1953
1	19	Avery, Milton, 1958-1963
1	20	A, Miscellaneous, 1954-1981
1	21	Baltimore City Council, 1979-1980
1	22	Burma Trip Event Invitations and RSVPs, circa 1954-1955
1	23	B, Miscellaneous, 1955-1983 Includes one letter from Ahron Ben-Shmuel and one letter from Joseph Breitenbach
1	24	Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1977-1980
1	25	City of Baltimore Art Commission, 1980
1	26	Courie, Maria, circa 1959-1962
1	27	C, Miscellaneous, 1957-1981
1	28	D, Miscellaneous, 1955-1979
1	29	Elster, Samuel K., 1967-1980
1	30	E, Miscellaneous, 1954-1982 Includes one letter from Elizabeth Erlanger
1	31	F, Miscellaneous, 1959-1979
1	32	G, Miscellaneous, 1956-1991
1	33	Hacohen, Bracha and David, 1955-1967
1	34	Hebrew Union College, 1979-1980
1	35	H, Miscellaneous, 1960-1985
1	36	I, Miscellaneous, 1974-1979
1	37	J, Miscellaneous, 1961-1989
1	38	K, Miscellaneous, 1958-1980
1	39	Lerner, Max, 1955
1	40	Littlefield, William, 1965-1966
1	41	L, Miscellaneous, 1954-1995
1	42	Mercy College of Detroit, 1980-1981
1	43	Museum of Modern Art, 1960-1961
1	44	M, Miscellaneous, 1957-1980
1	45	Nathan, Robert R., 1954-1982
1	46	Nevelson, Louise, 1959-1961
1	47	N, Miscellaneous, 1961-1980
1	48	O, Miscellaneous, 1958
1	49	Perlis, Leo, 1961-1979

1	50	P, Miscellaneous, 1956-1976
1	51	R, Miscellaneous, 1953-1990 Includes one letter from Paul Raskin and two letters from Eleanor Roosevelt
1	52	Singer, Israel, 1979
1	53	S, Miscellaneous, 1954-1995 Includes one letter from Mona Sullivan
1	54	Thant, (Mr. and Mrs.), 1955-1961
1	55	T, Miscellaneous, 1963-1981
1	56	V, Miscellaneous, 1979
1	57	Walinsky, Louis J., 1954-1980
1	58	Welsing, Beata, circa 1956-1966
1	59	W, Miscellaneous, 1956-1985
1	60	Y, Miscellaneous, 1975-1981
1	61	Z, Miscellaneous, 1949-1980
1	62	First Names Only Correspondence, A-S, 1961-1980
1	63	Unidentified Correspondence, circa 1960-circa 1979

3: Writings, circa 1935-circa 1983

8 folders; Box 1

Writings include two bound notebooks on art, loose notes on art, a handwritten prospectus for the Guild Art Gallery which Walinska co-founded, an art lecture for a symposium, an essay for Walinska's *Holocaust* exhibition, and an art talk delivered to a group of Burmese artists. All writings are by Walinska except for one folder of writings by others.

Walinska's notebooks and notes on art are at the beginning of the series, followed by the rest of the writings in alphabetical order by title or subject. Writings by others are at the end.

The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for duplicates.

Box	Folder	
1	64	Notebook on Art, circa 1952-circa 1969
1	65	Notebook on Art, circa 1964-circa 1965
1	66	Notes on Art, circa 1949-circa 1983
1	67	Art Lecture at Congress for Jewish Culture Symposium, 1957
1	68	Guild Art Gallery Prospectus, circa 1935
1	69	<i>Holocaust</i> Exhibition Essay Typescript Draft, circa 1980
1	70	"Talk Delivered to Group of Burmese Artists," 1955
1	71	Writings about Anna Walinska by Others, circa 1959-1980

4: Travel Diaries, 1954-1973

0.2 linear Feet; Box 1

There are four bound travel diaries and one diary comprised of loose pages. Three diaries hold detailed accounts of Walinska's trip around the world from 1954-1955, during which she traveled to many countries: Japan, China,

Myanmar (formerly Burma), India, Pakistan, Greece, Italy, France and Spain, among other places. The diaries also mention progress on paintings and mentions people sitting for portraits. The fourth bound diary is about a 1962 trip to Israel. The disbound diary chronicles a 1973 trip to Trinidad.

This series is arranged chronologically.

The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for blank pages.

Box	Folder	
1	72	Travel Itinerary, 1954
1	73	Travel Diary, 1954 November-1955 March
1	74	Travel Diary, 1955 March-April
1	75	Travel Diary, 1955 April-May
1	76	Travel Diary from Israel Trip, 1962
1	77	Travel Diary from Trinidad Trip, 1973

5: Printed Material, 1942-2002

0.4 linear Feet; Boxes 1-2

This series consists of clippings about Anna Walinska, group and solo exhibition catalogs, announcements, event invitations, and course catalogs for the Master Institute of United Arts (also known as the Riverside Museum) in New York City, where Walinska taught painting and drawing classes.

Materials in this series are grouped together by document type, then arranged chronologically within those groupings.

The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for duplicates. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have only had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages digitized.

Box	Folder	
1	78	Clippings, 1957-1980
1	79	Clippings, 2000-2002
1	80	Exhibition Catalogs, 1942-1946
1	81	Exhibition Catalogs, 1953-1959
1	82	Exhibition Catalogs, 1960-1962

Box	Folder	
2	1	Exhibition Catalogs, 1963-1964
2	2	Exhibition Catalogs, 1965-1968
2	3	Exhibition Catalogs, 1971-1980, 2001
2	4	Exhibition Catalogs - Undated, circa 1945-circa 1970
2	5	Exhibition Announcements, 1952-1959
2	6	Exhibition Announcements, 1960-1969
2	7	Exhibition Announcements, 1973-1980

2	8	Exhibition Announcements, 1996-2002
2	9	Exhibition Announcements - Undated, circa 1950-circa 1980
2	10	Event Invitations, 1954-circa 1997
2	11	Master Institute of United Arts Course Catalogs, 1960-1970

6: Scrapbooks, circa 1929-1980

0.5 linear Feet; Boxes 2, 4

There are three scrapbooks in this series. The scrapbook about the Guild Art Gallery, co-founded and directed by Anna Walinska, contains exhibition catalogs and reviews including printed material related to Arshile Gorky's first solo exhibition in New York City. The *Holocaust* exhibition scrapbook includes articles, announcements, exhibition schedules, and other material. The large oversized scrapbook documents Walinska's career and activities overall, mostly from the 1930s to the 1960s, and includes a range of materials from photographs and catalogs to announcements and articles about her travels, artwork, and shows.

The bulk of this series has been digitized. A few catalogs were only partially digitized because they were pasted onto the pages of the scrapbooks so not all the content was visible.

Box	Folder	
2	12	Guild Art Gallery Scrapbook, 1936-1937
2	13	<i>Holocaust: Paintings and Drawings</i> Exhibition Scrapbook, 1979-1980

Box	Folder	
4	1	Oversized Scrapbook, circa 1929-circa 1971

7: Artwork, circa 1929-1963

5 folders; Box 3

Artwork includes two bound sketchbooks with drawings, mostly in watercolor but also in pencil and oil paint, pasted onto the pages. Some of the artwork include titles and dates. Also included are drawings and watercolor sketches of various subjects, such as people and studies of paintings, as well as abstract images.

Sketchbooks are at the beginning of the series, followed by drawings and sketches loosely sorted by medium, such as watercolor, pencil, and ink.

This series has been digitized in its entirety.

Box	Folder	
3	1	Sketchbook, circa 1932-circa 1957
3	2	"20 Drawings" Scrapbook, 1936-1963
3	3	Ink Drawings, 1932-1952
3	4	Pencil Drawings, circa 1929, 1961
3	5	Watercolor Sketches and Studies, 1930-1954

8: Photographs, circa 1932-1980

0.3 linear Feet; Box 3

Photographs are of Walinska, friends, family, artists, artwork, exhibition installations, and houses. The series mostly consists of black and white photographs, but also includes color slides of artwork. One photograph album includes photos of Anna Walinska, family, Beata Welsing, Arshile Gorky, Burmese Prime Minister U Nu in the midst of getting his portrait painted, and travel to Burma and Japan. The second album includes photographs of Walinska's solo exhibition at Sunken Meadow Gallery (1959) along with limited printed material. There is also one folder of photocopies of photos of paintings by Walinska.

Photographs are arranged by subject.

The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for duplicates.

Box	Folder	
3	6	Anna Walinska, 1958-1980
3	7	Anna Walinska with Other Artists, circa 1979
3	8	Friends, Colleagues and Others, circa 1936-circa 1970
3	9	Ossip Walinsky and Louise Nevelson Speaking at Congress for Jewish Culture, 1954
3	10	Color Slides of Artwork, 1975-1976
3	11	Collages, 1960-1961
3	12	Paintings, 1936-1957
3	13	Portraits by Anna Walinska, 1955-circa 1965
3	14	Retrospective Exhibition Installation at the Jewish Museum, 1957
3	15	<i>Holocaust: Paintings and Drawings</i> Exhibition Installations, 1979
3	16	Album of Sunken Meadow Gallery Exhibition, 1959
3	17	Album of Family, Friends and Travel, circa 1933-circa 1976
3	18	Interior of House, 1974 Probably father Ossip Walinsky's home
3	19	Photocopies of Artwork, 1932-1974 Includes artwork title, date and dimensions on verso of each page