

Walter Reinsel correspondence

MS.030

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY
OF THE FINE ARTS

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
118-128 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

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Updated by Hoang Tran, January 2016

Summary Information

Repository	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
Creator	Walter Reinsel (1905-1979)
Title	Walter Reinsel correspondence
Date [bulk]	
Date [inclusive]	1941-1973, undated
Extent	1 document box
Location note	
Language	
Language of Materials note	English
Abstract	The collection includes over 330 letters to Reinsel from at least 25 correspondents, mostly from within the Philadelphia art community. Many of the letters comment on current art exhibitions or art-related topics of the day. The majority of the letters date from 1950 to the mid 1970s.

Preferred Citation note

[identification of item], Title of Collection, Collection ID#, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Archives, Philadelphia, PA.

Historical note

Walter Reinsel, born in Reading, Pennsylvania of Pennsylvania German ancestry, studied at PAFA from 1923 to 1925. He continued his study privately for one more year with Arthur B. Carles. He then traveled to Europe and studied in Paris with Andre L'Hote. In 1930 he joined the advertising firm of Ayer and Son, staying with them for 25 years. He was an art director with the firm for many years, winning a number of awards for his work in illustration and design.

He exhibited paintings and watercolors throughout his career. He showed at PAFA often between 1939 and 1967, with a one man show in 1948. He exhibited extensively elsewhere and won many prizes. The permanent collection of PAFA includes a watercolor by Reinsel, a bequest of the artist. The PAFA Library clipping file has more information.

Scope and Contents note

The collection includes over 330 letters to Reinsel from at least 25 correspondents, mostly from within the Philadelphia art community. Many of the letters comment on current art exhibitions or art-related topics of the day. The majority of the letters date from 1950 to the mid 1970s.

The Reinsel collection has been microfilmed by the Archives of American Art on reel 4235:1052-1129 and 4236:01-138.

Arrangement note

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access note

Collection is open for research.

The archives reserves the right to restrict access to materials of sensitive nature. Please contact the department for further information.

Conditions Governing Use note

The collection is the physical property of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Archives. The Museum holds literary rights only for material created by Museum personnel or given to the Museum with such rights specifically assigned. For all other material, literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. Researchers are responsible for obtaining permission from rights holders for publication and for other purposes where stated.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Provenance note

This correspondence came to PAFA from Reinsel's estate. His will left a work of art and all his art supplies to the Academy. The letters were found in the box containing his art supplies. Delivered to the Archives by faculty member Dan Miller in 1985.

Processing Information note

Controlled Access Headings

Person(s)

Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Collection Inventory

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Morris Blackburn to Walter Reinsel (33 items)	1941-1964	1	1
Charles Coiner to Walter Reinsel (28 items)	1952-1973	1	2
Walther Bohanan to Walter Reinsel (35 items)	1961-1973	1	3
Maurice Freedman to Walter Reinsel (8 items)	1969-1973	1	4
John J. Pullen to Walter Reinsel (8 items)	1962-1972	1	5
Abraham Rattner to Walter Reinsel (10 items)	1956-1960	1	6
George and Lucille [Cecil?] to Walter Reinsel (52 items)	1962-1974	1	7
Lloyd and Mary [surname unknown] to Walter Reinsel (10 items)	1966-1972	1	8
Other correspondents; selected names: Ben Eisenstatt, John E. Frazer, Guy Fry, Sherman Hoefflich, John Maxwell, Gabor Peterdi, James M.K. Waldron, Franklin Watkins, many others (150 items)	various	1	9