

# Morris Blackburn papers

MS.058

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran

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PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY  
OF THE FINE ARTS

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts  
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Philadelphia, PA 19102

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Updated by Hoang Tran, August 2016

## Summary Information

<b>Repository</b>	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Morris Blackburn (1902-1979)
<b>Title</b>	Morris Blackburn papers
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1925-1979
<b>Extent</b>	7 linear feet; 14 document boxes
<b>Location note</b>	
<b>Language</b>	
<b>Language of Materials note</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	The Blackburn manuscript collection includes personal and professional correspondence, diaries, clippings, manuscript "Model Stand Chats", photographs, extensive collection of exhibition materials, Betty Blackburn's (Morris' widow) files (who compiled, researched, and donated the collection to the Academy), and various records that relate to Morris Blackburn's personal and professional life from the 1920s-1970s. Materials from the 1980s-1990s document his life after death.

### **Preferred Citation note**

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

## **Historical note**

Morris Blackburn was born in Philadelphia and spent his career in the city. After schooling at the Philadelphia Trade School and work in the Hog Island shipbuilding yard, he began his art training in 1922 at the Graphic Sketch Club. He studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts from 1925 to 1929, winning two Cresson Traveling Scholarships. In the mid-1930s he participated in the Public Works Art Project, executing murals for the Mastbaum Vocational School and Haverford High School. He began his long teaching career in 1932 at the Pennsylvania Museum School of Industrial Art. Around 1936-37 Blackburn attended the private classes of Arthur B. Charles, who became his close friend and mentor.

In the mid-1940s he undertook a variety of teaching positions and from 1948 to 1952 he taught graphics at Tyler School of Art. In 1945 he initiated the adult training program at the Philadelphia Museum where he continued to hold classes until 1972. In 1952 Blackburn joined the faculty of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. Beginning as the Academy's first instructor in graphics, he was involved with the re-evaluation and changes in the curriculum leading to the introduction of a general program for first-year students. He frequently gave informal seminars in his home, and held private classes in landscape painting in southern New Jersey.

He worked in a wide variety of media, using Philadelphia or New Jersey scenes as his subjects. His style emphasized strong compositional elements, and often recalled his early concern with abstraction. He was the subject of several films. "Portrait of a Painter" was completed in 1959 by Emidio Angelo. "South Jersey Sketchbook" was made for Channel 52 in Philadelphia, and "Time-Binding," a film about his teaching and painting methods, was in progress during the last years of his life.

The above biography was excerpted from the lengthier information in *Philadelphia: Three Centuries of American Art*, (Philadelphia Museum of Art, 1976), pp. 584-86.

Morris Blackburn: participation in regional exhibitions (other than the annual exhibitions) at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. All catalogues available from the PAFA Archives.

1940	Oil Painting and Sculpture by Artists of Philadelphia and Its Environs, April 13 – May 12, 1940 (abbreviated "All Phila.")
1946	Philadelphia Artists Gallery, June 4-16, 1946
1951	Regional Exhibition of Oil Painting and Sculpture, Philadelphia and Vicinity, March 10 – April 8, 1951 (abbreviated "Regional '51")
1956	Living Philadelphia Artists Represented in the Permanent Collection, Oct. 20 – Nov. 18, 1956 (abbreviated "Living Phila Artists '56")
1958	Twentieth Century American Painting and Sculpture from Philadelphia Private Collections, Oct. 25 – Nov. 30, 1958

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1959	Paintings, Drawings, Prints and Sculpture Collected and Owned by Fourteen Philadelphia Artists, Nov. 7 – Dec. 6, 1959
1960	Faculty Exhibition, Oct. 22 – Nov. 27, 1960
1961	The Lambert Collection: Three Hundred Pictures in a Half Century , Oct. 10- Nov. 8, 1961
1964	Regional Exhibition by Artists of Philadelphia and Vicinity, Oct. 9 – Nov. 15, 1964 (abbreviated "Regional '64")
1966	Peale House Gallery, March, 1966

### **Scope and Contents note**

The Blackburn manuscript collection includes correspondence, diaries, writings, photographs, clippings, and printed matter, including oversize materials in almost every category. All the materials were found in the Blackburn home upon the death of his daughter (see scope and content note). The home also contained numerous works of art which were transferred to the Academy school.

In 1989, while Blackburn's widow was the custodian of the collection, the Archives of American Art microfilmed the correspondence and diaries (AAA rolls 4159-4166). In clearing out Blackburn's studio (September of 2000) additional materials were found which had not been filmed. All correspondence, filmed or unfiled, has been integrated into the final processed collection.

Numerous audio recordings and films, in various formats, are also included in the collection. Some transcriptions of the audio tapes are preserved with Blackburn's writings. It is not clear how much the content of the audio and film materials would differ from that contained in Blackburn's numerous written manuscripts.

The Academy archives also houses 3 audio recordings of Blackburn interviews, and an interview with his friend Jack Bookbinder, which were not part of this collection.

### **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**

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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**

The collection was in Blackburn's studio at the time of his death. His widow, Betty (died March 9, 1996), and his daughter, Joan ("Patsy," died February 25, 1999), bequeathed it to the Academy, along with the house and all of the remaining works of art.

In 1988 Mrs. Blackburn invited several Academy staff members to examine the collection, which she intended to give to the Academy. Conditions on the top-floor studio of the row house were typical of an older home, with no air conditioning, poor ventilation and unprotected windows. Several recommendations were made, but it was not until the year 2000 that the materials were transferred to the Academy and the house sold.

#### **Processing Information note**

Processed by Cheryl Leibold, circa 2004.

## **Controlled Access Headings**

**Person(s)**

**Corporate Name(s)**

**Genre(s)**

**Geographic Name(s)**

**Subject(s)**

## **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note**

## **Collection Inventory**

Morris Blackburn papers (MS.058)

Folder	date	Box	Folder
Correspondence	undated	1	1
Correspondence	1920s	1	2
Blackburn to his grandfather, from France; Blackburn's passport	1928-1929	1	3
Correspondence	1930s	1	4
Letters (in French) from Mme. Eveno (Blackburn's landlady at Concarneau	1928-1929, n.d., 1933-34, 1953-54	1	5
Correspondence, clippings, and photographs from the Public Works Art Project	1931-1941	1	6
Correspondence	1940s	1	7
Correspondence	1950-1954	1	8
Correspondence with Milch Galleries	1951	1	9
Correspondence re MB's Guggenheim Fellowship	1952	1	10
Correspondence	1955-1959	1	11
Correspondence with Woodmere Art Gallery	1955	1	12
Correspondence with Newman Art Gallery	1959	1	13
Correspondence	1960-1964	1	14
Correspondence with Newman Art Gallery	1969	1	15
Correspondence	1956-1969	1	16
Correspondence	1970-1974	2	1
Correspondence	1975-1979	2	2
Correspondence with St. Clement's Church	1976	2	3
Correspondence with the Museum of New Mexico	1972	2	4
Correspondence with the Hahn Gallery	1977	2	5
Letters from Franklin Watkins	1958-1971	2	6
Letters from Luigi Rist	1939-1954	2	7
Blackburn's will	1973	2	8
Statements about Morris Blackburn	undated	2	9
Miscellaneous writing by others owned by MB	undated	2	10
Membership and Award Certificates	undated	2	11
Transcriptions of audio-tapes	1960s	2	12
Transcriptions of audio-tapes	1970s	2	13
Notes from camouflage painting course	1942	3	1
Notes for an early book "Notes on Learning,"	1942	3	2
Notes for a book "A Trend Toward Integration,"	circa 1942	3	3
Notices of teaching and lectures	undated	3	4
Statements by MB about Arthur B. Carles	1953; 1972	3	5
Outlines and texts of various talks	1930-1960	3	6
Miscellaneous writings	undated	3	7

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Art chats titled "Back Side of the Canvas,"	1956-1967	3	8
Signed world map inscribed "International Visitors,"	undated	3	9
Verse, Doggerel, and Limericks	undated	3	10
Notes from Seminar on Creativity	1958-1959	3	11
Recollections of Earl Horter by MB and others	1941	3	12
Diaries	1927, 1942-1959	4	
Diaries	1960-1970	5	
Diaries; Betty Blackburn's record of trip to Ireland	1970-1979	6	
Book Manuscript: "Model Stand Chats" (Includes multiple drafts and typescripts of each chapter, notes about chapter placement, and a few illustrations)	undated	7	1
Clippings	undated	8	1
Clippings	1920s	8	2
Clippings	1930s	8	3
Clippings	1940s	8	4
Clippings	1950s	8	5
Clippings	1960s	8	6
Clippings	1970s	8	7
Clippings: post-lifetime	1980-1995	8	8
Small stretched canvas Blackburn used in talking about Renoir	undated	8	9
Photographs: Morris Blackburn	1920-1979	9	1
Photographs: Blackburn at work in studio	1930s-1970s	9	2
Photographs: House and studio	undated	9	3
Photographs: Blackburn's Cresson trips	1928-1929	9	4
Photographs: WPA Murals	1934	9	5
Photographs: groups of students	undated	9	6
Photographs: Blackburn and students at Ocean City, New Jersey	1960s	9	7
Photographs: Landscapes and neighborhood views	undated	9	8
Photographs: Blackburn's wife and daughter	undated	9	9
Photographs: Arthur B. Carles	1920s-1940s	9	10
Photographs: Views of Taos, New Mexico	undated	9	11
Photographs: Newman Gallery exhibition	1961	9	12
Photographs: St. Clement's Exhibition, 1976; Hahn Gallery Exhibition, 1977	1976-1977	9	13
Photographs: Unidentified people and events	undated	9	14
Photographs: Camouflage painting course	1942	9	15
Photographs: Design work at Philco	1940s	9	16
Photographs: paintings, people, events, trips, etc.	1930-1979	10	1
Photographs: Small-format black and white prints of people and events	1950s	10	2

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Photographs		Flat file 46	1
Photographs		Flat file 46	2
Computer hard drive and disks from MB's studio, probably Dolan Maxwell's cataloguing	undated	10	3
Printed Matter from Exhibitions: MB's exhibition history at PAFA	undated	11	1
Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Solo exhibition invitations and checklists	1946-1977	11	2
Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Group exhibition invitations and checklists	undated	11	3
Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Group exhibition invitations and checklists	1930s	11	4
Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Group exhibition invitations and checklists	1940s	11	5
Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Group exhibition invitations and checklists	1950s	11	6
Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Group exhibition invitations and checklists	1960s	12	1
Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Group exhibition invitations and checklists	1970s	12	2
Printed Matter from Exhibitions: painting tages	undated	12	3
Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Post-lifetime exhibition checklists	1980-1992	12	4
Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Pamphlets	undated	12	5
Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Art Supply Catalogs	undated	12	6
Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Home and Studio Guest Books	1937-45, 1945-65, 1965-79	12	7
Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Exhibition Guest Books	1968, 1976	12	8
Painting Registers and Lists of Paintings	undated	13	
Betty Blackburn's files: Exhibition, gallery and sales correspondence	1980-1992	14	1
Betty Blackburn's files: Correspondence with Dolan- Maxwell Gallery	1980-1995	14	2
Betty Blackburn's files: Personal correspondence	1980-1996	14	3
Betty Blackburn's files: Estate correspondence	1980-1985	14	4
Betty Blackburn's files: Genealogical research notes	undated	14	5

Morris Blackburn Papers – List of Exhibition Catalogues, Checklists, and Invitation Cards for Solo and Group Shows.



Where the item is a photocopy, the original was found to be in very bad condition, and discarded after copying.

**Box 11 - Exhibition Catalogues and Checklists – Solo and Group Shows to 1959**

Folder 1. Solo Exhibition Invitations and Checklists, n.d., 1946-77.

Undated items are filed at the front. Dated items are files in chronological order.

**Undated Solo Exhibitions:**

- Harcum Junior College, *Paintings, Drawings and Prints*, November 2 – December 4, [no year given]
- Walter Baum Galleries, *Oil Paintings and Water Colors*, April 17 – May 28, [no year given]
- Serigraph Galleries, New York, *Serigraphs by Morris Blackburn*, February 25 - March 16, [no year given]
- Peirce Junior College, *Water Colors and Oils*, April 21-26, [no year given]
- Green Hill in Lower Merion Gallery, *Watercolors, Gouaches, and Sumi Paintings* by Morris Blackburn, January 12 – February 8, [no year given]
  
- Joseph Luyber Galleries, *Morris Blackburn: Oils and Gouaches*, March 29 – April 17 [no year given]
- Fine Arts Festival, [Philadelphia?], *Morris Blackburn Exhibition*, April 21-26, [no year given]
- Unidentified venue, *A Journey Through Fifty Year's [sic] of Painting: Morris Blackburn*, [no year given; 1976 or later]

**Dated Solo Exhibitions 1930 - 1977:**

- Boyer Galleries, Philadelphia, *Works on Consignment*, May 6, 1937 [no closing date given]
- Philadelphia Artists' Gallery, June 4-16, 1946
- The Philadelphia Art Alliance, October 20 – November 16, 1947
- Luyber Galleries, New York, *Paintings by Morris Blackburn*, October 23 - November 11, 1950 (This catalogue is part of an issue of *The 112 Newsletter*.)
- The Department of Fine Arts, Lehigh University, *Prints and Paintings by Morris Blackburn, Portraits in Black and White by S. J. Woolf*, December, 1951
- The Philadelphia Art Alliance, *Oils by Morris Blackburn*, May 9 – June 1, 1952
- Ellen Donovan Gallery, *Gouaches by Morris Blackburn*, January 4–26, 1952.
- Ellen Donovan Gallery, *Recent Paintings by Morris Blackburn*, January 11 – February. 6, 1954
- Carriage House Gallery, *Recent Painting by Morris Blackburn*, October 9-30, 1955

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- Woodmere Art Gallery, *Retrospective Exhibition of Paintings by Morris Blackburn*, January 8-29, 1956
- Gallery 313, Washington, D.C., *Oils, Gouaches, Water Colors*, December 16, 1956 – January 12, 1957
- The Newman Contemporary Art Gallery, *Morris Blackburn*, April 5–29, 1961
- Haddonfield Arts and Crafts League, *Artist Morris Blackburn*, March 18 -?, 1962
- Penn Art Center Galleries, *Morris Blackburn*, April 29 – May 25, 1962
- The Philadelphia Art Alliance, *Morris Blackburn*, September 28 – October 25, 1964
- The Peale Galleries of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, *An Exhibition of Oils, Watercolors and Prints by Morris Blackburn*, March 11 - April 17, 1966
- Cultural Arts Center of Ocean City, New Jersey, *One Man Show by Morris Blackburn*, July 3 - August 5, 1968
- Peirce Junior College, *Paintings by Morris Blackburn*, April 21 - ?, 1968
- Provident National Bank, [Philadelphia], *Paintings by Morris Blackburn*, September 30 - November 22, 1968
- Millville, New Jersey, Public Library, *Morris Blackburn*, November 7-30, 1971
- Chester County Art Association, *Morris Blackburn*, February 20 - March 5, 1972
- Birmingham Gallery, Birmingham, Mich., *Paintings in Watercolor and Gouache by Morris Blackburn*, October 5-31, 1973
- St. Clements Cultural Center, Philadelphia, *Morris Blackburn: Fifty Years of Painting*, December 12-31, 1976
- The Hahn Gallery, Philadelphia, *Morris Blackburn*, November 19 - December 5, 1977
- The Tremellen Gallery, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, *Recent Works by Morris Blackburn*, [1977]

### **Folder 2. Undated Group Exhibition Invitations and Checklists**

#### **Filed alphabetically by sponsoring organization.**

- Allens Lane Art Center, *Distinguished Jurors Show*, February 14-27, [no year given]
- Artists' Gallery, Philip Ragan Associates, Inc., Philadelphia, *Opening Exhibition*, November 18 - December 19, [no year given]
- Cheltenham Art Center, Cheltenham, Pennsylvania, *Water Color and Collage Exhibition, All Invited*, March 3-24, [no year given]
- Long Beach Island Foundation of Arts and Sciences, *Collectors' Exhibition*, [undated; probably 1940s]
- The Newark Gallery, Newark, New Jersey, *Holiday Exhibition*, [no year given]
- The Penn Art Center, *Group Show of Philadelphia and New York Artists*, April 21 - ?, [no date given]
- The Philadelphia Sketch Club, *Third Annual Invitational Exhibition of Small Oil Paintings & Sculpture*, [undated]
- Philadelphia Water Color Club, *Traveling Exhibition, on Loan to the Community Gallery of Lancaster County*, undated [1970s?]
- Philadelphia Water Color Club, *Sixtieth Annual Exhibition*, June 13 - July 13, [1977?]

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- Unidentified venue, *Western Pennsylvania Print Show*, undated [around 1940]
- University City Arts League, Philadelphia, *Spring Arts Festival*, May 6-20, [no year given]

**Folder 3. Dated Group Exhibition Invitations and Checklists, 1930s**

Filed alphabetically by sponsoring organization.

- The Art Club of Philadelphia, *Forty-Third Annual Exhibit of Oil Paintings*, December 5, 1936 - January 9, 1937
- Contemporary Arts, New York, *Water, Water Everywhere! (The Sponsored Group and Guest Artists)*, September 18-30, 1939
- Da Vinci Alliance, Philadelphia, *First Annual Exhibition of Oil Paintings*, October 31 - November 19, 1938
- Delaware County Arts Association, *Exhibition of Paintings*, October 18 - November 18, 1930
- Gimbel Galleries, Philadelphia, *Paintings and Prints by Philadelphia Artists*, November 28- December 26, 1934
- Pennsylvania Museum of Art, Sixty-Ninth Street Branch, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, *Selected Exhibition of Delaware County Artists*, November 17 - December 1, [1931 – year provided by a researcher]
- The Philadelphia Sketch Club, *The Sixty-Sixth Annual Exhibition of Oil Sketches*, May 5-17, 1930
  
- The Philadelphia Sketch Club, *Seventy-Third Annual Exhibition of Oil Sketches*, May 10-22, 1937
- Whitney Museum of American Art, *Second Regional Exhibition: Paintings and Prints by Philadelphia Artists*, October 23 - November 22, 1934

**Folder 4. Dated Group Exhibition Invitations and Checklists, 1940s**

Filed alphabetically by sponsoring organization.

- Alonzo Gallery, New York, *Morris Blackburn, J.W.S. Cox, Frances B. Frasier, Agnes M. Lindemann, John C. Wylie*, October 14-27, 1946
- American Color Print Society, *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Exhibition* (at the Print Club of Philadelphia), March 23 - April 11, 1942
- American Color Print Society, *4<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition* (at the Print Club of Philadelphia), April 7-28, 1943
- American Color Print Society, *5<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition* (at the Print Club of Philadelphia), March 14 - April 4, 1944
- American Color Print Society, *7<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition* (at the Print Club of Philadelphia), March 15 - April 5, 1946
- American Color Print Society, *8<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition* (at the Print Club of Philadelphia), March 11 - April 1, 1947

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- The Art Institute of Chicago, *Abstract and Surrealist American Art*, November 6 – January 11, 1948
- The Art Alliance, Philadelphia, *Color Print Show*, November 24 - December 13, 1942 [mentioned in the Art Alliance Bulletin – no checklist?]
- Arts and Crafts Club of New Orleans, *National Painting Exhibition*, February 15 - March 31, 1948
- Association of Art Dealers in American Art, *A Multiple Exhibition*, March 22 – April 3, 1948
- The Brooklyn Museum, *Third National Print Annual Exhibition*, March 23 - May 22, 1949
- Buck Hill Art Association, Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania, *Exhibition of Color Prints: Etchings, Lithographs, Silk Screens, Wood Blocks*, September 9 - October 15, 1946
- Carnegie Institute, *Exhibition of Current American Prints*, October 12 - December 31, 1944
- Gloucester Society of Artists, *Creative Art of Today*, July 10 - Aug 30, 1941
- Laguna Beach Art Association, Laguna Beach, California, *Second National Print and Drawing Exhibition*, May 1-31, 1943
- Laguna Beach Art Association, Laguna Beach, California, *National Print and Drawing Exhibition*, May 1-31, 1944
- Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., *Second National Exhibition of Prints Made During the Current Year*, May 1 - July 1, 1944
- Metropolitan Museum of Art, *Artists for Victory: An Exhibition of Contemporary American Art*, 1942
- National Academy of Design, *120<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition, Second Half of Contemporary Americans, Graphic Art, Water Colors, and Murals*, March 3 – April 1, 1946
- National Serigraph Society, New York, *Opening Exhibition: Members' Prints in Permanent Collections*, October 29 - December 1, 1945
- Northwest Printmakers, Seattle Art Museum, *Fifteenth Annual Exhibition of the Northwest Printmakers*, April 7 - March 9, 1943
- Northwest Printmakers, Seattle Art Museum, *Nineteenth Annual Exhibition*, March 5 - April 6, 1947
- Philbrook Art Museum, Tulsa, Oklahoma, *Philbrook's First Annual Color Print Exhibition*, November 5 - December 2, 1940
- The Print Club of Philadelphia, *Thirteenth Annual Exhibition of Prints by Philadelphia Artists*, October 27 - November 15, 1941
- The Print Club of Philadelphia, *Third Annual Exhibition of the American Color Print Society*, March 23 - April 11, 1942
- The Philadelphia Print Club [sic], *Fourth Annual Exhibition, American Color Print Society*, April 7-28, 1943
- The Philadelphia Print Club [sic], *Fifth Annual Exhibition, American Color Print Society*, March 14 - April 4, 1944
- The Print Club of Philadelphia, *Seventh Annual Exhibition, American Color Print Society*, March 15 - April 5, 1946

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- The Print Club of Philadelphia, *Eighth Annual Exhibition, American Color Print Society*, March 11 - April 1, 1947
- The Pyramid Club, Philadelphia, *Eighth Annual Exhibition, Invitational Painting and Sculpture: "Fifty-Seven Artists,"* February 20 - March 20, 1948
- The Pyramid Club, Philadelphia, *Ninth Annual Exhibition, Invitational Painting and Sculpture, Featuring "Eighty Artists,"* February 18 - March 18, 1949
- Serigraph Galleries, New York, *Seventh Annual Exhibition – National Serigraph Society*, April 29 - May 18, 1946
- Serigraph Galleries, New York, *Paintings by Printmakers*, May 19 - June 14, 1947
- Southern Printmakers Society, Mount Airy, Georgia, *1940 Rotary*, 1940
- Smithsonian Institution, *Exhibition of Prints in Color*, January 4–31, 1943 [invitation card only; was MB in this?]
- Whitney Museum of American Art, *Between Two Wars: Prints by American Artists 1914-1941*, March 3-31, 1942

**Folder 5. Dated Group Exhibition Invitations and Checklists, 1950s**

Filed alphabetically by sponsoring organization, with foreign checklists separated at the end.

- American Color Print Society, *Eleventh Annual Exhibition*, March 10-31, 1950
- George Binet Gallery, New York, *Morris Blackburn*, December 18, 1950 – January 12, 1951
- Buck Hill Art Association, July 20 – Aug 24, 1953
- Butler Art Institute, *18<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Year Show*, July 4 – September ?, 1953
- Butler Art Institute, *19<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Year Show*, July 1 - September?, 1954
- Butler Art Institute, *22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mid-Year Show*, June 30 – September ?, 1957
- Butler Art Institute, *24<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Year Show*, June 28 – August 30, 1959
- The Brooklyn Museum, *Fourth National Print Annual Exhibition*, March 22 - May 21, 1950
- Cape Ann Festival of the Arts, *Cross Section – Cape Ann*, August 20-24 1952
- Cape Ann Festival of the Arts, *Second Annual Exhibition*, August 17-22, 1953
- Cape Ann Festival of the Arts, *Paintings and Sculpture*, August 7-22, 1954
- Da Vinci Art Alliance, Philadelphia, *Tenth Annual Exhibition of Art*, May 13-27, 1951
- Hunterdon County Art Center, Clinton, New Jersey, *Second Annual Exhibition*, January 26 - February 28, 1958
- Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., *Eleventh National Exhibition of Prints Made During the Current Year*, May 1 - August 1, 1953
- Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., *Fourteenth National Exhibition of Prints Made During the Current Year*, May 1 - September 1, 1956

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- National Academy Galleries, New York, *Audubon Artists Twelfth Annual Exhibition*, January 21 – February 7, 1954
- National Academy Galleries, New York, *Audubon Artists Thirteenth Annual Exhibition*, January 20 – February 6, 1955
- National Academy of Design, *Painting in Oil [and] Sculpture*, March 17 - ?, 1957
- New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey, *Contemporary Printmakers of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania: An Exhibition*, May 3 - July 31, 1959
- Northwest Printmakers, Seattle Art Museum, *Twenty-Second Annual Exhibition*, March 8 - April 2, 1950
- The Peale Museum, Baltimore, MD., *Fourteenth Annual Painting Show*, October 31 – December 12, 1954
- Philadelphia Art Alliance, *Regional Watercolor Exhibition*, April 1 - May 1, 1955
- Philadelphia Art Alliance, *Regional Exhibition: Prints and Drawings*, February 3 - March 4, 1956
- Philadelphia Museum of Art in cooperation with Artists Equity Association, *First Philadelphia Art Festival - Regional Exhibition*, February 26 - March 27, 1955
- Philadelphia Museum of Art in cooperation with Artists Equity Association, *2<sup>nd</sup> Philadelphia Art Festival - Regional Exhibition*, January 31 - March 8, 1959
- The Philadelphia Water Color Club, *Forty-Second Annual Exhibition of Work by Members*, October 15 - November 15, 1959
- The Pyramid Club, Philadelphia, *The Tenth Annual Exhibition of Paintings and Sculpture*, February 24 - March 24, 1950
- The Pyramid Club, Philadelphia, *The Third Annual Fall Review of Paintings and Sculpture: 1957, in the United States*, October 25 - November 30, 1957
- Serigraph Galleries, New York, *Eleventh Annual Exhibition – National Serigraph Society, New Prints*, March 6 - April 29, 1950
- Serigraph Galleries, New York, *Twelfth Annual Exhibition – National Serigraph Society, New Prints*, March 6 - April 30, 1951
- Serigraph Galleries, New York, *The Designer's Choice – Group Exhibition*, May 29 - June 25, 1951
- [Serigraph Galleries] National Serigraph Society, New York, *Sixteenth Annual International*, April 19 - May 16, 1955
- The Society of Washington Printmakers, *Twenty-Second Exhibition*, January 26 - February 16, 1958
- Wichita Art Association, *Nineteenth Annual Graphic Arts Exhibition*, January 8-30, 1950
- Wissahickon Art Exhibit (Philadelphia), November 11 - ?, 1956

**Foreign Checklists, 1950s**

The first four exhibitions were shown in Paris, and organized by the Serigraph Galleries (see above):

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- *Sérigraphies Américaines*, December 11, 1952 – January 13, 1953
- *10 peintres américains d'aujourd'hui*, June 23 - July 31, [no year given; circa 1955]
- *L'Aquarelle Contemporaine Aux Etats-Unis*, [no year given; circa 1955]
- *Sérigraphies Américaines*, February 11 - March 11, 1956
- Chateau Des Rohan, Strasbourg, *Dessins Américains Contemporains*, September 29 – October 28, 1956
- Two similar, or almost identical, exhibitions apparently organized by the Serigraph Galleries, and circulated by the United States Information Agency:
- *L'Arte Grafica Contemporanea negli Stati Uniti*, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Rome, March 14 - April 7, 1957
- *Amerika grafika xx veka*, Zagreb, Yugoslavia, [no year given; circa 1955]

**Box 12**

**Folder 1. Group Exhibition Invitations and Checklists, 1960s**

Filed alphabetically by sponsoring organization.

- Allied Artists of America, *Fifty-Third Annual Exhibition*, November 3–20, 1966
- Corinthian Gallery, *Premier Exhibition of Paintings, Graphics, [and] Sculpture*, December 1-?, 1963
- Cultural Arts Center of Ocean City, *Resident Artist Members*, June 1-30, 1969
- Free Library of Philadelphia, *Cities and Towns, an Exhibition in the Print and Picture Dept.*, April 15 - June 30, 1966
- Museum of New Mexico, *Fiesta Show*, August 26 – October 3, 1962
- National Academy of Design, *139<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition*, February 20 - March 15, 1961
- National Council of Jewish Women, *6<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Show*, April 8-9, 1961
- Newman Contemporary Galleries, *Group Exhibition*, April 22 - May 8, 1960
- Newman Contemporary Galleries, *West Comes East: Paintings from New Mexico*, September 29 – October 22, 1961
- Norristown Jewish Community Center, *Sixth Annual Art Festival*, February 18-19, 1968
- The Old York Road Art Guild, *Invited Watercolor, Drawing and Sculpture Show*, October 10 – November 7, 1965
- Penn Art Center Galleries, *Then and Now*, January 20 – February 8, 1963
- Arts League of Ligonier Valley, *3<sup>rd</sup> Pennational Artists Annual*, June 26 - July 24, 1960
- Arts League of Ligonier Valley, *5<sup>th</sup> Pennational Artists Annual*, July 16 - 29, 1962
- The Philadelphia Art Alliance, *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition of Invited Oil Paintings*, November 8 - December 5, 1965
- Philadelphia Grand Opera Company, *Art by Philadelphia Artists*, May 11-12, 1967
- Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the PAFA, *Third Philadelphia Art Festival Exhibitions*, June 9-24, 1962

Morris Blackburn papers (MS.058)

- Philadelphia Public Schools, Division of Art Education, *Distinguished Painters*, May 15 – June 2, 1967
- The Philadelphia Sketch Club, *Exhibition of Prints*, March 22-?, 1963
- The Philadelphia Water Color Club, *44<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition*, November 24 – December 23, 1961
- The Philadelphia Water Color Club, *50<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition*, December 1-31, 1967
- The Philadelphia Water Color Club, *52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Members' Exhibition*, June 4 – August 8, 1969
- Springfield art Museum, *Watercolor USA*, April 21 - June 2, 1963
- Utah Museum of Fine Arts, *The Philadelphia Tradition*, September 15 – October 6, 1964

**Box 12**

**Folder 2. Group Exhibition Invitations and Checklists, 1970s**

Filed alphabetically by sponsoring organization.

- The Butler Institute of American Art, *35 Years in Retrospect*, June 26 – September 6, 1971
- Cultural Arts Center of Ocean City, *February Exhibition*, January 31 – February 26, 1971
- Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, *Philadelphia Festival '73*, May 11-20, 1973 [unclear if Blackburn was involved in this?]
- Kennedy Galleries, New York, *Masters of American Art II*, October 24-27, 1970
- Philadelphia Water Color Club, *53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Membership Exhibition*, May 9 - June 7, 1970
- Philadelphia Water Color Club, *54<sup>th</sup> Annual Members' Exhibition*, June 11 – August 20, 1971
- Philadelphia Water Color Club, *55<sup>th</sup> Annual Members' Exhibition*, February 26 – March 19, 1972
- Philadelphia Water Color Club, *56<sup>th</sup> Annual Members' Exhibition*, June 14 – July 2, 1973
- Philadelphia Water Color Club, *59<sup>th</sup> Annual Members' Exhibition*, April 18 - May 14, 1976
- Philadelphia Water Color Club, *Splash, Line & Wash*, August 14 – September 10, 1979

**Pamphlets, exhibition catalogs, and printed matter from Blackburn's papers given to the Philadelphia Museum of Art library:**

- The Artists and the Museum, Conference Report, American Artists Group, 1950
- First American Artists Congress (proceedings), 1936
- Contemporary American and European Drawings, The Print Club, exhibition checklist, 1934
- 13<sup>th</sup> National Exhibition of Prints, Library of Congress, 1955
- Paul Klee, Paintings, Drawings, and Prints, Philadelphia Art Alliance, 1944
- André Lhote, Juster Gallery, NY, n. d.



Morris Blackburn papers (MS.058)

- Andrew Dasburg. American Federation of the Arts, 1959
- Contemporary Ceramics of the Western Hemisphere. Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts, 1942
- Juan Gris, Bucholz Gallery, 1944
- Modern Art in Advertising, Philadelphia Art Alliance, 1946

The papers of Morris Blackburn, a faculty member at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts for over twenty years, have recently entered the institution's Archives. I am now trying to sort out the many deteriorated films and reel-to-reel audio tapes in the collection, and am specifically searching for a copy of the 1959 film "Portrait of a Painter" by Emidio Angelo. The film is of particular interest as it may show Blackburn teaching here at the Academy.

I believe that several copies of the film were distributed, by Emidio Angelo, to various students of Blackburn's and other members of the Philadelphia art community. If anyone can put me in touch with Mr. Angelo's descendants, or has a copy of the film which they would donate to the Academy we would be most appreciative. One or two other films about Blackburn were also made and these would be of interest as well.

I am also searching for persons who studied with Blackburn to come in to the Archives and look over, and hopefully, identify the many photographs of unidentified people in the collection.

February 26, 2001

William Greenwood

726 Sussex Road

Wynnewood, PA 19096

Dear Mr. Greenwood,

The papers of Morris Blackburn have recently entered the Academy Archives, after a twenty year rest in his studio. I have finished processing them and am now trying to sort out the many deteriorated films and reel-to-reel audio tapes in the collection. I'm specifically searching for a copy of the 1959 film "Portrait of a Painter" by Emidio Angelo. The film is of particular interest as it may show Blackburn teaching here at the Academy. Do you remember if this is the case?

One or two other films about Blackburn were also made and these would be of interest as well if copies could be located. I'm writing to Dennis Gillespie, Marie Naples, and Babette Martino to see if any of them can be of help.

Morris Blackburn papers (MS.058)

I am also searching for persons who studied with Blackburn to come in to the Archives and look over, and hopefully, identify the many photographs of unidentified people in the collection. Would you want to participate in this effort? Do you know of any other people it would be good to contact in this regard?

Feel free to call me at the number below. I hope to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Cheryl Leibold, Archivist

215-972-2066; [cal@pafa.org](mailto:cal@pafa.org)

November, 2000

When asked, several PAFA faculty members recalled that Blackburn would invite students over to his studio, and a kind of game would be played where he would pass this small canvas around and ask people to guess to whom it had belonged. And then he would reveal that it had been Renoir's.

Cheryl Leibold, Archivist