Summary Information

Repository
The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives

Creator
Morris Blackburn (1902-1979)

Title
Morris Blackburn papers

Date [bulk]

Date [inclusive]
1925-1979

Extent
7 linear feet; 14 document boxes

Location note

Language

Language of Materials note
English

Abstract
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Exhibition Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Oil Painting and Sculpture by Artists of Philadelphia and Its Environs, April 13 – May 12, 1940 (abbreviated &quot;All Phila.&quot;)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Philadelphia Artists Gallery, June 4-16, 1946</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Regional Exhibition of Oil Painting and Sculpture, Philadelphia and Vicinity, March 10 – April 8, 1951 (abbreviated &quot;Regional '51&quot;)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Living Philadelphia Artists Represented in the Permanent Collection, Oct. 20 – Nov. 18, 1956 (abbreviated &quot;Living Phila Artists '56&quot;)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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


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 unfilmed, 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**
Morris Blackburn papers (MS.058)

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
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<td>Blackburn to his grandfather, from France; Blackburn’s passport</td>
<td>1928-1929</td>
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<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1930s</td>
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<td>Letters (in French) from Mme. Eveno (Blackburn’s landlady at Concarneau)</td>
<td>1928-1929, n.d., 1933-34, 1953-54</td>
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<td>Correspondence with Milch Galleries</td>
<td>1951</td>
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<td>Correspondence re MB’s Guggenheim Fellowship</td>
<td>1952</td>
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<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1955-1959</td>
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<td>Correspondence with Woodmere Art Gallery</td>
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<td>Correspondence with Newman Art Gallery</td>
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<td>1976</td>
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<td>Correspondence with the Museum of New Mexico</td>
<td>1972</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence with the Hahn Gallery</td>
<td>1977</td>
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<td>Letters from Luigi Rist</td>
<td>1939-1945</td>
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<td>Blackburn’s will</td>
<td>1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statements about Morris Blackburn</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous writing by others owned by MB</td>
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<td>Membership and Award Certificates</td>
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<td>Transcriptions of audio-tapes</td>
<td>1960s</td>
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<td>Transcriptions of audio-tapes</td>
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<td>Notes from camouflage painting course</td>
<td>1942</td>
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<td>Notes for an early book “Notes on Learning,”</td>
<td>circa 1942</td>
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<td>Notes for a book “A Trend Toward Integration,”</td>
<td>1942</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notices of teaching and lectures</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>Statements by MB about Arthur B. Carles</td>
<td>1953; 1972</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Outlines and texts of various talks</td>
<td>1930-1960</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous writings</td>
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</table>
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: 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
<table>
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<th>Photographs</th>
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<td>Photographs</td>
<td>Flat file 46</td>
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<td>Computer hard drive and disks from MB’s studio, probably Dolan Maxwell’s cataloguing</td>
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<td>Printed Matter from Exhibitions: MB’s exhibition history at PAFA</td>
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<td>Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Solo exhibition invitations and checklists</td>
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<td>Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Group exhibition invitations and checklists</td>
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<td>Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Group exhibition invitations and checklists</td>
<td>1930s</td>
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<td>1940s</td>
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<td>Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Group exhibition invitations and checklists</td>
<td>1970s</td>
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<td>Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Pamphlets</td>
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<td>Printed Matter from Exhibitions: Art Supply Catalogs</td>
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<td>Painting Registers and Lists of Paintings</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betty Blackburn’s files: Exhibition, gallery and sales correspondence</td>
<td>1980-1992</td>
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<td>Betty Blackburn’s files: Correspondence with Dolan-Maxwell Gallery</td>
<td>1980-1995</td>
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<td>Betty Blackburn’s files: Personal correspondence</td>
<td>1980-1996</td>
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<td>Betty Blackburn’s files: Estate correspondence</td>
<td>1980-1985</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betty Blackburn’s files: Genealogical research notes</td>
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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**


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]
- 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]

- 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:**

- 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, *Recent Paintings by Morris Blackburn*, January 11 – February. 6, 1954

Page 8
• Woodmere Art Gallery, *Retrospective Exhibition of Paintings by Morris Blackburn*, January 8-29, 1956
• Haddonfield Arts and Crafts League, *Artist Morris Blackburn*, March 18 - ?, 1962
• The Philadelphia Art Alliance, *Morris Blackburn*, September 28 – October 25, 1964
• 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
• 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]
• 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?]
• 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, 3rd Annual Exhibition (at the Print Club of Philadelphia), March 23 - April 11, 1942
• American Color Print Society, 4th Annual Exhibition (at the Print Club of Philadelphia), April 7-28, 1943
• American Color Print Society, 5th Annual Exhibition (at the Print Club of Philadelphia), March 14 - April 4, 1944
• American Color Print Society, 7th Annual Exhibition (at the Print Club of Philadelphia), March 15 - April 5, 1946
• American Color Print Society, 8th Annual Exhibition (at the Print Club of Philadelphia), March 11 - April 1, 1947
• 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
• 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 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
• The Print Club of Philadelphia, *Eighth Annual Exhibition, American Color Print Society*, March 11 - April 1, 1947
• 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?]

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
• Buck Hill Art Association, July 20 – Aug 24, 1953
• Butler Art Institute, *18th Annual Mid-Year Show*, July 4 – September ?, 1953
• Butler Art Institute, *19th Annual Mid-Year Show*, July 1 - September?, 1954
• Butler Art Institute, *22nd Annual Mid-Year Show*, June 30 – September ?, 1957
• Butler Art Institute, *24th 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
- Northwest Printmakers, Seattle Art Museum, *Twenty-Second Annual Exhibition*, March 8 - April 2, 1950
- 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, *2nd 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
- 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):

10 peintres américans 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


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.

- Cultural Arts Center of Ocean City, *Resident Artist Members*, June 1-30, 1969
- 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
- The Philadelphia Art Alliance, *50th Anniversary Exhibition of Invited Oil Paintings*, November 8 - December 5, 1965
• 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, *50th Annual Exhibition*, December 1-31, 1967
• The Philadelphia Water Color Club, *52nd Annual Members’ Exhibition*, June 4 – August 8, 1969
• Springfield art Museum, *Watercolor USA*, April 21 - June 2, 1963

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
  [unclear if Blackburn was involved in this?]
• Philadelphia Water Color Club, *53rd Annual Membership Exhibition*, May 9 - June 7, 1970
• Philadelphia Water Color Club, *54th Annual Members’ Exhibition*, June 11 – August 20, 1971

**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
• *13th 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.
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.
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

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