INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

Collection Title: Arthur Dove: Works on Paper; exhibition records
Author/Creator: The Phillips Collection Curatorial Department. Beth Turner, Senior Curator, and Elsa Smithgall, Curatorial Assistant
Size: .8 linear feet; 2 document boxes
Bulk Dates: 1997-1998
Inclusive Dates: 1910-1998
Repository: The Phillips Collection Archives, 1600 21st St NW, Washington, DC 20009

INFORMATION FOR USERS OF THE COLLECTION

Restrictions: The collection contains restricted materials. Please contact Karen Schneider, Librarian, with any questions regarding access.
Handling Requirements: none
Preferred Citation: Arthur Dove: Works on Paper. The Phillips Collection Archives, Washington, D.C.
Publication and Reproduction Rights: See Karen Schneider, Librarian, for further information and to obtain required forms.
SPECIAL NOTE: Most of the Research Series materials in this collection were photocopied or acquired by The Phillips Collection with the appropriate permissions and/or payments, but are not owned by The Phillips Collection Archives, which consequently cannot grant copying, publication or reproduction rights to these materials. For these permissions, the originating repository must be contacted, which is the sole responsibility of the researcher (see 'Related Material' below for some contact information).

ABSTRACT

Arthur Dove: Works on Paper was a one-gallery exhibition held in conjunction with Arthur Dove: A Retrospective. The exhibition records contain materials created and collected by the Curatorial Department of The Phillips Collection during the course of organizing the exhibition. Included are research and exhibition planning files.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The American artist Arthur Dove, among the first artists to have produced an abstract painting, has always occupied a central place in writings on early American modernism. Duncan Phillips, the founder of The Phillips Collection, was Dove’s primary patron from 1926 onward. Phillips held the first retrospective of Dove’s work in 1937. In 1947, as a tribute to the artist just five months after his death, Phillips organized a second retrospective of his paintings. The Phillips Collection owns fifty-four paintings by Dove and has extensive correspondence between
painter and patron. *Arthur Dove: Works on Paper* showcases Arthur Dove’s use of a wide variety of materials and techniques as well as the extent of Dove’s inspiration.

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

*Arthur Dove: Works on Paper*, features a selection of 33 works on paper by Arthur Dove primarily from Washington’s public and private collections. It includes examples of Dove’s earliest watercolor studies from the late 1920s, his animated line and wash drawings from the 1930s, and his multi-media paintings of the 1940s.

These curatorial records were collected and created in the course of researching, planning, and executing the exhibition. The exhibition opened at the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. on October 7, 1997 and continued until January 7, 1998.

The primary creators of the catalogue and exhibition planning records in this collection were Beth Turner, Senior Curator, and Elsa Smithgall, Curatorial Assistant.

The collection consists of the research and exhibition planning files of the curators interfiled. These records consist of research materials assembled and exhibition planning and execution documents such as legal and financial records, lender files (restricted), schedules, and checklists (restricted).

**CUSTODIAL HISTORY AND ACQUISITION INFORMATION**

This collection is owned by The Phillips Collection, and was accessioned from the curators’ offices in accordance with the museum’s records schedule.

**PROCESSING AND DESCRIPTION INFORMATION**

**Date Processed:** Collection processed in November 2008.  
**Processed By:** Collection processed by Heather Meixler, Library and Archives Assistant, supervised by Karen Schneider, Librarian.  
**Processing Notes:** The collection contains exhibition-related records from two curators’ offices, resulting in a significant amount of duplicate documents. After meeting with the librarian and curator duplicate documents were weeded as well as materials with no informational or evidential value. When different drafts of contracts and checklists were found the decision was made to retain the signed or most recent copy of each contract or checklist. Folders containing restricted material were marked with a red dot. Boxes containing restricted folders were also marked with a red dot. The lender files were arranged alphabetically.

The Research Series has maintained original order and is housed chronologically. More extensive research may be found in the *Arthur Dove: A Retrospective* exhibition files located in The Phillips Collection Archives. There are two sub-series in the Exhibition Planning series: planning documents and lender files.
Metal paperclips and staples were removed and replaced with plastic clips. Post-its were copied if necessary, otherwise removed. Folder headings were maintained, but were re-written in some cases for greater clarity and accuracy. All documents were re-folded in acid free folders, labeled in pencil and boxed in Hollinger low-lignin (pH 8.5 -10.0) boxes.

**Finding Aid Written By:** Finding Aid written by Heather Meixler, Library and Archives Assistant in November 2008, supervised by Karen Schneider, Librarian.

**Encoded By:** Sarah Osborne Bender, Cataloging and Technical Services Librarian

**Encoding Method:** EAD using Notetab

**RELATED MATERIAL**


**ARRANGEMENT OF THE COLLECTION**

The collection is organized as two series:
- Series 1: Research
- Series 2: Exhibition Planning

The Research series is arranged chronologically by article publication date. The Exhibition Planning series is alphabetical by subject with Lender files made into a sub-series of Exhibition Planning and arranged alphabetically by lender.

**SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

**Series 1: Research 1910-1997**

Series 1 consists of research materials assembled in planning the catalogue and exhibition. Files are arranged chronologically.

**Series 2: Exhibition Planning 1997-98**

Series 2 consists of correspondence, financial, image, design, and administrative records. This series is arranged alphabetically. Included are two sub-series:

- Sub-Series 2.1: Planning documents
- Sub-Series 2.2: Lender files
Box Inventory

Series 1: Research Materials

Box 1

Folder 1  Dove watercolor research, magazine article 1910:

Folder 2  Dove watercolor research, magazine article 1911:

Folder 3  Dove watercolor research, magazine article 1913:

Folder 4  Dove watercolor research, magazine article 1921

Folder 5  Dove watercolor research, newspaper article 1925

Folder 6  Dove watercolor research, exhibition review 1925

Folder 7  Dove watercolor research, newspaper article 1926

Folder 8  Dove watercolor research, book excerpt, 1926

Folder 9  Dove watercolor research, journal excerpt 1926
Teriade, E. “Max Ernst, Man Ray” Cahiers d’art. Vol I. 1926 p 58

Folder 10 Dove watercolor research, journal excerpt 1926
Teriade, E. “Max Ernst” Cahiers d’art. Vol 1 no 4, May 1926. p 80

Folder 11 Dove watercolor research, journal excerpt 1926

Folder 12 Dove watercolor research, newspaper article 1926

Folder 13 Dove watercolor research, newspaper article 1926
Box 1 cont’d.
Folder 14  Dove watercolor research, correspondence 1926-1940
Letters between Dove, Stieglitz, Phillips
Folder 15  Dove watercolor research, table of contents 1927
Cahiers d’art. 2, 1927
Folder 16  Dove watercolor research, table of contents 1927
Transition. No. 8, November 1927.
Folder 17  Dove watercolor research, table of contents 1927
Transition. No. 9, December 1927 and copy of Joan Miro painting.
Folder 18  Dove watercolor research, exhibition list 1927
Folder 19  Dove watercolor research, exhibition review 1927
Folder 20  Dove watercolor research, Dove letter descriptions 1928-1946
Descriptions of Dove letters in TPC archive – not chronological.
Folder 21  Dove watercolor research, table of contents 1928
Folder 22  Dove watercolor research, exhibition review 1928
Folder 23  Dove watercolor research, journal article 1928
Folder 24  Dove watercolor research, journal article 1928
Folder 25  Dove watercolor research, journal article 1928
Folder 26  Dove watercolor research, journal article 1928
Folder 27  Dove watercolor research, table of contents 1928
Transition. No. 11. February 1928. also Yves Tanguy painting.
Folder 28  Dove watercolor research, table of contents 1928
Folder 29  Dove watercolor research, table of contents 1929
Cahiers d’art. Vol. 4. 1929.
Folder 30  Dove watercolor research, table of contents 1929
Box 1 cont'd.

Folder 31 Dove watercolor research, list of paintings 1929

Folder 32 Dove watercolor research, table of contents 1929
   Transition. No. 16-17, June 1929. Includes copy of painting
   “Combat d’Oiseaux” by G.L. Roux

Folder 33 Dove watercolor research, cover and table of contents 1929
   Transition. No. 18, November 1929. Includes copies of Paul
   Klee’s “Fish Man-Man Eater” and “Little Fool in Trance”

Folder 34 Dove watercolor research, newspaper article 1930
   Anon. “Exhibitions in New York: Arthur Dove,
   An American Place.” The Art News. Saturday, April 5, 1930.
   page 12.

Folder 35 Dove watercolor research, table of contents, 1930
   article though not included.

Folder 36 Dove watercolor research, exhibition review 1931
   Jewell, Edwin Alden. “Dove gives annual exhibition.” The

Folder 37 Dove watercolor research, exhibition list 1932
   March 14-April 9, 1932.

Folder 38 Dove watercolor research, exhibition review 1932
   “An Artist Coming of Age: Arthur G. Dove Exhibit Shows
   Artistic Advance.” Springfield Sunday Union and Republican.
   March 20, 1932.

Folder 39 Dove watercolor research, exhibition review 1934
   “North Pier, Seneca Lake, 1934.” Springfield Sunday Union
   and Republican. June 10, 1934.

Folder 40 Dove watercolor research, letter to Dove 1936
   From Richard Berger, inquiring as to medium of works in
   Dove’s Whitney Show. Dated November 29, 1936.

Folder 41 Dove watercolor research, magazine article 1937
   Parnassus. December 1937.

Folder 42 Dove watercolor research, Dove diary excerpts 1940-41
   From Archives of American Art, January 1940-April 1941.

Folder 43 Dove watercolor research, Dove diary excerpts 1940-41
   Watercolor and sketch mentions June 1940-December
   1941.

Folder 44 Dove watercolor research, exhibition announcement 1949
   “Watercolors by Arthur Dove” The Downtown Gallery.
   April 26, 1949.
Box 1 cont’d.

Folder 45  Dove watercolor research, letter to Duncan Phillips from Gene Davis, artist and writer, interested in writing article about Dove. Dated October 20, 1950.

Folder 46  Dove watercolor research, catalogue excerpt 1954

Folder 47  Dove watercolor research, exhibition announcement 1958

Folder 48  Dove watercolor research, book excerpt 1968

Folder 49  Dove watercolor research, doctoral dissertation 1970

Folder 50  Dove watercolor research, book excerpt 1971

Folder 51  Dove watercolor research, exhibition checklist 1974

Folder 52  Dove watercolor research, magazine article 1974

Folder 53  Dove watercolor research, book excerpt 1976

Folder 54  Dove watercolor research, catalogue excerpt 1977

Folder 55  Dove watercolor research, bulletin excerpt 1980

Folder 56  Dove watercolor research, exhibition catalogue 1991
Box 1 cont’d.

Folder 57  Dove watercolor research, book excerpt 1993

Folder 58  Dove watercolor research, article 1997

Folder 59  Dove watercolor research, book excerpt 1997

Folder 60  Dove watercolor research, Dove inventory list, undated
As given by Toni Dove to Terry Dintenfass, Inc.
Inventory of Dove’s apartment and books and catalogues in his possession.

Series 2: Exhibition Planning

Sub-Series 2.1: Planning Documents

Box 2

Folder 1  *Dove Works on Paper* Checklist 1997
Folder 2  *Dove Works on Paper* Conservation 1997
Folder 3  *Dove Works on Paper* Correspondence and Diary
re: watercolors
Folder 4  *Dove Works on Paper* Correspondence w/Melanie Kirschner 1997
re: text for Dove show
Folder 5  *Dove Works on Paper* Exhibition Layout 1997
Folder 6  *Dove Works on Paper* Images
Folder 8  *Dove Works on Paper* Quotes, Watercolor
Folder 10  *Dove Works on Paper* Wall Text 1997

Sub-Series 2.2: Lender Files

Folder 11  Loan Letters, accepted: Archives of American Art, 1997-98
Folder 12  Loan Letters, accepted: Corcoran Gallery of Art, 1997-98
Folder 13  Loan Letters, accepted: Fleischman, Aaron, 1997-98
Folder 14  Loan Letters, accepted: Hirshhorn Museum of Art, 1997-98
Folder 15  Loan Letters, accepted: Kaplan, Linda, 1997-98
Folder 16  Loan Letters, accepted: Kogod, Robert and Arlene, 1997-98
Folder 17  Loan Letters, accepted: Lenkin, Edward, Katherine Meier, 1997-98
Folder 18  Loan Letters, accepted: Lumpkins, William, 1997-98
Box 2 cont’d.

- Folder 19: Loan Letters, accepted: National Gallery of Art, 1997-98
- Folder 20: Loan Letters, accepted: Rehm, John and Diane, 1997-98

Restricted Folders

Box 2: folders 1; 11-22