

SFMOMA Library & Archives  
151 Third Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

**Finding Aid to the Elise S. Haas Papers, 1921-1991, bulk 1950-1975**

Collection Number: ARCH.COLL.001

Funding for the processing of this collection was provided by the Getty Foundation.



Finding Aid written by: Dayna Holz

Date Completed: July 2008

©2008 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. All rights reserved.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Collection Summary	p. 2
Information for Researchers	p. 3
Administrative Information	p. 4
Biographical Note	p. 5
Scope and Content Note	p. 6
Container List	p. 7-8
Series 1: Museum Records, 1921-1986	p. 7-8
1.1: Museum Planning and Activities, 1921-1986	p. 7
1.2: Museum Governance, 1960-1985	p. 7
1.3: Conservation Laboratory, 1970-1976	p. 8
Series 2: Art Collection, 1944-1991	p. 8

## **COLLECTION SUMMARY**

### **Collection Title**

Elise S. Haas Papers, 1921-1991, bulk 1950-1975

### **Collection number**

ARCH.COLL.001

### **Creator**

Haas, Elise S., 1893-1990

### **Extent**

2.4 linear feet (2 cartons)

### **Repository**

SFMOMA Research Library  
151 Third Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

### **Abstract**

Contains personal papers of Elise Stern Haas related exclusively to her over fifty year relationship with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the management and assembly of her private art collection. Records include correspondence, shipping receipts, financial records, and photographs.

### **Language**

Records are in English.

### **Physical location**

Collection is housed in SFMOMA offsite storage locations.

## **INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS**

### **Access and use restrictions**

Collection is available for use. Some materials are restricted for confidentiality or condition. Contact SFMOMA Archives.

### **Publication information**

All requests for permission to publish should be directed to the SFMOMA Archives.

### **Preferred citation**

[Identification of item], [folder title and year], Elise S. Haas Papers, 1921-1991, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Archives.

### **Access points**

#### Topical Subjects

Art—Collectors and collecting—California—San Francisco  
Art, Modern—20th century  
Art museum directors  
Art museums—Collection management  
Museums—Acquisitions  
Women art collectors

#### Corporate and Personal Names

San Francisco Museum of Art  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art—Archives  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art—Board of Trustees

Haas, Elise S., 1893-1990  
Haas, Walter A., 1889-1979

### **Related materials**

Elise Stern Haas Family Papers, BANC MSS 92/810 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### **Acquisition**

The Elise S. Haas Papers were donated to SFMOMA in 1992 by the Estate of Elise S. Haas.

### **Level of description**

Records are described at the carton level. Some records are described at the folder or item level.

### **Processed by**

Dayna Holz, 2008.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Elise Stern Haas (1893-1990) was a philanthropist and influential patron of the arts, and the Haas family in San Francisco contributed significantly to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) from its early days in the Veterans Building. Elise Haas served on both the Women's Board and the Board of Trustees, acting intermittently as the President of each group. As an art collector, Elise Haas assembled a collection of important works by Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Henry Moore, and Georgia O'Keeffe. Her personal relationships with the Stein family have been well documented, and led to her efforts to re-assemble the Stein family collection as part of SFMOMA's permanent collection.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Elise S. Haas Papers complement the collection of *Elise Stern Haas Family Papers, 1789-1992* housed at the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, but focus specifically on her relationship with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) and the assembling and management of her art collection. The records are divided into two series, distinctly documenting her art collection and her involvement with SFMOMA (called the San Francisco Museum of Art until 1975 and referred to in most of the records as SFMA).

The SFMOMA records are further divided into three subseries reflecting three significant roles Haas played in the governance of the museum, the establishment of the conservation laboratory, and as an active contributor to museum planning, activities, and exhibitions.

The Conservation Laboratory subseries includes correspondence and financial reports related to the establishment of the conservation laboratory at SFMOMA, named the Elise S. Haas Conservation Studio in honor of its early supporter.

The Museum Governance subseries includes materials from Haas' participation and leadership in the Board of Trustees and the Women's Board, and also contains records from special committees and other local arts advisory boards. The *Women's Board/Board of Trustees* file contains a print of a 1964 design for a new museum building on Beach St. by architect Claude Oakland, created at the request of the Board of Trustees via Joseph Eichler of Eichler Homes.

The Museum Planning and Activities subseries contains records about Haas' relationship with the museum since the 1940s, including various fundraising efforts, the search committees for replacement of directors George Culler and Gerald Nordland, and correspondence with private art collectors on behalf of the museum to negotiate loans and donations of works.

The Art Collection series contains correspondence, photographs, loan forms, and insurance records related to Haas' private art collection. The majority of correspondence concerns loaning and creating reproductions of works in the collection. Loans, exhibitions, and gifts to SFMOMA were maintained distinctly from other similar records, and folders are labeled as such. After damage to one of the paintings loaned to the 1970 Matisse Centennial exhibition in Paris, Haas and her husband, Walter A. Haas, maintained a strict policy of never loaning their works outside of San Francisco, and much of the post-1971 loan correspondence reiterates this policy. The *Artworks Considered and Not Bought* files contain photographs and correspondence with galleries and art dealers, and document some of the decision-making involved in assembling the Haas collection.

Haas' original folder titles have been maintained where appropriately descriptive of folder contents; some folder titles were created when none existed or have been amended for accuracy and consistency. Series and subseries are arranged hierarchically, and folders within series and subseries are arranged alphabetically.

**CONTAINER LIST****SERIES 1: MUSEUM RECORDS, 1921-1986****SUBSERIES 1.1: MUSEUM PLANNING AND ACTIVITIES, 1921-1986**

Container	Folder	Contents	Date
Carton 1	1	Arensberg Collection Correspondence	1948-1951
Carton 1	2	Articles of Incorporation - SFMA	1921, 1952
Carton 1	3	Bay Area Collectors Files	1967
Carton 1	4	Columbia Foundation (Exhibitions Program Grant)	1954-1955
Carton 1	5	Committee on Bay Area Collections	1959-1967
Carton 1	6-7	Correspondence with SFMA/SFMOMA	1964-1985
Carton 1	8-10	Endowment Fund	1964-1968
Carton 1	11	Endowment Fund	1976-1980
Carton 1	12	Peggy Guggenheim Correspondence re: Gifts to SFMA	1965-1967
Carton 1	13	E.S. Haas Special Fund - Contributions to SFMA	1960-1979
Carton 1	14	Japanese Exhibit (The New Japanese Painting and Sculpture)	1964-1965
Carton 1	15	Junior League/SFMA	1965
Carton 1	16	Clifford Peterson Correspondence	1971-1972
Carton 1	17	Clifford Peterson Fund	1970-1972
Carton 1	18	Private Art Collections	1961-1965
Carton 1	19	Rental Gallery	1955-1959
Carton 1	20-23	SFMA Director Search	1965-1966
Carton 1	24	SFMA Director Search	1972-1973, 1986
Carton 1	25	Special Exhibitions Fund	1959-1966
Carton 1	26	Tax Exempt Status/Correspondence with Moses Lasky	1959-1967
Carton 1	27	War Memorial Complex - Bond Issue	1965-1966

**SUBSERIES 1.2: MUSEUM GOVERNANCE, 1960-1985**

Carton 1	28	Presidency - Board of Trustees	1964-1965
Carton 1	29-30	San Francisco Art Resources Development Committee/San Francisco Interim Arts Advisory Committee	1966-1970
Carton 1	31	SFMA Ad Hoc Committee	1964
Carton 1	32	War Memorial Board of Trustees	1975-1977
Carton 1	33	Women's Board/Board of Trustees	1960-1966, 1985

**SUBSERIES 1.3: CONSERVATION LABORATORY, 1970-1976**

Container	Folder	Contents	Date
Carton 1	34-36	Bay Area Art Conservation Laboratories (BAACL)	1971-1974
Carton 1	37	Conservation - Contracts	1971-1975



Container	Folder	Contents	Date
Carton 1	38-39	Conservation Laboratory - Budgets	1970-1976
Carton 1	40	Conservators/Interns	1973-1974

**SERIES 2: ART COLLECTION, 1944-1991**

Carton 2	1-2	Art Insurance	1960-1980
Carton 2	3-7	Artworks Considered and Not Bought	1946-1983
Carton 2	8	Auction Sales	1959-1984
Carton 2	9	Brancusi "Blond Negress"	1958-1962
Carton 2	10	Correspondence	1970-1985
Carton 2	11	Correspondence re: Insurance, Claim for "Joie de Vivre"	1969-1971
Carton 2	12	Correspondence with Artists	1949-1973
Carton 2	13-14	Exhibitions at SFMA	1952, 1964-1976
Carton 2	15-16	Gifts to SFMA	1944-1980
Carton 2	17	Loans	1956-1977
Carton 2	18	Loans - 1970 Matisse Centennial	1969-1977
Carton 2	19	Loans Granted	1950-1971
Carton 2	20	Georgia O'Keeffe	1965-1971
Carton 2	21	Photographs of Works in the Collection	ca. 1965-1970
Carton 2	22	Receipts for Loans and Other Correspondence	1960-1976
Carton 2	23	Requests for Loans	1950-1990
Carton 2	24-25	Requests for Loans - Matisse	1969-1989
Carton 2	26	Requests for Reproductions (Annual Summaries and Correspondence)	1949-1974
Carton 2	27-28	Reproductions	1946-1969
Carton 2	29-30	Reproductions	1970-1991