

Archive of Art & Design Research Guide

Painting & Drawing

W&A



The V&A's Archive of Art and Design (AAD) holds the working papers of individual artists and designers, as well as the records of companies and associations involved in all aspects of applied art and design. The archives can be consulted by appointment at Blythe House, located near Olympia in West London.

Although essentially devoted to the decorative arts, the Archive of Art and Design holds a small but significant amount of material relating to the history and development of the graphic arts in the UK, spanning from the 19th century to the present day. The material held includes personal papers and correspondence, diaries, sketchbooks and designs, photographs, press cuttings, administrative records and actual artefacts.

For example, the holdings for Sir William Russell Flint include many printing blocks and plates which offer a glimpse into the mechanics of the artistic process, as well as proofs of book illustrations, appointment diaries covering the years 1934 to 1968 and variously dated sketches. The archive for

Edward Ardizzone gives an insight into the working life of the artist, with books he illustrated, menu designs, legal papers, details on the loan of paintings to exhibitions, Christmas cards designed by Ardizzone in the 1960s and 1970s, correspondence about picture sales and royalty statements.

The Archive of Art and Design's holdings for artists' organisations and societies provide a rich source of research material and include items such as catalogues covering nearly 150 years of exhibitions by the Society of Women Artists; the Royal Institute of Oil Painters' council meetings minutes dating from 1882 to 1986; and amongst the Royal Society of British Artists' records, letters from J. A. McNeill Whistler. There is also a vast number of files held in the Arts Council of Great Britain archive dating from its inception in 1928 to the present day.

Painting in the AAD

- Edward Ardizzone, artist and book illustrator: papers, about 1939–80
[AAD/1981/2](#)
- John Vere Brown, painter, writer and photographer: papers, about 1960 – about 2000
[AAD/2001/3](#)
- Sir William Russell Flint R.A., artist: papers, 1902–70
[AAD/1983/9](#)
- Rupert Lee, artist: papers, about 1880s–2001
[AAD/2001/11](#)
- Thomas Balston research papers on John Martin: papers, about 1818–1966
[AAD/2011/4](#)

- Olga Lehmann, artist and film production designer: papers, about 1920 – about 1985
[AAD/2002/14, AAD/2015/2](#)
- John Seymour Lucas, artist: papers, 1880-1920
[AAD/1983/12](#)
- Laurence Scarfe, painter and graphic designer: papers, 1935–89
[AAD/2002/4](#)
- Alfred Stevens, painter and sculptor: collection, about 1830–75
[AAD/1985/5](#)
- Leon Underwood, illustrator, painter and writer: papers, about 1925–73
[AAD/1981/4](#)

Drawing in the AAD

- Leon Underwood, illustrator, painter and writer: papers, about 1925–73
[AAD/1981/4](#)

Organisations and societies in the AAD

- Artists' League of Great Britain: records, 1911 – about 1985
[AAD/1995/19](#)
- Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society (later Society of Designer-Craftsmen): records, 1886–1984
[AAD/1980/1](#)
- Arts Council of Great Britain: records, 1928–97
[ACGB](#)
- Misha Black, industrial and exhibition designer and architect: papers, 1928–77
(Includes material relating to UNESCO, Industrial Design Partnership, Design Council, Society of Industrial Artists and Designers (Great Britain) and International Council of Societies of Industrial Design.)
[AAD/1980/3](#)
- Central Institute of Art and Design: records, about 1940 – about 1959
[AAD/1998/13](#)
- T.A. Fennemore, designer of pottery, wallpaper and textiles: papers, 1924–58
(Includes material relating to the Society of Mural Painters, Council of Industrial Design (Great Britain) and Design and Industries Association (Great Britain))
[AAD/1983/3](#)
- Royal Institute of Oil Painters: records, 1882–1997
[AAD/2000/5](#)

- Royal Society of British Artists: records, 1823–1985
[AAD/1997/8](#)
- Society of Women Artists: records, 1905–98
[AAD/1996/7: AAD/1997/14: AAD/1998/11, AAD/2000/8, AAD/2002/16, AAD/2003/13, AAD/2005/8, AAD/2007/13](#)

Search

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You can also consult the *Guide to the Archive of Art and Design, Victoria & Albert Museum* by Elizabeth Lomas (London: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers in association with the Victoria and Albert Museum, 2001), which not only lists the AAD archives, but also identifies related material in the V&A and other institutions.

Access

The V&A Archive of Art & Design is located at Blythe House, near Olympia in West London and can be consulted by appointment only.

[Find out how to access the Archive of Art & Design](#)

Contact

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Image: Sketchbook page, Edith Crapper, mid-20th century. Museum no. AAD/1979/1. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London