Archive of Art & Design Research Guide

Sculpture
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.

The Archive of Art and Design collections for sculpture focus on three main aspects: records of organisations and societies involved in the administration and promotion of the arts; accumulations of personal papers and artefacts by individual artists; and research and working papers relating to specific projects.

Amongst the personal papers of artists there are holdings for George Gamon Adams, who designed the sculpture of General Napier in Trafalgar Square, including photographs showing his sculptural work. There are also scrapbooks of press cuttings, awards and diplomas, sketches and photographs in the archive of sculptor George Frampton whose work includes the famous statue of Peter Pan in London’s Kensington Gardens.

Included in the archives representing organisations and societies is the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society (later Society of Designer-Craftsmen) whose papers span nearly 100 years of exhibition catalogues, photographs, financial papers, membership lists, annual reports and other administrative records.

In addition to personal and organisational records, the AAD also holds records useful for studying artistic development and working methods. Such collections focus more on the actual work of the artists. The most extensive of these is the Krazy Kat Arkive of 20th Century Popular Culture - a unique collection of approximately 20,000 assorted artefacts (about 1900 – 1994) and files accumulated by Eduardo Paolozzi since the 1930s. In 1922, the sculpture researcher and author Kineton Parkes published the two volume work ‘Sculpture of Today’, his intended third volume never came about, but the Archive of Art and Design holds his working papers for it. These consist of many questionnaires completed by a wide range of international sculptors during the 1920s and thus provide a remarkable research tool.

Sculpture in the AAD

- Francis Cheetham, medieval alabaster researcher: research notes, about 1960s – about 2000s
  AAD/2009/18

- George Gamon Adams, medallist and sculptor: papers, about 1820 – about 1979
  AAD/1997/12

- Sir George Frampton, sculptor: papers, 1837–1975
  AAD/1988/13

- Krazy Kat Arkive of 20th Century Popular Culture: Eduardo Paolozzi’s collection, about 1900–94
• Alec Miller, sculptor and carver: papers, 1849–1994
  AAD/2003/18

• Raphaele Monti, sculptor: papers, about 1844–65
  AAD/2011/3

• Edwin Roscoe Mullins, sculptor: papers, 1881–1907
  AAD/2007/6

• Kineton Parkes, sculpture researcher: papers, about 1920 – about 1929
  AAD/1990/12

• Edward Joseph Pyke, wax sculpture researcher: papers, about 1963–95
  AAD/1996/1

• Alfred Stevens, painter and sculptor: collection about 1830–75
  AAD/1985/5

• R. W. Taylor, wood carver and plaster modeller: papers, about 1905–25
  AAD/1981/10

Organisations and societies in the AAD

• Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society (later Society of Designer-Craftsmen): Records, 1886–1984
  AAD/1980/1

• Central Institute of Art and Design: Records, about 1940 – about 1959
  AAD/1998/13

• Society of Women Artists: Records, 1905–98

Search

Search the Archive of Art & Design

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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