

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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TITLE: CIHS Hamill Sydney Laurence memorabilia

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1963.011

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: circa 1930s

Extent: 30 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Sydney Laurence, Jim Balog, Mildred Hamill

Administrative/Biographical History:

Sydney Mortimer Laurence was born October 14, 1865, in Brooklyn, New York, to English parents. Laurence established his reputation as a painter abroad, but in 1904, at the age of 38, Laurence left his wife and two young sons in England and moved to Alaska. In 1915, he established a studio in Anchorage, where he painted and ran a commercial photography business. In 1924, Laurence established a second studio in Los Angeles. In 1928, he married artist Jeanne Kunath Holeman, a Frenchwoman who had come to America at the age of 32. Sydney died in 1940. Jeanne died in 1980.

Mildred Hamill was born in Denver, Colorado. She studied art in Portland, Oregon, before coming to Alaska, where she studied landscape painting with Sydney Laurence. She was also employed by the Alaska Railroad.

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of 25 black-and-white photographs and ephemera pertaining to the artist Sydney Laurence, created or collected by the artist Mildred Hamill. For more information, see Detailed Description of Collection.

Arrangement: Not applicable

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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Preferred Citation:

CIHS Hamill Sydney Laurence memorabilia, Anchorage Museum, B1963.011

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Donated to Cook Inlet Historical Society by Mildred Hamill in March 1963. Transferred to Anchorage Museum.

Processing Note

Guide created from card catalog data and accession file inventory; materials not physically consulted at time of writing.

Item .5 missing as of 1973; photo .28 missing as of 2011.

Photos .30-31 found in 2011 and added to collection in 2016.

Separated Materials

Painting of Sydney Laurence (.1) transferred to Collections (1963.010.001).

RELATED MATERIALS

Sydney Laurence, Alaska Artist Files

Herb Green Alaska Artists Collection, B1982.178

Pyatt-Laurence Collection, B1983.146

Herb Green Sydney Laurence Photographs, B2001.037.1-16

Sydney Laurence Portrait Photograph, B2014.002

William and Donna Harms Collection on Sydney and Jeanne Laurence, B2014.023

SUBJECTS

Laurence, Sydney, 1868-1940

Hamill, Mildred Henthorne, 1893-1970

Artists—Alaska

Denali – Alaska

Detailed Description of the Collection

.2 – [biography of Sydney Laurence]

.3 – [correspondence, Sydney Laurence to Mildred Hamill, June 5, 1927]

.4 – “A Retrospective Exhibit of Paintings by Sydney Laurence, March 23 and 24, 1957, Municipal Auditorium, Exhibit Presented by the Cook Inlet Historical Society,” [exhibition catalog, Sydney Laurence exhibition, Anchorage. 2 copies]

.5 – [missing][photograph of Sydney Laurence]

.6 – “Something About Sydney Laurence in Alaska and other things by the Nugget Shop, Robert Simpson, Manager, Juneau, Alaska” [advertisements from Juneau Nugget Shop for Sydney Laurence paintings]

.7 – Mildred Hamill, March 1963. Sydney Laurence requested Mildred to paint his portrait for him. He sat every morning for a week and this is the fine result. He was highly pleased. She donated this oil to the [Cook Inlet Historical] Society [photograph of Mildred Hamill with painting (1963.010.001). Jim Balog, photographer]

.8-.28 – [photographs of Sydney Laurence paintings, taken by Mildred Hamill]

.8 – [painting of Denali with paint flecks]

.29 – [photograph of Sydney Laurence standing in front of painting of Denali with palette and brushes in hand]

.30 – [portrait photograph of Sydney Laurence]

.31 – [photograph of Sydney Laurence seated on steps of building next to flower boxes]

Guide updated: August 3, 2016

Updated: January 10, 2025