

Table of Contents

- [Collection Summary](#)
- [Biographical Note](#)
- [Scope and Content Note](#)
- [Subject Headings](#)
- [Administrative Information](#)
- [Access and Use](#)
- [Encoding Information](#)
- [Series List](#)
- [Container List](#)

Collection Summary

Repository: Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries

Creator: Rubenstein, Lewis W. (Lewis William), 1908-

Title: Lewis Rubenstein Papers

Dates: approximately 1950-1974

Quantity: 2 cubic feet (5 boxes, 1 OV folder)

Abstract: Sketches of faculty members and campus scenes and sketchbooks produced throughout Rubenstein's career at Vassar, and two copies of his film "Time Painting."

[Top](#)

Biographical Note

Lewis Rubenstein was born in 1908 in Buffalo, NY, the son of Emil and Hannah (Hirshman) Rubenstein. In 1930 he graduated from Harvard University with a B.A. in Fine Arts. He then spent two years as a Harvard Travelling Fellow in Europe, studying in France and Italy. From 1935 to 1938 he accepted commissions to paint frescoes murals in Harvard museums, as well as buildings in Detroit. In 1937 he began his long career as an art educator, joining the faculty of Vassar in 1939 as Instructor in Art. After a year's leave of absence to paint another commission, Rubenstein returned to Vassar in 1941. In 1942 he married Erica Beckh and took another leave of absence from Vassar to paint ship camouflage for the U.S. Navy during the Second World War. In 1946 he returned to Vassar as an Assistant Professor of Art. He became Associate Professor in 1951 and remained at the college until his retirement in 1974. As an artist, Rubenstein worked in a variety of media, from oil paint to "water-based techniques" such as ink, fresco, and watercolor (see "Introduction," *Lewis Rubenstein: Retrospective Exhibition*). He also continued to draw and sketch, producing during a series of sketched portraits of Vassar colleagues during faculty meetings. Rubenstein exhibited his work widely in galleries such as Harvard's Busch-Reisinger Museum, the Albany Institute of History and Art, the National Academy of Design, and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. Lewis Rubenstein died in June 2003 at age 94 in Shelborne, Vermont.

[Top](#)

Scope and Content Note

Sketches of faculty members and campus scenes and sketchbooks produced throughout Rubenstein's career at Vassar, and two copies of his film "Time Painting."

[Top](#)

Access and Use

Access

This collection is open for research according to the regulations of the [Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library without any additional restrictions](#).

Restrictions on Use

Permission to quote (publish) from unpublished or previously published material must be obtained as described in the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#).

[Top](#)

Subject Headings

Subjects:

- Portraits, American

Organizations:

- Vassar College--Buildings
- Vassar College--Faculty
- Vassar College--Students

Document Types:

- Film (material by form)
- Sketchbooks
- Sketches

VCL Categories:

- Art and Artists
- Vassar College

[Top](#)**Encoding Information**

Encoded by Mark Seidl, November 2011. Updated January 2012. Updated by Emma Gronbeck, August 2023.

[Top](#)**Administrative Information****Preferred Citation**

Lewis Rubenstein Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Mark Seidl, November 2011.

Acquisition Information

Original Acquisition date unknown.

[Top](#)**Series List****[Series I.](#) Vassar Sketches, circa 1950-1974**

Framed sketches of faculty members and scenes of College life.
Arranged alphabetically.

[Series II.](#) Assorted Sketches and Sketchbooks, 1950-1971

Bound sketchbooks and assorted loose sketches, some of which are studies for the finished sketches in Series I.
Arranged alphabetically.

[Series III.](#) Films, circa 1968-1972

Two prints of the film "Time Painting."
Arranged chronologically.

Container List**Series I. Vassar Sketches**

Box 5	"Campus Fantasy," undated
Box 1	Chatterton, C. K., undated
Box 3	Christie, John (1), undated

Box 3	Christie, John (2), undated
Box 4	Constantinople, Anne, undated
Box 2	Darlington, Beth, undated
Box 1	Drouilhet, Elizabeth, undated
Box 2	Drouilhet, Elizabeth, undated
Box 2	Fahlund, G. Gregory, undated
Box 3	Fortna, Robert T., undated
Box 4	"Four Runners," undated
Box 4	Gittleman, Anne and Elizabeth Drouilhet, undated
Box 5	"Graduation," undated
Box 1	Gutman, Helmut (?), undated
Box 3	Havelock, Christine, undated
Box 3	Johnsen, John, undated
Box 2	Johnson, Glen (?), undated
Box 4	Krautheimer, Richard and Oliver Tonks, undated
Box 2	Mace, Dean, undated
Oversize Multi-Collection Box	"The Open Hour," undated
Box 5	"Problems of Early Marriage," undated
Box 3	Rappaport, Rhoda, undated
Box 2	Regnier, Jerome (?), undated
Box 2	Richardson, Frances and Kathleen, undated
Box 2	Rittenkamp, James, undated
Box 3	Schalk, David, undated
Box 1	Simpson, Alan (1), undated
Box 3	Simpson, Alan (2), undated
Box 3	Simpson, Alan (3), undated
Box 3	Stillman, Peter, undated
Box 2	Stone, Joseph, undated
Box 1	"Students on Campus," undated
Box 3	Tait, Marion, undated
Box 2	Timm, Ruth, undated
Box 3	Tokay, Elbert, undated
Box 3	Tokay, Elbert and unidentified woman, undated
Box 4	"Two Young Ladies With Racquets," undated
Box 4	"Vassar Venus," undated
Box 3	Weingartner, Rudolph, undated
Box 2	Wells, Barbara, undated

Series II. Assorted Sketches and Sketchbooks

Folder 4.1	Assorted Sketches, undated
Folder 4.2	Assorted Sketches, undated
Folder 1.1	Sketchbook, 1950
Folder 4.3	Sketchbook, 1950 [photocopy]
Folder 4.4	Sketchbook, 1965
Folder 1.1	Sketchbook, 1971

Series III. Films

Reel 1	"Time Painting," circa 1968
Reel 2	"Time Painting," 1972

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)