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Collection Summary

Repository: Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries

Creator: Oakley, Violet, 1874-1961

Title: Violet Oakley Papers

Dates: 1921-1982

Quantity: 0.2 cubic feet (1 box, 1 OV folder)

Abstract: Correspondence, exhibition and publication programs, and other printed materials related to the work of American artist Violet Oakley, particularly the large-scale triptych she painted for the Vassar College Alumnae House in 1924, *The Great Wonder: A Vision of the Apocalypse*.

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Biographical Note

Violet Oakley (1874-1961) was an American artist. Born on June 10, 1874 in Bergen Heights, New Jersey to Arthur Edmund Oakley and Cornelia Swain, Oakley grew up in a family of artists. Between 1892 and 1896, she studied at the Art Students League of New York, in England and France under artists including Raphael Collin, at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and at the Drexel Institute. Oakley was commissioned by Louise Lawrence Meigs (VC 1891) to create the triptych mural *The Great Wonder: A Vision of the Apocalypse* for the opening of the Vassar College Alumnae House in 1924. Oakley created the triptych as a memorial to her sister, Hester Caldwell (Oakley) Ward (VC 1891), who died of typhoid fever in 1905.

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Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of correspondence, exhibition and publication programs, and other printed materials related to the work of American artist Violet Oakley, particularly the large-scale triptych she painted for the Vassar College Alumnae House in 1924, *The Great Wonder: A Vision of the Apocalypse*.

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Permission to quote (publish) from unpublished or previously published material must be obtained as described in the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#).

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Related Material

Related Materials

- [Violet Oakley papers, 1841-1981. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.](#)
- Works by Violet Oakley, Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College.

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Subject Headings

Organizations:

- Vassar College--Alumni and alumnae

Subjects:

- Illumination of books and manuscripts

Document Types:

- Correspondence
- Printed ephemera
- Prints (visual works)

VCL Categories:

- Art and Artists
- Vassar College

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Encoding Information

Encoded by Emma Gronbeck, January 2024.

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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Violet Oakley Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

Processing Information

Processed by Emma Gronbeck, January 2024.

Acquisition Information

Gift of various donors.

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Container List

Folder 1	Christmas card, 1925 [1 item]
Folder 2	Clipping: "The Great Wonder," <i>Vassar Quarterly</i> , 1924 Nov [1 letter]
Folder 3	Correspondence: Emerson, Edith to Borden, Fanny, 1941 May 20 [3 letters]
Folder 4	Correspondence: Emerson, Edith to Underhill, Adelaide, 1924-1926 [2 letters]
Folder 5	Correspondence: Oakley, Violet to Borden, Fanny, 1939-1940 [16 letters]
Folder 6	Correspondence: Oakley, Violet to and from Underhill, Adelaide, 1921-1932 [3 items]
Folder 7	Cogslea Academy of Arts and Letters, pamphlets, 1937-1941 [6 items]
Folder 8	Exhibition programs and ephemera, 1923-1942 [1 item]
Folder 9	Exhibitions: "Catalogue of Studies and Drawings for Mural Decorations," program, 1923 Jun [3 items]
Folder 10	Exhibitions: "The Founding of the Statue of Liberty Spiritual," program and ephemera, circa 1922 [3 items]
Folder 11	Memo: "Dimensions of V. Oakley Triptych," 1979 May 11 [4 copies]
Folder 12	Oakley, Violet, "The Great Wonder," program, 1924 [4 copies]
Multiple Collections Box 2 (Oversize)	Oakley, Violet, "The Great Wonder," triptych print, undated [5 items]
Folder 13	Oakley, Violet, <i>The Holy Experiment</i> , ephemera, circa 1922 [5 items]
Folder 14	Oakley, Violet, "La Presence Divine a la Societe des Nations [Divine Presence at the League of Nations]," publication, 1937 [1 item]
Folder 15	Philadelphia Museum of Art, <i>Bulletin</i> , "Violet Oakley," 1979 Jun [photocopy]
Folder 16	Violet Oakley Memorial Foundation gift to Vassar College Art Gallery, inventory, 1982 [1 item]

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