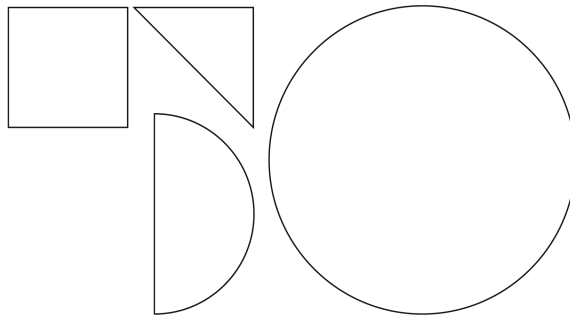


# THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM



## NEWS RELEASE

# GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM EXPANDS PUBLIC ACCESS TO ARCHIVES WITH SUPPORT OF FOUR RECENT GRANTS

(NEW YORK, NY – June 30, 2009) – The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Frank Lloyd Wright-designed building this year, has expanded the public and private access to its archival materials with the support of four recent grants totaling more than \$200,000. The grants have been awarded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the Documentary Heritage Program of the New York State Archives, the Hilla von Rebay Foundation, and the New York State Council on the Arts to preserve archives that document the Museum’s founding history and select areas of exhibition and educational programming.

### **National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)**

Most recently, on June 9, 2009, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) approved \$140,400 over two years for the purpose of arranging, describing, digitizing, and making more accessible five key archives collections that address the administrative and exhibition history of the first 50 years of the Museum, specifically, Hilla Rebay records (1939-1952), from the first director of the Museum of Non-Objective Painting, which became the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in 1952; James Johnson Sweeney records (1952-1960), from the second director of the Museum and first director to work in the completed Wright building at 1071 Fifth Avenue; Thomas M. Messer records (1961-1987), from the third Guggenheim Director; Exhibition records (1939-1987); and the Reel to Reel collection, a compilation of 675 audiotapes, dating from 1952-1990, which document lectures, symposia and radio shows produced at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. The Guggenheim is one of only six organizations nationwide in 2009 to receive an NHPRC grant specifically for the detailed processing of archives.

### **Documentary Heritage Program of the New York State Archives**

The Documentary Heritage Program of the New York State Archives, administered by the State Education Department, awarded a \$9,842 grant in 2008-2009 for a project archivist dedicated to the processing of the Learning Through Art records. *Learning Through Art* (LTA) is a 39 year-old program administered by the Guggenheim that places professional teaching artists into New York City public elementary schools, where they collaborate with classroom teachers to develop art projects that allow students to learn art skills and techniques and explore ideas and themes related to the school curriculum. The LTA records span the years 1970 to 2008, with most of the materials dating from 1990 to 2005, and it serves to document the creation and existence of LTA as a vital and pioneering arts education

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system both within New York as well as in LTA affiliate past programs expanded to national and international locations such as Italy, Mexico, and Spain. The collection catalogues the administration of in-school residencies developed with the Guggenheim, the annual LTA exhibitions at the museum, and LTA programs, which includes workshops and tours, publications, research, and audio-visual materials. Highlights from the LTA records, such as press releases, event invitations, and images of student artwork, can be accessed on the Guggenheim's website at [www.guggenheim.org/archives/A0015](http://www.guggenheim.org/archives/A0015). The arrangement and description of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum Archives' *Learning Through Art* records was made possible in part by a grant from the Documentary Heritage Program of the New York State Archives, a program of the State Education Department.

### **Hilla von Rebay Foundation**

In 2007, the Hilla von Rebay Foundation awarded the Guggenheim with a grant of up to \$50,000 to survey, describe, and selectively digitize the Hilla von Rebay Foundation Archive, which spans the years 1894–1997 and consists of 101 cubic feet of records created or collected by Hilla Rebay and/or the Hilla von Rebay Foundation. The collection reflects Rebay's work as an artist as well as her tenure as the first and only director of the Museum of Non-Objective Painting, which became the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in 1952. Highlights of the collection include both personal and professional correspondence, such as her correspondence with Frank Lloyd Wright; photographs of Rebay and her associates and friends, including Guggenheim's family; and Rebay's scrapbooks, illustrating exhibition histories. Select documents in the newly digitized collection, including exhibition photographs, Rebay's writings, and hand-written holiday cards, are available for the public to view at [www.guggenheim.org/archives/M0007](http://www.guggenheim.org/archives/M0007).

### **New York State Council on the Arts**

As the Guggenheim celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Frank Lloyd Wright-designed building this year, it is an opportune time to also acknowledge the New York State Council on the Arts for its 2007 grant of \$20,000 to support the digitization of the correspondence between Wright and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Board of Trustees. This correspondence spans the years 1943–1959 and documents the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation's relationship with Wright through the course of planning and construction of the new Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum building at 1071 Fifth Avenue. The digitized records were posted online in fall 2008 in anticipation of *Frank Lloyd Wright: From Within Outward*, the Guggenheim's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibition honoring the American architect, and consist of letters, telegrams, memoranda, and newspaper clippings. The collection can be viewed at [www.guggenheim.org/archives/A0006](http://www.guggenheim.org/archives/A0006).

### **About the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum Archives**

Formally established in 1973, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum Archives traces the development of Guggenheim's private collection as well as the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, and actively collects materials on the history of the museum in New York from its inception in 1939 as the Museum of Non-Objective Painting on East 54th Street to its present incarnation as the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum at 1071 Fifth Avenue. The Guggenheim Museum Archives provides access to all processed archives collections. Select records are available to the public through the Guggenheim's online Archives Collections, and established scholars and doctoral students may conduct preliminary research and find instructions on how to schedule an appointment to visit the archives at [www.guggenheim.org/archives](http://www.guggenheim.org/archives).

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## **The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Guggenheim Museum**

The archives digitization projects coincide with the yearlong celebration of art, architecture, and innovation planned to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Guggenheim's landmark building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Planned throughout the year are a wide array of new initiatives and exciting programs that reflect the Guggenheim's far-reaching mission, including major exhibitions and programs; free public events and citywide celebrations; a new, annual arts award; a live contemporary music series; Web initiatives; and new publications. The Guggenheim premieres *Art, Architecture, and Innovation: Celebrating the Guggenheim Museum*, a documentary film that weaves together archival and contemporary footage to tell the story of the building, collections, exhibitions, and the development of the Guggenheim's international network. Complete and up-to-date information on all of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary programs and activities is available at [www.guggenheim.org/50](http://www.guggenheim.org/50).

## **About the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation**

Founded in 1937, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation is dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of art, primarily of the modern and contemporary periods, through exhibitions, education programs, research initiatives, and publications. Currently the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation owns and operates the Guggenheim Museum on Fifth Avenue in New York and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection on the Grand Canal in Venice, and also provides programming and management for two other museums in Europe that bear its name: the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao and the Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin. In early 2013 the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, a 452,000-square-foot museum of modern and contemporary art designed by architect Frank Gehry, is scheduled to open.

## **VISITOR INFORMATION**

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Admission: Adults \$18, students/seniors (65+) \$15, members and children under 12 free.

Admission includes audio-guide tour.

Museum Hours: Sunday to Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. On Saturdays beginning at 5:45 p.m., the museum hosts Pay What You Wish. Closed Thursday.

#1121

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