Artists and Letters: Documenting the Arts

The lives and work of important American artists and arts communities are well documented in the Collection, especially at points of intersection between twentieth-century literature and the visual arts. The papers of painter and arts educator Robert Henri document the experiences of the Ashcan painters, artists whose work depicted American culture and life in the modern city; the Katherine Dreier papers record the history of her Société Anonyme and the artists she championed, particularly Marcel Duchamp and other European painters. Activities around Alfred Stieglitz’s important photography and art galleries, 291 and An American Place, and his influential publication Camera Work, as well as conversations and exchanges among artists and writers in the southwest are documented in the Alfred Stieglitz/Georgia O’Keeffe Archive. More recently, Saul Steinberg willed his papers to Yale, along with hundreds of drawings and sketchbooks; the archive includes a selection of colored pencils, his customary tools. Works by Picasso and Matisse; paintings by Marsden Hartley; photographs by Edward Steichen, James Van Der Zee, and Carl Van Vechten; caricatures by Miguel Covarrubias; sculpture by Augusta Savage and Isamu Noguchi; and prints by Romare Bearden suggest the range of artworks in the Collection.
