

## **Salon des Réalités Nouvelles Collection, 1939-1958**

Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections

By Jason Nargis

### **Collection Overview**

Title: Salon des Réalités Nouvelles Collection, 1939-1958

Creator: Salon des réalités nouvelles (1946-present)

Extent: 1.0 Boxes

Arrangement: The collection is arranged chronologically within four series.

Languages: French

### **Scope and Contents of the Materials**

This collection fills one half-size box and spans the years of 1939 to 1958. The collection contains autograph letters, administrative documents, manuscript material, and several photographs.

The Salon des Réalités Nouvelles was a Paris group that promoted geometric abstract art during the post-WWII period. The salon, or exhibiting society, was formed in 1946 and is seen as a continuation of "Abstraction-Création: art non figuratif," which was a loose ensemble of proponents of abstract art that formed in 1931 to offer an alternative to the figurative/representational tendencies of André Breton's Surrealists. The Salon took its name and original direction from a 1939 exhibition at the Galerie Charpentier, which took its name, "Réalités Nouvelles," from a 1912 quote of Apollinaire. The Salon held great influence in the art world until the late 1950s, when its clout began to wane, though it is still currently in existence.

The intent of the group was to forge a "new reality," divorced from any representational connection to the physical world. They promoted artists and ideas by organizing exhibitions and publishing corresponding catalogs, as well as through their annual cahier, "Réalités Nouvelles." Some styles/movements represented here include the Concrete artists, Constructivists, and Abstract Expressionists.

### **Historical Note**

The Salon des Réalités Nouvelles was a Paris group that promoted geometric abstract art during the Post-War period, officially forming in 1946. The Salon held great influence in the art world until the late 1950s, when its clout began to wane, though it is still currently in existence.

#### **Administrative Information**

Acquisition Source: Ars Libri Ltd.

Acquisition Method: Acquired from dealers by Russell Malone. Seems to have come from Ars Libri Ltd. Catalog 140.

Related Materials: The Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections has issues 1-10 (1947-1955) of the annual journal of the salon, "Réalités Nouvelles." Call number is L French Serial R288.

## **Box and Folder Listing**

[Series 1: Printed Material, 1939-1957],  
[Series 2: Manuscript Material, 1956-1957],  
[Series 3: Correspondence, 1957-1958],  
[Series 4: Photographs, n.d.],

### **Series 1: Printed Material, 1939-1957**

Box 1

Folder 1: Carte Permanente for "Réalités Nouvelles" Exhibit, 1939

Paris

June-July, 1939

Pages: 2

Folder 2: Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1952-1957

Folder includes:

8 meeting notices hand inscribed by Folmer; Regulations for the Salon of 1952; Announcements and list of participants for the Salon on 1956; form regarding changes to the publication of the "Album," from Fonténé to Gindertael.

Pages: 17

### **Series 2: Manuscript Material, 1956-1957**

Box 1

Folder 3: Manuscript Plan of exhibition layout, 1956 Salon?, 1956

Elaborate sketch of exhibit/salon design, including placement of over 100 artists' work.

Pages: 1

Folder 4: "Réalités Nouvelles diverses: art abstrait et art abstrait", 1957

Autograph manuscript of the introduction to the catalog of the 12ème Salon (1957), by the president of the group, Robert Fontené. 7pp

Pages: 7

### **Series 3: Correspondence, 1957-1958**

Box 1

Folder 5: Correspondence from Robert Fontené to Roger van Gindertael, 1957-1958

Folder contains:

10 letters, mostly undated.

Pages: 17

Folder 6: Correspondence from Lempereur-Haut and Georges Folmer to Roger van Gindertael, 1958

Folder contains:

One letter from Lempereur-Haut; n.d.; 1p

One letter from Georges Folmer; May, 1958; 1p

Lempereur-Haut was an artist and treasurer of the Salon. Georges Folmer was secretary general.

Pages: 2

**Series 4: Photographs, n.d.**

Box 1

Folder 7: 2 Photographs from "La Salle de Sculpture", n.d.

Full text on verso:

"La Salle de Sculpture des Réalités Nouvelles."