

**The New York Public Library - Stephen A. Schwarzman Building  
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

Guide to the

**Theresa Bernstein letters to the Futransky family**

1958-1991

MsCol 18374

Compiled by Lea Jordan, February 2011

## **Summary**

**Creator:** Bernstein, Theresa

**Title:** Theresa Bernstein letters to the Futransky family, 1958-1991

**Size:** .42 linear foot (1 box)

**Source:** Donated by Pauline Futransky, 2010

**Abstract:** Theresa Bernstein (1890-2002) was an artist and writer known for her cityscape paintings of New York City. The Theresa Bernstein letters to the Futransky family (1958-1991) consists of 59 letters from Theresa Bernstein to the family written during the years as well as exhibition materials and poetry composed by Bernstein.

**Access:** Advance notice required. Apply at <http://www.nypl.org/mssref>.

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**Preferred citation:** Theresa Bernstein letters to the Futransky family, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

## **Creator history**

Theresa Bernstein (1890-2002) was an artist and writer known for her cityscape paintings of New York City. Born in Philadelphia, she dropped out of high school to study at the Philadelphia School of Design for Women, and graduated in 1911 after having studied with Harriet Sartain, Elliott Daingerfield, Henry Snell and Daniel Garber. After graduation she moved to New York and had her first solo art show in 1919. Her works were widely exhibited with the National Academy of Design and the Society of Independent Artists, which she founded with John Sloan. Her early work was often criticized for being "masculine" for the time. Bernstein received a boost in popularity during the women's movement of the 1970s. In 1919 she married artist William Meyerowitz, and they collaborated on many art shows together. Though the couple did not have children, Bernstein supported the musical talents of her niece, songwriter Laura Nyro. In the 1980s she published two books, *William Meyerowitz, The Artist Speaks* and *The Poetic Canvas*. In addition, she published *Israeli Journal* in 1994, a collection of prose, poems, and art plates. Bernstein continued to work past the age of 100.

## Scope and content note

The letters include postcards, notes, and poems written by Bernstein to Pauline and Dan Futransky with whom she shared a close friendship. The letters contain personal sentiments such as birthday wishes and discussion about travel and the Futransky children, as well as discussion about her art and often the art of her husband. Many of the letters include poetry and catalogues or cards for Bernstein's exhibitions. There is also a separate folder containing invitations and catalogs for Bernstein and Myerowitz's exhibitions, as well as a folder of original poetry by Bernstein. Envelopes that have become separated from their letters are found at the end of the collection.

## Arrangement

Alphabetical.

## Key terms

### Subjects

Artists -- 20th century

Poetry

### Names

Bernstein, Theresa

### Special formats

Correspondence

Poems

### Places

New York (N.Y.)

## Container list

	Correspondence
b.1 f.1	1950s
b.1 f.2	1960s
b.1 f.3	1970s
b.1 f.4-6	1980s
b.1 f.7	1990s
b.1 f.8	Exhibition materials, 1970-1989
b.1 f.9	Poetry, undated
b.1 f.10	Envelopes