



The New York Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Eugene Berman works

circa 1940-1949

(S) *MGZMD-Res. 522

Processed by Stacey Ference in 2020.

Summary

Creator: Berman, Eugene, 1899-1972

Title: Eugene Berman works

Date: circa 1940-1949

Size: 1.13 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Donated by John Day in 2019.

Abstract: Eugene Berman was a Russian-American painter and set and costume designer for ballet and opera. This collection consists of design sketches and one statuette of his work.

Preferred citation: Eugene Berman works, (S) *MGZMD-Res. 522. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Stacey Ference in 2020.

Creator History

Eugene Berman (1899-1972) was a Russian-American painter and set and costume designer for ballet and opera. The brother of the painter Leonid Berman, Eugene Berman was born in St. Petersburg, educated in art at the Académie Ranson in Paris from 1920 to 1922, and immigrated to America in 1937, where he began his career in theater. Artistically he was noted for his Baroque and surrealist designs. He worked on hundreds of Metropolitan Opera productions, as well as performances for European opera companies. He married the American actress Ona Munson (903-1955) in 1950, retired in 1957, and died while living in Rome in 1972.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of four items: three illustrations and one statuette. One illustration is for a

theatrical production and the other two illustrations are possibly for a production of the opera *Fidelio*. The statuette is possibly a design for a ballet set.

Key Terms

Subjects

Ballet -- Stage-setting and scenery
Figurines
Opera -- Stage-setting and scenery
Set designers -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Pictures

Occupations

Set designers.

Names

Berman, Eugene, 1899-1972

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 **Nero Costume Design** 1943 (Water-based media and ink on paper, signed by Berman.
Dimensions are 12.25" x 9.5".)
Design for a theatrical production.
- b. 1 f. 2 **Angel Sketch** circa 1940s (Ink on paper. Dimensions are 9.5" x 11.5". Sketches on verso.)
This is possibly for Berman's work on *Fidelio*.
- b. 1 f. 3 **Untitled Illustration For Set Design** 1946 (Ink on paper, signed by Berman and dated 1946 . Dimensions are 18.5" x 12.5".)
This is possibly for Berman's work on *Fidelio*.
- b. 2 **Untitled Statuette** circa 1940s (Ink drawing on stone, depicting the face of God with the devil on verso. Dimensions are 7 1/4 x 2 1/2 x 2 1/4.)
Possibly designed for a ballet.