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# Pen To Paper: Artists' Handwritten Letters From The Smithsonian's Archives Of American Art



## Synopsis

Even in this age of emails, texts, and tweets, there is an ongoing fascination with the simple act of putting pen to paper. Associations such as the International Association of Master Penmen and the Society for Italic Handwriting keep the traditions of calligraphy and penmanship alive, hand-writing typefaces continue to sell, and hand-drawn display type and packaging of all sorts enjoy a renaissance. *Pen to Paper*, a collection of letters by artists from the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art, reveals how letter writing can be an artistic act, just as an artist puts pen to paper to craft a line in a drawing. Brief essays explore what can be learned from the handwriting of celebrated artists such as Mary Cassatt, Frederic Church, Howard Finster, Winslow Homer, Ray Johnson, Rockwell Kent, Georgia O'Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg, Maxfield Parrish, Eero Saarinen, Saul Steinberg, and many others. Each letter is accompanied by an archival image of the artist or a related artwork, with a full transcription. *Pen to Paper* provides a fresh way to think about artists and their creative work and is sure to inspire your next handwritten note or letter.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a pricey book-I'd get it from the library. It's neat to see the handwriting of the artists and also how some doodled in their letters, some sent mail art, some drew cartoons, some were unreadable, some wrote with great flourish and they do include transcriptions in the back.

Very interesting and well put together. A perfect gift!

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