

# Austin Osman Spare:

## A Preliminary Inventory of His Art Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

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### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Spare, Austin Osman, 1886-1956
<b>Title:</b>	Austin Osman Spare Art Collection
<b>Dates:</b>	circa 1909-1955
<b>Extent:</b>	32 items (30 drawings, one painting, one handwritten letter signed)
<b>Abstract:</b>	Thirty artworks and one handwritten letter signed by the British artist Austin Osman Spare, and one portrait of Spare by W. W. (William Watson) Peploe. Included are sketches, drawings and one painting dating from circa 1909 to 1955. Subjects include portraits and self-portraits and both “automatic” and figure drawings.
<b>Call Number:</b>	Art Collection AR-00260
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Access:</b>	Open for research. Please note that a minimum of 24 hours notice is required to pull art materials to the Ransom Center's Reading and Viewing Room. Some materials may be restricted from viewing. To make an appointment or to reserve art materials, please contact the Center's staff at <a href="mailto:art@hrc.utexas.edu">art@hrc.utexas.edu</a>

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### Administrative Information

<b>Acquisition:</b>	Purchases, 1964-1980
<b>Processed by:</b>	Chelsea Weathers, 2013
<b>Repository:</b>	<a href="#">Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin</a>

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of 30 drawings, one painting, and one handwritten letter signed by or related to Austin Osman Spare (British, 1888-1956). All artworks are by Spare except for one portrait of Spare by W. W. (William Watson) Peploe (British, 1869-1933). Included are Spare's portraits of Richard Church, Henry Miller, and Igor Stravinsky, as well as three self-portraits. Among the drawings are a number of "automatic" drawings, as well as illustrations for Spare's *The Book of Pleasure (Self-Love): The Psychology of Ecstasy* (1913). Dated works are arranged chronologically; undated works are listed by accession number. When possible, titles were transcribed from the items and appear in single quotes; all other information supplied by the cataloger.

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## Related Material

The Harry Ransom Center has other works by and related to Spare.

The Frederick Carter Art Collection (AR-00039) contains articles by Spare on "The Grotesque" and "Automatic Drawing," which were published in *Form: A Quarterly of the Arts*, a periodical of which Spare was an editor.

The Vernon Hill Art Collection (AR-00363) contains a drawn portrait of Spare by Hill (79.330).

Spare correspondence is located in the following Ransom Center Manuscripts holdings: the Clifford Bax Collection (MS-00271), the Oswald Blakeston Papers (MS-00405), the Alistair Crowley Collection (MS-01002), the John Lane Company Records (MS-02195), and the W. B. Yeats Collection (MS-04619).

Additional Spare materials are also held in the Center's in the Richard Church Literary File Photography Collection (PH-02725) and in the Center's Library.

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**Austin Osman Spare Art Collection**

- Accession Number: 79.328** 'Austin O. Spare' or 'The Contemplation of the White Lily,' full-length portrait by W. W. (William Watson) Peploe (Scottish, 1869-1933), May 1909. Ink on paper board, 19 x 13.2 cm. **Location** 1.15
- Accession Number: 65.457.3** Self-portrait, head only, 1911. Pencil, colored pencil and ink on paper, 38 x 28 cm. **Location** 1.4
- Accession Number: 65.457.9** Handwritten letter signed to H. Stead concerning automatic drawings, 3 July 1931. Page, 22.9 x 17.8 cm. **Location** 1.10
- Accession Number: 73.443.1-16** 'Design for Satyros Omnia,' 1945. Pencil and colored pencil on 16 pages of sketchbook, 17.8 x 25.5 cm. **Location** 1.3
- Accession Number: 65.457.4** Self-portrait, head surrounded by faces and automatic drawings, 1951. Pencil on paper, 38.7 x 31.9 cm. **Location** 1.7
- Accession Number: 65.137** 'Henry Miller,' 1953. Pastel on paper, 46.3 x 31.5 cm. **Location** 1.1
- Accession Number: 68.60** 'Richard Church,' 1953. Pastel on paper, 40.5 x 31 cm. **Location** 1.2
- Accession Number: 65.457.5** Self-portrait, face only, 1953. Black, white, and gray chalk, and black crayon on paper, 41.6 x 33 cm. **Location** 1.8
- Accession Number: 67.32** 'Igor F. Stravinsky,' circa 1955. Tempera and colored chalk on wood panel, 68 x 44.5 cm. **Location** Painting storage
- Accession Number: 65.457.1** Reclining nude, first half of 20th century. Pencil on paper, mounted to board, 29.5 x 41.4 cm. **Location** 1.5
- Accession Number: 65.457.2** Satyr, first half of 20th century. Pencil drawing, 37.5 x 23.8 cm. **Location** 1.6
- Accession Number: 65.457.6** One face and various designs on a single sheet for *The Book of Pleasure (Self-Love): The Psychology of Ecstasy* or *Form* magazine, first half of 20th century. Ink drawing, 18.6 x 9.3 cm. **Location** 1.9
- Accession Number: 65.457.7** One automatic drawing and various designs on a single sheet for *The Book of Pleasure (Self-Love): The Psychology of Ecstasy* or *Form* magazine, first half of 20th century. Ink drawing, 15.1 x 15 cm. **Location** 1.11
- Accession Number: 65.457.8** One automatic drawing and various designs on a single sheet for *The Book of Pleasure (Self-Love): The Psychology of Ecstasy* or *Form* magazine, first half of 20th century. Ink drawing, 13.9 x 15.2 cm.

**Accession Number: 80.37.1** Automatic drawing, first half of 20th century. Pencil and **Location**  
crayon drawing, 25.5 x 19.2 cm. 1.12

**Accession Number: 80.37.2** Automatic drawing, first half of 20th century. Pencil and **Location**  
crayon drawing, 25.5 x 19.3 cm. 1.13

**Accession Number: 80.37.3** Automatic drawing, first half of 20th century. Pencil and **Location**  
crayon drawing, 25.5 x 19.2 cm. 1.14