



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Laura Andreson Papers, 1932-1991, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Laura Andreson papers
Date:	1932-1991
Identifier:	AAA.andrlaur
Creator:	Andreson, Laura
Extent:	1.9 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English.
Summary:	The papers of ceramicist and educator Laura Andreson measure 1.9 linear feet and date from 1932 to 1991. The collection is comprised of correspondence, professional files, gallery records, writings and notes, artwork, and photographic materials that document her pioneering work in ceramics.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated by Laura Andreson and her companion Pauline Blank in 1991 and 1996.

Location of Originals

Originals of scrapbook photocopies found in the collection remain in the possession of Andreson's nephew.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an interview of Laura Andreson conducted May 20, 1981 by Ruth Bowman, for the Archives of American Art.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Laura Andreson Papers, 1932-1991. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center.

Biographical / Historical

Laura Andreson (1902-1999) was a ceramicist and educator in Los Angeles, California. She received a bachelor's degree in education at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1932 and a master's degree in painting from Columbia University in 1937. She began her career in ceramics studying under the influential ceramicist Glen Lukens. In 1933 she founded the ceramics department at UCLA where she taught from 1933 to 1970.

Andreson was a pioneer in ceramics, experimenting and developing glaze and clay techniques during a time when equipment was limited and only a few books were available on ceramics. Her work has been widely exhibited, primarily after her retirement from UCLA in 1970. Andreson died in Los Angeles, C.A. in 1999.

Scope and Contents

The papers of ceramicist and educator Laura Andreson measure 1.9 linear feet and date from 1932 to 1991. The collection is comprised of correspondence, professional files, gallery records, writings and notes, artwork, and photographic materials that document her pioneering work in ceramics.

Correspondence is with clients, colleagues, artists Vivika and Otto Heino, Gail Natzler, Harding Black, Albert Henry King, Beatrice Wood, Imogen Cunningham, Sam Maloof, and others.

Professional files include curriculum vitae, employment records, a portfolio, publicity files, material from UCLA, and scrapbook. Gallery records document Andreson's personal business with galleries and museums. Andreson's writings consist of artist's statements, notes on ceramic history, nine glaze formula notebooks, and a sabbatical report.

Artwork includes sketches of pottery and case diagrams for an unidentified exhibition. Photographic materials consist of photographs and negatives of Andreson, family and colleagues, exhibitions, and works of art by Andreson's students.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as six series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1935-1988 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)
 - Series 2: Professional Files, 1932-1989 (Box 1, OV 4; 0.7 linear feet)
 - Series 3: Gallery Records, 1940-1991 (Box 1-2; 0.4 linear feet)
 - Series 4: Writings and Notes, circa 1940-1986 (Box 2-3; 0.2 linear feet)
 - Series 5: Artwork, circa 1960-1970s (Box 3; 0.2 linear feet)
 - Series 6: Photographic Materials, circa 1940-1986 (Box 3; 0.2 linear feet)
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Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Art -- Study and teaching
Decorative arts
Women artists
Women ceramicists

Women educators

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sketches

Names:

Black, Harding, 1912-
Cunningham, Imogen, 1883-1976
Heino, Otto, 1915-2009
Heino, Vivika, 1910-1995
King, Albert Henry, 1900-1982
Maloof, Sam
Natzler, Gail
University of California, Los Angeles
Wood, Beatrice

Occupations:

Ceramicists -- California -- Los Angeles
Educators -- California -- Los Angeles

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1935-1988

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is with artists Vivika and Otto Heino, Gail Natzler, Harding Black, Albert Henry King, Beatrice Wood, Imogen Cunningham, and Sam Maloof. Professional correspondence is with clients and colleagues regarding exhibitions, talks, letters of recognition, and letters and photographs relating to the art collection developed by Joan Mondale at the vice president's house.

Box 1, Folder 1 Personal, circa 1976-1987

Box 1, Folder 2 Professional, General, 1974-1988

Box 1, Folder 3 Professional, Exhibitions and Talks, 1979-1986

Box 1, Folder 4-5 Professional, Letters of Recognition, 1935-1978

Box 1, Folder 6 Professional, Walter and Joan Mondale, 1980-1983
Notes: Includes lists of the art collection at the vice president's house and two signed photographs of the Mondales including one with Andreson.

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Series 2: Professional Files, 1932-1989

0.7 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 4)

Scope and Contents: Professional files include curriculum vitae, teaching employment records, publicity files of mostly mixed printed material, material from UCLA, and a scrapbook of photocopied certificates, exhibition announcements, an essay by Pauline Blank, and clippings about Andreson and her artwork. Also found is a photocopied portfolio with tabbed sections for a curriculum vitae, photographs of pots accompanied by Andreson's notes, a section for glazes created to replace a glaze notebook that Andreson once thought was stolen from her studio but may have been found later, printed materials, and one set of notecards with handwritten glaze formulas.

Box 1, Folder 7	Curriculum Vitae, 1937-circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 8	Curriculum Vitae, Letters Regarding Public and University Service-Lectures, 1937-circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 9	Curriculum Vitae, Letters Regarding Exhibitions and Juries, 1937-circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 10	Curriculum Vitae, circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 11	Employment Records, 1932-1968 Notes: Includes two booklets for Teachers College Columbia University New York.
Box 1, Folder 12	Portfolio, circa 1987 Notes: Portfolio is photocopy of material from circa 1949.
Box 1, Folder 13-19	Publicity, 1938-1989 Notes: Includes some correspondence and lists of artwork.
Box 1, Folder 20	University of California Los Angeles, Exhibitions, 1981-1988
Box 1, Folder 21	University of California Los Angeles, Southern California Designer Craftsmen, 1977-1986
Oversize OV 4	Scrapbook, circa 1984

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Series 3: Gallery Records, 1940-1991

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Gallery records document Andreson's business with galleries and museums. Included are correspondence, invoices, loan documents, and other business records. The files for the Contemporary Craft Council includes exhibition catalogs and meeting minutes. The Mingei International file contains writings about Andreson along with printed material and business records.

Box 1, Folder 22	American Ceramic Society, 1976-1987
Box 1, Folder 23	American Crafts Council, Academy of Fellows, 1976-1985
Box 1, Folder 24	American Craft Museum, 1979-1987
Box 1, Folder 25	Chase Fine Arts Gallery/Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Utah State University, 1982
Box 1, Folder 26	Clay and Fiber, circa 1974-1989
Box 1, Folder 27	Contemporary Craft Council, Folk Art Museum, circa 1979-1987
Box 1, Folder 28	Crocker Art Museum, 1984-1985
Box 1, Folder 29	Elaine Potter Gallery, 1984
Box 1, Folder 30	Four Oaks Gallery, 1974-1978
Box 2, Folder 1	Gallery "8", University of California San Diego, 1976-1986
Box 2, Folder 2	The Hand and the Spirit Craft Gallery, 1976-1988
Box 2, Folder 3	Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1940-1991
Box 2, Folder 4	Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, 1982-1984
Box 2, Folder 5	Mandell Gallery, 1979-1981
Box 2, Folder 6	Marcia Rodell Gallery, 1981-1983
Box 2, Folder 7	Mingei International, Museum of World Folk Art, circa 1981-1984
Box 2, Folder 8	The Octagon Center for the Arts, 1982-1984
Box 2, Folder 9	Pikcard Art Galleries, Inc., 1975-1982
Box 2, Folder 10	Renwick Gallery, 1980-1983

Box 2, Folder 11

Running Ridge Gallery, 1981-1986

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Series 4: Writings and Notes, circa 1940-1986

0.2 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Andreson's writings consist of artist's statements, notes on ceramic history and glaze formulas, and a sabbatical report that details her travels to Europe, East and North Africa, and Asia to study ceramics in 1966 and 1967. Nine notebooks contain glaze formulas and clay recipes that are often identified by the names of other ceramicists such as Adriane Saxe, Vivka Heino, Bernard Leach, Daniel Rhodes, Antonio Prieto, and others.

Box 2, Folder 12	Artist's Statements, circa 1985
Box 2, Folder 13	Notes, Ceramic History, 1961-1986 Notes: Includes printed material and a photograph of Andreson by Jim Hair.
Box 2, Folder 14	Notes, Glaze Formula Notebooks, circa 1940-1970s Notes: 2 notebooks
Box 2, Folder 15	Notes, Glaze Formula Notebooks, circa 1940-1970s
Box 3, Folder 1	Notes, Glaze Formula Notebooks 4-6, circa 1940-1970s Notes: 3 notebooks. Includes experiment notes.
Box 3, Folder 2	Notes, Glaze Formula Notebook 7, circa 1940-1979
Box 3, Folder 3	Notes, Glaze Formula Notebooks 8-9, circa 1940-1970s Notes: 2 books
Box 3, Folder 4	Notes, Glaze Formula Notebook Duplicates, circa 1990 Notes: Photocopies are duplicates of portions of the glaze notebooks and are signed by Andreson.
Box 3, Folder 5	Notes, Glazes, 1979-1982 Notes: Includes a photocopy of "Copper Reds" article by Andreson, correspondence, and a research proposal on salt glazes.
Box 3, Folder 6	Sabbatical Report, 1967 Notes: Includes a copy of "Pottery as a Creative Craft" by Marguerite Wildenhain.

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Series 5: Artwork, circa 1960-1970s

0.2 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes sketches of pottery and case diagrams for an unidentified exhibition.

Box 3, Folder 7	Sketches, Pottery, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 8	Sketches, Exhibition Case Diagrams, circa 1960-1970s

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Series 6: Photographic Materials, circa 1940-1986

0.2 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Photographic materials consist of photographs and negatives of Andreson, a set photographs of Andreson in her studio labeled "ceramic processes of the 1940s," photographs of family and colleagues, exhibitions, and works of art by Andreson's students.

Box 3, Folder 9	Andreson, circa 1940-1986
Box 3, Folder 10	Andreson, Studio - Ceramic Process, 1940s
Box 3, Folder 11	Family, 1978
Box 3, Folder 12	Colleagues, circa 1950-1970s Notes: Includes photographs of Shoji Hamada, Bernard Leach, Yanagi, Lloyd Ruocco, Margaret Lecky, and Imogen Cunningham.
Box 3, Folder 13	Exhibitions, circa 1979 Notes: Includes exhibitions at UCLA, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Mingei International Museum.
Box 3, Folder 14	Works of Art, By Students, circa 1950

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