



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Area Gallery Records, 1958-1977, bulk 1959-1964, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Area Gallery records
<b>Date:</b>	1958-1977 (bulk 1959-1964)
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.areagall
<b>Creator:</b>	Area Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
<b>Extent:</b>	1.1 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	Collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The records of the Area Gallery measure 1.1 linear feet and date from 1958-1977 (bulk dates 1959-1964). Area Gallery was one of the Tenth Street Co-ops in New York City, and operated from 1958-1965. Materials in this collection include artist bios, price lists, black and white photos of artwork; financial records with annotations; member lists, exhibition lists, and daily notes; gallery sign-in sheets; correspondence, including letters to and from the gallery and regarding rent issues; and an extensive scrapbook containing exhibition posters, photos of artwork, announcements, exhibition reviews, and clippings.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The records were donated in 1978 by Ruth Becker Fortel, Treasurer of Area Gallery.

### Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is a collection relating to the Tenth Street Galleries and collection donor, Ruth Fortel. See: Joellen Bard's, Ruth Fortel's, and Helen Thomas' exhibition records of "Tenth Street Days: the Co-ops of the 50s," 1953-1977.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Anna Rimel in 2014. The Archives of American Art has implemented minimal processing tactics when possible in order to increase information about and access to more of our collections. Minimal processing included arrangement to the series, subseries, and folder levels. Generally, items within folders were simply verified with folder titles, but not arranged further. Folders with boxes may not be numbered. The collection was rehoused in archival containers and folders, but not all staples and clips were removed.

### Preferred Citation

Area Gallery records, 1958-1977, bulk 1959-1964. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

## Terms of Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Area Gallery was one of the Tenth Street Co-ops in New York City, and operated from 1958-1965. From fall 1958 to summer 1962, the gallery was located at 80 East 10th Street, and then moved to 90 East 10th Street until the summer of 1965. Area Gallery's original members were: Tom Boutis, John Ireland Collins, Charles DuBack, Joe Fiore, Bernard Langlais, Ed Moses, Daphne Mumford, and Paul Yakovenko.

New York's Tenth Street Galleries were a cooperative of artist-run galleries that began opening in the early 1950s, located between 3rd and 4th Avenues, where spaces for living and studios were relatively inexpensive. It was the center for anything new and avant-garde in downtown Manhattan at this time. Galleries operated on very low budgets, artists were often members of more than one gallery, and they provided an alternative to the highly selective Madison Avenue and 57th Street galleries. The top galleries of the 10th Street Co-ops were the Tanager, Hansa, James, Camino, March, Phoenix, Brata, and Area Gallery.

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## Scope and Contents

The records of the Area Gallery measure 1.1 linear feet and date from 1958-1977 (bulk dates 1959-1964). Area Gallery was one of the Tenth Street Co-ops in New York City, and operated from 1958-1965. Materials in this collection include artist bios, price lists, black and white photos of artwork; financial records with annotations; member lists, exhibition lists, and daily notes; gallery sign-in sheets; correspondence, including letters to and from the gallery and regarding rent issues; and an extensive scrapbook containing exhibition posters, photos of artwork, announcements, exhibition reviews, and clippings.

Administrative records contain member lists, daily operational notes and messages, artwork loan contracts to museums, some mail received by the gallery, and all sign-in sheets for the gallery from 1962-1965. It is noted that all sign-in sheets prior to April 1962 have been lost.

Correspondence is primarily to and from the Treasurer of Area Gallery, and also contains requests for hire and exhibitions, member resignations, payments made and received. Additionally, rent correspondence contains letters regarding late or overdue payments.

The artist files and scrapbook contain black and white photographs of artwork, artist bios, price lists, and some exhibition announcements, and represent a small fraction of the number of artists who showed at Area Gallery. The scrapbook also contains exhibition review clippings and exhibition posters.

The financial records include cancelled checks, many of which have been annotated, deposit slips and bank statements, also annotated. Receipts for bills, supplies, artist payments, and dues are also included, as well as two bookkeeping ledgers.

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 5 series.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Administrative Records, 1958-1977 (8 folders; Box 1)
  - Series 2: Correspondence, 1958-1965 (3 folders; Box 1)
  - Series 3: Artist Files, 1959-1964 (15 folders; Box 1)
  - Series 4: Financial Records, 1958-1965 (0.4 linear feet; Box 1-2)
  - Series 5: Scrapbook, 1959-1966 (0.3 linear feet; Box 3)
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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Photographs  
Scrapbooks

Functions:

Artist-run galleries -- New York (State)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Administrative Records, 1958-1977

#### 8 Folders (Box 1)

Language: English.

Arrangement: Folders are arranged as found upon donation, many items were already arranged chronologically within folders.

Scope and Contents: Administrative records document the daily functions of the Area Gallery. Included are vital statistics, which contain member lists, exhibition lists, and artist biographies, and also price lists for exhibitions. Additionally there are daily notes, communicating messages from artists and studio occupants as well as operational issues and an annotated calendar/day planner. Also found are artwork loan contracts and various mail solicitings. The sign-in sheets from April 1962 until 1965 provide signed listings of who visited the gallery daily and for exhibitions. Of note, artist Marcel Duchamp has signed-in for the Gordon Press Show in 1962. In 1963, Italian architect Mario Bellini makes an appearance, as well as Ad Reinhardt and Mark Rothko in 1964.

The gallery also notes that all sign-in sheets prior to April 1962 have been lost.

Box 1, Folder 1	Vital Statistics - Member Lists, Exhibition Lists, Artist Bios, 1958-1977
Box 1, Folder 2	Price Lists - Shows, 1962-1965
Box 1, Folder 3	Daily Notes - Messages Taken, Operational Notes, 1962-1964
Box 1, Folder 4	Calendar/Day Planner - Annotated, 1961
Box 1, Folder 5	Artwork Loan Contracts, 1959-1961
Box 1, Folder 6	Mail - Solicitings, 1963-1964
Box 1, Folder 7	Sign-in Sheets, 1962-1963
Box 1, Folder 8	Sign-in Sheets, 1963-1965

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1958-1965

### 3 Folders (Box 1)

Language: English.

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is varied and includes handwritten and typewritten letters to and from the gallery. The subject of correspondence ranges from artists requesting exhibitions to requests for payment of membership dues to letters inquiring about gallery members. Additionally, a separate folder contains correspondence solely pertaining to the gallery's rent costs.

Box 1, Folder 9	Miscellaneous, 1959-1963 Language: English.
Box 1, Folder 10	Miscellaneous, 1964-1965 Language: English.
Box 1, Folder 11	Rent, 1958-1965 Language: English.

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## Series 3: Artist Files, 1959-1964

### 15 Folders (Box 1)

Language: English.

Arrangement: Folders are arranged alphabetically by artist's last name.

Scope and Contents: Artist files contain black and white photographs of artwork, price lists, and artist bios. Researchers should note that the folder for Ellen Leelike also contains 1 black and white photograph of Harvey Becker's artwork, and the folder for Philip Russell contains 1 black and white photograph of Antonio Rubino's artwork. Also of note, this series contains one unidentified charcoal sketch.

Box 1, Folder 12	Boutis, Tom, 1959-1960
Box 1, Folder 13	Brown, Lydia, circa 1959
Box 1, Folder 14	Cohen, Arthur, 1962-1964
Box 1, Folder 15	Collings, John Ireland, circa 1959
Box 1, Folder 16	DuBack, Charles, circa 1961
Box 1, Folder 17	Fortel, Ruth Becker, 1960-1963
Box 1, Folder 18	Leelike, Ellen, 1963-1964
Box 1, Folder 19	Mason, Emily, 1960-1962
Box 1, Folder 20	Matthews, Doris, circa 1962
Box 1, Folder 21	Mumford, Daphne G. , circa 1959
Box 1, Folder 22	<a href="#">Russell, Philip, 1961-1963</a>
Box 1, Folder 23	Valenti, Nadine, circa 1962
Box 1, Folder 24	Windust, Marjorie, 1962-1964
Box 1, Folder 25	Yakovenko, Paul, circa 1959
Box 1, Folder 26	Unidentified Charcoal Sketch, circa 1959

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## Series 4: Financial Records, 1958-1965

### 0.4 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

**Arrangement:** Folders are arranged as found upon donation, and chronologically arranged by the donor.

**Scope and Contents:** Financial records document the monetary activities of the gallery's operations. Found here are bank account statements, bookkeeping ledgers, deposit slips, cancelled checks, receipts, and financial statistics and projections. Most of these contain annotations and notes as to the function of the receipt, check, deposit slip, and provide a more complete look at the operational activities and financial viability of the gallery.

Box 1, Folder 27	Bookkeeping - Ledger, 1958-1964
Box 2, Folder 1	Bookkeeping - Ledger, 1958-1965
Box 2, Folder 2	Bookkeeping - Financial Statistics & Projections, Posted Sublet Ad Clippings, Miscellaneous Notes, 1959-1964
Box 2, Folder 3-4	Bank Statements, 1959-1964
Box 2, Folder 5	Cancelled Checks - To New York Telephone Co., To Con Edison, 1959-1964
Box 2, Folder 6	Cancelled Checks - Rent, 1959-1965
Box 2, Folder 7	Cancelled Checks - Printing & Stamps, Miscellaneous, 1959-1964
Box 2, Folder 8	Cancelled Checks - To Artists, 1959-1963
Box 2, Folder 9	Cancelled Checks - To Artists, 1960-1964
Box 2, Folder 10-11	Deposit Slips - Dues, etc. , 1959-1964
Box 2, Folder 12	Receipts - Advertising, Coal, Electric, 1958-1964
Box 2, Folder 13	Receipts - Founders' Receipts, 1958-circa 1963
Box 2, Folder 14	Receipts - Gallery Equipment & Repairs, 1958-1964
Box 2, Folder 15	Receipts - Printing, Telephone, Wine , 1958-1963

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## Series 5: Scrapbook, 1959-1966

### *0.3 Linear feet (Box 3)*

Language: English.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged chronologically with pages of the scrapbook free from their original binding.

Scope and Contents: The scrapbook contains a variety of materials concerning Area Gallery, including exhibition posters and announcements, newspaper clippings of exhibition reviews, black and white photographs of artists and artwork, and some annotations.

Box 3                      Scrapbook, 1959-1966  
                                    Language:     English.

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