



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Robert Arneson Papers, circa 1963-1977, 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>	Robert Arneson papers
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1963-1977
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.arnerobe
<b>Creator:</b>	Arneson, Robert, 1930-1992
<b>Extent:</b>	0.2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of California ceramicist, sculptor, and educator Robert Arneson measure 0.2 linear feet and date from circa 1963 to 1977. The collection provides scattered documentation of Arneson's career through through records including an artist statement, a bibliography of published material about Arneson, printed material, and correspondence with art collector Rene di Rosa and various galleries, museums, and art publications.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Robert Arneson papers were donated in 1977 by Robert Arneson.

### Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Robert Arneson conducted on August 14-15, 1981 by Mady Jones for the Archives of American Art.

### Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reel 1711 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2022.

### Preferred Citation

Robert Arneson papers, circa 1963-1977. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

California ceramicist, sculptor, and educator Robert Arneson (1930-1992) was known for introducing ceramics into the Funk art movement that began in California in the 1960s.

Arneson was born in Benicia, California where he worked as a cartoonist for the *Benicia Herald*. He received a B.A. from the California College of the Arts in 1954 and a M.F.A. from Mills College in 1958. In the 1980s he earned honorary doctorate degrees from the Rhode Island School of Design and San Francisco Art Institute.

Arneson was a faculty member at the University of California in Davis from 1962 to 1991, where he established the ceramic sculpture program and helping bring ceramics into the realm of fine art.

Arneson died in 1992 in Benicia.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of California ceramicist, sculptor, and educator Robert Arneson measure 0.2 linear feet and date from circa 1963 to 1977. The collection provides scattered documentation of Arneson's career through an artist statement, a bibliography of published material about Arneson, clippings, announcements and catalogs for Arneson's exhibitions, a press release regarding an Arneson exhibition at the San Francisco Museum of Art, and other miscellaneous printed materials. Also found in the collection is correspondence with art collector Rene di Rosa, and various galleries, museums, and art publications, and letters regarding an NEA grant.

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## Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

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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:

Ceramics  
Funk

Names:

Di Rosa, Rene  
San Francisco Museum of Art

Occupations:

Ceramicists -- California  
Educators -- California  
Sculptors -- California

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Robert Arneson Papers, circa 1963-1977

#### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The series documents Arneson's career through an artist statement, a bibliography of published material about Arneson, and printed material including clippings, announcements and catalogs for Arneson's exhibitions, a press release regarding an Arneson exhibition at the San Francisco Museum of Art, and a few miscellaneous items. Correspondence found here is with art collector Rene di Rosa, and with various galleries, museums, and art publications, and includes letters regarding an NEA grant.

Box 1, Folder 1	Artist Statement, 1970
Box 1, Folder 2	Bibliography, circa 1975
Box 1, Folder 3	Clippings, circa 1963-1977
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, circa 1968-1977
Box 1, Folder 5	Exhibition Announcements, 1970-1976
Box 1, Folder 6	Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1972-1977
Box 1, Folder 7	Loan Receipts, 1974
Box 1, Folder 8	Miscellaneous Printed Materials, circa 1972
Box 1, Folder 9	Press Release, circa 1974

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