



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the R. Kirk Askew papers, 1942-1958, in the Archives of American Art

Caroline Donadio

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Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	R. Kirk Askew papers
<b>Date:</b>	1942-1958
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.asker
<b>Creator:</b>	Askew, R. Kirk (Ralph Kirk), 1903-1974
<b>Extent:</b>	0.6 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of art dealer R. Kirk Askew, director of the New York branch of the Durlacher Bros. art firm, measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1942 to 1958. The collection includes correspondence with artists Cady Wells, Walter Stuempfig, Walter Quirt, Edward Melcarth, Kurt Seligmann, Leonid Berman, Hyman Bloom, Peter Blume, Carlyle Brown, James W. Fosburgh, Stephen Greene, and Walter Stein.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1969-1971 by R. Kirk Askew.

### Separated Materials

Exhibition catalogs, 1928-1967, also donated by R. Kirk Askew, were transferred to Smithsonian Institution Libraries in 1975. Catalogs are available on microfilm reel 148 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Available Formats

The collection is available on 35 mm microfilm reels N69-107, N69-108 and 148 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

### Processing Information

The collection was refoldered by Katy Donahue and a finding aid was prepared by Caroline Donadio in 2018.

### Preferred Citation

R. Kirk Askew papers, 1942-1958. 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. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

R. Kirk Askew (1903-1974) was an art dealer and manager of the Durlacher Bros. New York location from 1927 to circa 1969.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of art dealer R. Kirk Askew, director of the New York branch of the Durlacher Bros. art firm, measure 0.6 linear feet and date from 1942 to 1958. The collection includes correspondence with artists Cady Wells, Walter Stuempfig, Walter Quirt, Edward Melcarth, Kurt Seligmann, Leonid Berman, Hyman Bloom, Peter Blume, Carlyle Brown, James W. Fosburgh, Stephen Greene, and Walter Stein.

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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:

Names:

Berman, Leonid, 1896-1976  
Bloom, Hyman, 1913-  
Blume, Peter, 1906-1992  
Brown, Carlyle, 1919-1964  
Durlacher Bros. (New York, N.Y.)  
Fosburgh, James Whitney, 1910-1978  
Greene, Stephen, 1918-1999  
Melcarth, Edward, 1914-1973  
Quirt, Walter, 1902-  
Seligmann, Kurt, 1900-1962  
Stein, Walter, 1924-1981  
Stuempfig, Walter, 1914-1970  
Wells, Cady, 1904-1954

Occupations:

Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Gallery directors -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: R. Kirk Askew Papers, 1928-1967

Scope and Contents: The papers of art dealer R. Kirk Askew, director of the New York branch of the Durlacher Bros. art firm, includes correspondence with artists Cady Wells, Walter Stuempfig, Walter Quirt, Edward Melcarth, Kurt Seligmann, Leonid Berman, Hyman Bloom, Peter Blume, Carlyle Brown, James W. Fosburgh, Stephen Greene, and Walter Stein.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence with Leonid Berman, 1947 May 12-1948 September 2
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence with Hyman Bloom, 1945 January 9-1949 April 1
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence with Hyman Bloom, 1951 November 26-1958 December 15
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence with Peter Blume, 1946 March 2-1949 October 8
Box 1, Folder 5	<a href="#">Correspondence with Peter Blume, 1950 June 15-1958 December 29</a>
Box 1, Folder 6	<a href="#">Correspondence with Carlyle Brown, 1947 July 31-1947 September 8</a>
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence with James W Fosburgh, 1950 April 7-1958 July 15
Box 1, Folder 8	<a href="#">Correspondence with Stephen Greene, 1945 March 31-1954 December 17</a>
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence with Edward Melcarth, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 10	<a href="#">Correspondence with Edward Melcarth, 1947 June 29- 1958 September 11</a>
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence with Walter Quirt, 1944 May 24-1947 February 26
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence with Kurt Seligmann, 1943
Box 1, Folder 13	<a href="#">Correspondence with Kurt Seligmann, 1946 October 1-1949 September 19</a>
Box 2, Folder 1	Correspondence with Walter Stein, 1948 June 10-1952 December 29
Box 2, Folder 2	Correspondence with Walter Stein with 1959 exhibition catalog, 1950 January 6-1957 July 17
Box 2, Folder 3	Correspondence with Walter Stuempfig, 1943-1945
Box 2, Folder 4	Walter Stuempfig catalog, priced, 1949-1952
Box 2, Folder 5	Correspondence with Cady Wells, 1943-1945

Box 2, Folder 6

Correspondence with Cady Wells, 1946 May 24-1949 November1

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