



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Thomas Barrett and Leni Mancuso papers relating to William Kienbusch, 1950-1979, 2002, in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Thomas Barrett and Leni Mancuso papers relating to William Kienbusch
Identifier:	AAA.barrwill
Date:	1950-1979, 2002
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Creator:	Barrett, Thomas R., 1927-
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Thomas Barrett and Leni Mancuso papers relating to William Kienbusch measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1950 to 1979 and 2002. The 113 letters and postcards from William Kienbusch to Barrett and Mancuso document their long friendship and describe in great detail Kienbusch's life as an artist in New York and Maine. Also found are 15 snapshot photographs of Kienbusch, Barrett, and Mancuso outdoors.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The collection was donated in 2002 by Thomas R. Barrett and Leni Mancuso.

Related Material

Also found in the Archives of American Art are the William Kienbusch papers, 1915-2001; the Walter Maitland correspondence with and about William Kienbusch, 1969-1981; the William Kienbusch letters to Francis and Sydney Hamabe, 1958-1977; and an oral history interview with William Kienbusch conducted by Forrest Selvig, November 1-7, 1968.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared in 2011 by Erin Kinhart.

Preferred Citation

Thomas Barrett and Leni Mancuso papers relating to William Kienbusch, 1950-1979, 2002.
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Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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Biographical Note

William Kienbusch (1914-1980) was a painter and art instructor in New York, NY, and Cranberry Island, Maine. Kienbusch enjoyed a long friendship with painters Thomas Barrett and Leni Mancuso. Mancuso studied painting with Kienbusch at the Brooklyn Museum Art School. Barrett and Mancuso spent most of the year in Maine and often went on summer painting trips to the coastal islands with Kienbusch.

Scope and Content Note

The Thomas Barrett and Leni Mancuso papers relating to William Kienbusch measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1950 to 1979 and 2002. The 113 letters and postcards from William Kienbusch to Barrett and Mancuso document their long friendship and describe in great detail Kienbusch's life as an artist in New York and Maine. Also found are 15 snapshot photographs of Kienbusch, Barrett, and Mancuso outdoors.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 2 series:

- Series 1: Letters from William Kienbusch, 1950-1979, 2002 (Box 1; 8 folders)
 - Series 2: Photographs, 1953-1958, 1966, 2002 (Box 1; 3 folders)
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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:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Postcards

Names:

Kienbusch, William, 1914-1980
Mancuso, Leni

Occupations:

Painters -- Maine

Container Listing

Series 1: Letters from William Kienbusch, 1950-1979, 2002

8 Folders (Box 1)

Found here are 113 letters and postcards from William Kienbusch to Thomas Barrett and Leni Mancuso. Also included is a typed inventory of the letters written by Thomas Barrett in 2002. Kienbusch's detailed letters discuss his life as an artist, his health, and his perspectives on his contemporaries. He often makes references to exhibitions in New York City, lectures, openings, personalities, and changes in the direction of art from 1950 to 1980. Letters were written while Kienbusch was in New York, Maine, and while traveling abroad in Madrid, Athens, and Nepal.

Box 1, Folder 1	Inventory of Letters, 2002
Box 1, Folder 2	Letters, 1950-1953
Box 1, Folder 3	Letters, 1954-1956
Box 1, Folder 4	Letters, 1957-1958
Box 1, Folder 5	Letters, 1959-1962
Box 1, Folder 6	Letters, 1963-1964
Box 1, Folder 7	Letters, 1965-1972
Box 1, Folder 8	Letters, 1974-1979

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Series 2: Photographs, 1953-1958, 1966, 2002

3 Folders (Box 1)

Fifteen snapshot photographs document William Kienbusch's outdoor sketching trips with Thomas Barrett and Leni Mancuso at locations such as Hurricane Island, Maine, and Nova Scotia. Also found here is an inventory written by Thomas Barrett in 2002 which includes dates and brief descriptions of each photograph.

Box 1, Folder 9	Inventory of Photographs, 2002
Box 1, Folder 10	Photographs, 1953-1957
Box 1, Folder 11	Photographs, 1957-1958, 1966

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