



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Siri Berg Papers, 1966-1998, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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Women's History Initiative and the National Collections Program

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Siri Berg papers
<b>Date:</b>	1966-1998
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.bergsiri
<b>Creator:</b>	Berg, Siri, 1921-2020
<b>Extent:</b>	1.1 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of Swedish-born painter and collagist Siri Berg measure 1.1 linear feet and date from 1966 to 1998. The bulk of the collection consists of studies for artwork, and may include paint color choices and samples, sketches, plans, and notes. Also found are scattered correspondence, photographs, printed material, and a video recording of Berg in her SoHo studio.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Siri Berg donated her papers to the Archives of American Art in 1998.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2021.

### Preferred Citation

Siri Berg papers, 1966-1998. 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.

Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Siri Berg (1921-2020) was a collagist, abstract painter, and educator active in New York City, who was known for making collages of geometric shapes on paper she printed herself.

Berg was born in Stockholm, Sweden, and studied art in Brussels, Belgium, before immigrating to the United States in 1940. Berg began her career working in window design for the New York City fashion industry. Later, in the 1970s, Berg began to focus on commissioned work and moved to a studio in SoHo. She exhibited her works throughout New York City and Philadelphia and was an active member of the American Abstract Artists group. Berg was also an educator who taught color theory at Parsons School of Design for over 25 years.

Berg died in New York City in 2020.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of Swedish-born painter and collagist Siri Berg measure 1.1 linear feet and date from 1966 to 1998. The bulk of the collection consists of studies for artwork, and may include paint color choices and samples, sketches, plans, and notes. Also found are scattered correspondence, photographs, printed material, and a video recording of Berg in her SoHo studio.

Studies for artworks include Berg's *The Black Series*, *Cosmic Veil*, *Kabala Series*, *La Ronde*, and *Tops of Kites*. Photographs depict Berg, exhibitions, and works of art.

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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:

- Women artists
- Women educators
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Video recordings

Names:

- American Abstract Artists

Occupations:

- Collagists -- New York (State) -- New York
- Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Siri Berg Papers, 1966-1998

#### 1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3, OV 4)

Scope and Contents: Art study files may include color samples, color tests, notes, plans, and sketches. Correspondents include Centre Georges Pompidou, Peje Emilsson, Guggenheim Museum, Israel Museum, Jerusalem, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Photographs depict Berg, her exhibitions, and artworks. Printed materials consist of clippings, exhibition announcements, and catalogs. Also found is a video recording of Berg in her SoHo studio.

Box 1, Folder 1	Art Study, The Black Series, 1976-1978
Box 1, Folder 2	Art Study, Collograph, 1980
Box 1, Folder 3	Art Study, Cosmic Veils, Prints 439-441, 1983
Box 1, Folder 4	Art Study, Cycle of 5, 1973-1975
Box 1, Folder 5	Art Study, Environmental Boxes, 1979-1981
Box 1, Folder 6	Art Study, Four Elements, 1978-1979
Box 1, Folder 7	Art Study, Four Faculties, 1974
Box 1, Folder 8-12	Art Study, Kabala Series, 1975-1986
Box 1, Folder 13	Art Study, Kinneret, circa 1975
Oversize 4	Art Study, Kaleidoscope Story, Oversized, circa 1975
Box 1, Folder 14	Art Study, La Ronde, 1972
Box 2, Folder 1-7	Art Study, La Ronde, 1972-1984
Oversize 4	Art Study, La Ronde, Oversized, 1972-1984
Box 2, Folder 8	Art Study, Patterns, 421-4288, 1980
Box 2, Folder 9	Art Study, Prints, 390-393, 396, 1980
Box 2, Folder 10	Art Study, Through a Looking Glass Series, 1973
Box 2, Folder 11	Art Study, Tops of Kites 610-613, circa 1975
Box 2, Folder 12	Art Study, Triangle Black and White, 1977

Box 2, Folder 13	Art Study, The White Series, 1977-1978
Box 2, Folder 14	Art Study, Works on Paper, 1974-1975
Oversize 4	Art Study, General, Oversized, circa 1975
Box 2, Folder 15	Commissions, Notes, 1977-1979
Box 2, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1975-1998
Box 2, Folder 17	Photographs, 1966-1997
Box 2, Folder 18	Printed Material, 1990-1997
Box 3, Folder 1	Siri Berg in SoHo Studio, circa 1990 1 Videocassette

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