



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Charles Biederman papers

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

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| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives of American Art             |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Charles Biederman papers             |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1930-1977                            |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | AAA.biedchar                         |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Biederman, Charles Joseph, 1906-2004 |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 23 Microfilm reels                   |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .                            |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming 1978-1979 by Charles Biederman.

### Location of Originals

Originals returned to lender, Charles Biederman, after microfilming. Biederman subsequently donated his papers to the Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota.

### Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds the Neil Juhl Larsen research material on Charles Biederman, circa 1927-2011 and the microfilmed David Barr papers relating to Charles Biederman, 1963-1976.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 1446-1450 and 1662-1679 available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

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## Biographical / Historical

Charles Biederman (1906-2004) was a painter and sculptor from Red Wing, Minnesota. Biederman was born in Cleveland, Ohio and studied art at the Cleveland Art Institute, and later at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago. He worked and lived in Chicago, New York, and Paris before settling in Red Wing, Minnesota in 1942. Biederman was the author of numerous books on art theory, and best known for his three-dimensional painted aluminum constructions, created from the early 1950s to the late 1990s.

## Scope and Contents

The microfilmed Charles Biederman papers contain correspondence, journals, writings, printed material, and published materials. Microfilmed on Reels 1446-1450 are personal and business correspondence regarding Biederman's art and books *Art as Evolution of Visual Knowledge* and *The New Cézanne*. Among the correspondents are John and Joan Barnes, David Barr, David Bohm, Ian Finley, Peggy Guggenheim, S.I. Hayakawa, Marjorie Mercer Kendig, Ron Kostyniuk, and Eugene Pauls. Also included are two copybooks with letters from Biederman to John and Eugenie Anderson. Microfilmed on Reels 1662-1679 are correspondence with Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Eric Bell, Naum Gabo, Kathleen Lonsdale, Dorothy Miller, Victor Pasmore, and poet Jonathan Williams and others; notes and typed manuscripts of Biederman's articles and books about art; an audio script of a film; exhibition catalogs and announcements; clippings; and a biographical sketch.

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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:

- Art -- Study and teaching -- United States
- Art criticism -- United States
- Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century -- United States

Occupations:

- Authors -- Minnesota -- Red Wing
- Sculptors -- Minnesota

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Charles Biederman papers, 1930-1977

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Reel 1446, Frame<br>1-1702    | Alphabetical Index File, 1946-1959 (A-P)       |
| Reel 1447, Frame<br>1-487     | Alphabetical Index File, 1946-1959 (P-Z)       |
| Reel 1447, Frame<br>488-1623  | Alphabetical Index File, 1946-1952 (A-Z)       |
| Reel 1447, Frame<br>1624-1715 | Alphabetical Index File, 1952-1964 (A-N)       |
| Reel 1448, Frame<br>1-156     | Alphabetical Index File, 1952-1964 (N-Z)       |
| Reel 1448, Frame<br>157-1648  | Alphabetical Index File, 1964-1973 (A-M)       |
| Reel 1449, Frame<br>1-1109    | Alphabetical Index File, 1964-1973 (M-Z)       |
| Reel 1449, Frame<br>1110-1706 | Alphabetical Index File, 1965-1977 (A-M)       |
| Reel 1450, Frame<br>1-327     | Alphabetical Index File, 1965-1977 (M-Z)       |
| Reel 1450, Frame<br>328-743   | Copybooks of Correspondence (Notebook 1 and 2) |
| Reel 1662, Frame<br>4-28      | Biographical Material                          |
| Reel 1662, Frame<br>29-1356   | Correspondence, 1935-1977, undated             |
| Reel 1663, Frame<br>4-1333    | Correspondence, 1935-1977, undated             |
| Reel 1664, Frame<br>4-1393    | Correspondence, 1935-1977, undated             |

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|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Reel 1665, Frame<br>4-1397   | Correspondence, 1935-1977, undated |
| Reel 1666, Frame<br>4-1360   | Correspondence, 1935-1977, undated |
| Reel 1667, Frame<br>4-1344   | Correspondence, 1935-1977, undated |
| Reel 1668, Frame<br>4-1263   | Correspondence, 1935-1977, undated |
| Reel 1669, Frame<br>4-1147   | Correspondence, 1935-1977, undated |
| Reel 1670, Frame<br>4-1322   | Correspondence, 1935-1977, undated |
| Reel 1671, Frame<br>4-1310   | Correspondence, 1935-1977, undated |
| Reel 1672, Frame<br>4-1355   | Correspondence, 1935-1977, undated |
| Reel 1673, Frame<br>4-1302   | Correspondence, 1935-1977, undated |
| Reel 1674, Frame<br>4-475    | Correspondence, 1935-1977, undated |
| Reel 1674, Frame<br>476-1297 | Journals, 1930-1977                |
| Reel 1675, Frame<br>5-1324   | Journals, 1930-1977                |
| Reel 1676, Frame<br>7-1475   | Journals, 1930-1977                |
| Reel 1677, Frame<br>4-1424   | Journals, 1930-1977                |
| Reel 1678, Frame<br>4-1439   | Journals, 1930-1977                |
| Reel 1679, Frame<br>4-380    | Journals, 1930-1977                |
| Reel 1679, Frame<br>381-414  | Audio Script of Film on Biederman  |

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| Reel 1679, Frame<br>415-460 | Exhibition Catalogs, Announcements Invitations, 1936-1973, undated |
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| Reel 1679, Frame<br>461-518 | Magazine Articles, 1936-1973, undated |
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| Reel 1679, Frame<br>519-577 | Book Review, 1949-1958, undated |
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| Reel 1679, Frame<br>578-740 | Clippings, 1936-1973, undated |
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