



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Donald Blinken Papers, 1956-2011, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art  
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<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>	Donald Blinken papers
<b>Date:</b>	1956-2011
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.blindona
<b>Creator:</b>	Blinken, Donald M., 1925-
<b>Extent:</b>	0.4 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	Collection is in English
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of art collector and former United States Ambassador Donald Blinken measure .4 linear feet and date from 1956-2011. The collection is comprised of correspondence and printed material regarding several of the artists Blinken collected, including Willem de Kooning, Philip Guston, and Esteban Vicente.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated to the Archives of American Art by Donald Blinken in 2014.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Hilary Price in 2016.

### Preferred Citation

Donald Blinken papers, 1956-2011. 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. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Donald Blinken (1925- ) is an art collector in New York City and served as United States Ambassador to Hungary from 1994-1997. Throughout his career, Blinken has held leadership roles in investment banking, education, and arts patronage.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of art collector and former United States Ambassador Donald Blinken measure .4 linear feet and date from 1956-2011. The collection is comprised of correspondence and printed material regarding several of the artists Blinken collected, including Willem de Kooning, Philip Guston, and Esteban Vicente.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged as two series

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1956-2011 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Printed Material, 1974-2008 (0.1 linear foot; Box 1)

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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 -- Collectors and collecting -- New York (State) -- New York

Names:

De Kooning, Willem, 1904-1997

Guston, Philip, 1913-1980

Vicente, Esteban, 1903-2001

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1956-2011

#### *0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Correspondence dates from 1956-2011 and is between Blinken and curators, gallery owners, critics, and scholars interested in the artwork in Blinken's collection. Also found are a number of letters between Blinken and Philip Guston and Blinken and Harriet Vicente, the widow of Esteban Vicente. Mixed in with the correspondence are printed materials, loan agreements, and photographs of artwork.

Box 1, Folder 1-4      Regarding Willem de Kooning Works, 1956-2011

Box 1, Folder 5-7      Regarding Philip Guston Works, 1958-2008

Box 1, Folder 8      Regarding Esteban Vicente Works, 1957-1995

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## Series 2: Printed Material, 1974-2008

### *0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Printed material dates from 1974-2008 and is regarding the career of Philip Guston. Items include newspaper and magazine articles (many of which are photocopied), and exhibition announcements.

Box 1, Folder 9-10      Relating to Philip Guston, 1974-2008

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