



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Aaron Bohrod Papers, 1507-1994,
bulk circa 1930-1994 in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

2019/12/05

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Aaron Bohrod papers
Date:	1507-1994 (bulk circa 1930-1994)
Identifier:	AAA.bohraaro
Creator:	Bohrod, Aaron
Extent:	17.8 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Wisconsin painter, ceramicist, and educator Aaron Bohrod measure 17.8 linear feet and date from 1507 to 1994 with the bulk of the collection dating from circa 1930 to 1994. The collection documents his career through biographical material, correspondence, gallery files, personal business records, writings, printed material, seven scrapbooks, photographs, and artwork.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Aaron Bohrod papers were donated in 1974 by Aaron Bohrod and in 1996 by Neil Bohrod, Aaron Bohrod's son.

Related Materials

Also found at the Archives of American Art is an interview of Aaron Bohrod conducted by Ralph E. Sandler from 1973 to 1974. The Aaron Bohrod papers are also at Syracuse University.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels 1794-97 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Aaron Bohrod papers, 1507-1994, bulk circa 1930-1994. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Aaron Bohrod (1907-1992) was a painter, ceramicist, and educator in Madison, Wisconsin.

Bohrod was born in Chicago, Illinois to Fannie and George Bohrod, a Russian immigrant grocer and cigar maker. From 1926 to 1928, Bohrod studied at the School of the Chicago Art Institute under John Sloan, Boardman Robinson, and Kenneth Hayes Miller. He married Ruth Bush in 1929. His first New York solo exhibition took place in 1934, and during the next four years, he received two Guggenheim Fellowships, which financed his projects to depict Midwestern American towns in paintings. During World War II, Bohrod was an artist and correspondent for the U.S. Corps of Engineers in the Pacific and for *Life* magazine in Europe.

Bohrod followed John Stuart Curry as artist-in-residence at the University of Wisconsin in Madison from 1948 until his retirement in 1973. In 1950, he began work in pottery with F. Carlton Ball with whom he published *A Pottery Sketch Book* in 1959. In 1954, Bohrod began a meticulous style of still life painting and published *A Decade of Still Life* in 1966. These trompe l'oeil paintings also appeared in many magazines, including *Life*, *Fortune*, *Holiday*, and several covers of *Time* magazine.

Bohrod died in Madison, Wisconsin in 1992.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Wisconsin painter, ceramicist, and educator Aaron Bohrod measure 17.8 linear feet and date from 1907 to 1994 with the bulk of the collection dating from circa 1930 to 1994. The collection documents his career through biographical material, correspondence, gallery files, personal business records, writings, printed material, seven scrapbooks, photographs, and artwork.

Biographical material includes film and audio recordings of interviews with Bohrod, War Art Unit employment records, awards, an exhibition guest book, architectural plans for Bohrod's studio, and other personal records. Personal and business correspondence is with David Breger, Adolf Dehn, the Hammer Galleries, the Milch Galleries, Thomas Hart Benton, Henri Cadiou, Noel Coward, and many others. Gallery files contain records of Bohrod's business dealings with over 20 galleries and personal business records consist of primarily financial and legal records, as well as project files for his pottery collaboration with F. Carlton Ball and Madison Public Schools. Writings by Bohrod include manuscripts, lectures, and drafts for the book *A Decade of Still Life* along with several writings by others about Bohrod. Printed materials relate to Bohrod, his artwork, and other art subjects. Photographic materials depict Bohrod, his studio, family and friends, travel, and works of art. Artworks include drawings, prints, and designs by Bohrod, and lithographs and etchings by others.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as nine series.

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa 1930-1987 (0.4 linear feet; Box 1, OV 24, FC 25)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1849-1994 (6.2 linear feet; Boxes 1-7, 19)
- Series 3: Gallery Files, 1957-1993 (1.2 linear feet; Boxes 7-8)
- Series 4: Personal Business Records, 1939-1994 (1.4 linear feet; Boxes 8-10)
- Series 5: Writings, circa 1948-circa 1979 (0.2 linear feet; Box 10, OV 24)
- Series 6: Printed Materials, 1831-1991 (3.0 linear feet; Boxes 10-13, 19, OV 24)
- Series 7: Scrapbooks, 1929-1992 (1.3 linear feet; Boxes 13, 18, BVs 20-23)
- Series 8: Photographic Materials, circa 1930-1992 (3.8 linear feet; Boxes 13-16, 19, OV 24)
- Series 9: Artwork, 1507-circa 1989 (0.3 linear feet; Boxes 17, 19)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Decorative arts
World War, 1939-1945 -- Art and the war

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Interviews
Motion pictures
Sketchbooks
Sound recordings

Names:

Ball, F. Carlton, 1911-1992
Benton, Thomas Hart, 1889-1975
Coward, Noel, 1899-1973
Dehn, Adolf, 1895-1968
Milch Galleries

Occupations:

Ceramicists -- Wisconsin -- Madison
Educators -- Wisconsin -- Madison
Painters -- Wisconsin -- Madison

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa 1930-1987

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 24, FC 25)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials include awards and certificates, biographical sketches, curriculum vitae, a guest book for an unidentified exhibition, medical notes with sketches by Bohrod's doctor, architectural plans for Bohrod's studio addition on his house, and records for his employment in the War Art Unit during World War II. Also included is a video reel of an interview with Bohrod on the University of Wisconsin's *Full Circle* program and an audio interview of Bohrod with Robert Cromie for WGW Chicago.

Box 1, Folder 1	Artifact, Fountain Pen Nib Engraved "Chicago Public Schools", circa 1930s
Box 1, Folder 2	Awards and Certificates, 1953-1961
Box 1, Folder 3	Biographical Sketches and Curriculum Vitae, 1955-1980
Box 1, Folder 4	Guest Book for Unidentified Exhibition, 1965
Box 1, Folder 5	Identification and Membership Cards, circa 1940s
Item FC 25	Interview, Bohrod on Full Circle, University of Wisconsin Extension, 1972 1 Film reel (16 mm) Digital Content: Bohrod Full Circle Interview
Box 1, Folder 6	Interview, Bohrod on Full Circle, University of Wisconsin Extension - Note from J. Peter Fenney to Bohrod's Wife, 1973 Notes: Note was removed from film cannister.
Box 1, Folder 7	Interview, Bohrod Interviewed by Robert Cromie for WGW Chicago, 1973 1 Sound tape reel 1 Sound cassette (Duplicate)
Box 1, Folder 8	Medical Notes and Sketches, circa 1975
Box 1, Folder 9	Personality Reports, 1987
Box 1, Folder 10	Personalized Stationary and Book Name Tags, undated
Oversize 24	Studio Architectural Plans, circa 1959
Box 1, Folder 11	War Art Unit Employment Records, 1943-1945
Box 1, Folder 12	War Art Unit Employment Records, 1943-1945

Box 1, Folder 13 War Art Unit Employment Records, 1943-1945

Box 1, Folder 14 War Art Unit Employment Records, 1943-1945

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1849-1994

6.2 Linear feet (Boxes 1-7, 19)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence consists of personal and business letters with David Breger, Adolf Dehn, the Hammer Galleries, the Milch Galleries, Thomas Hart Benton, Henri Cadiou, and Noel Coward. Additional material includes letters of recommendation, thank you letters from children, and letters concerning the business interests of O.S. Chafee and Mr. Bushnell.

Arrangement: The series is arranged with fragments of correspondence first, followed by letters filed by first name, then correspondence arranged alphabetically by organization or surname. The general correspondence is arranged chronologically.

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Box 1, Folder 22	Allentown - Charles, 1978-1986
Box 1, Folder 23	Ambelang - America, 1958-1966
Box 1, Folder 24	American Artist, 1953-1980
Box 1, Folder 25	American Association - American Players, 1950-1987
Box 1, Folder 26	American Society of Clinical Pathologists, 1976-1977
Box 1, Folder 27	Amperzand and Associates, 1975
Box 1, Folder 28	Anderson, Don, 1967-1986
Box 1, Folder 29	Anderson, Margo, 1974
Box 1, Folder 30	Annual Benefit Rodeo - Arfstrom, 1966-1985
Box 1, Folder 31	Arizona - Aronoff, 1980-1988
Box 1, Folder 32	Art Institute of Chicago, 1967-1991
Box 1, Folder 33	Artists Equity Association, 1960-1975

Box 1, Folder 34	Arts Action Alert - Arts Ball, 1974-1989
Box 1, Folder 35	Ashby, Lawrence, 1987-1989
Box 1, Folder 36	Ashwill - Atkinson, 1953-1984
Box 1, Folder 37-38	Auer, James, 1973-1992
Box 1, Folder 39	Bach - Balkin, 1956-1991
Box 1, Folder 40	Ball State Teachers College, 1951-1964
Box 1, Folder 41	Baltis - Barclay, 1951-1987
Box 1, Folder 42	Barnet - Bartlett, 1966-1992
Box 1, Folder 43	Battenberg - Bayside High School, 1949-1989
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Box 1, Folder 46	Becker, John, 1967
Box 1, Folder 47	Beloit - Benton, 1949-1984
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Box 1, Folder 53	Bloom - Bum-Meister, 1972-1991
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Box 1, Folder 56	Bohnsack, 1974
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Box 1, Folder 59	Bradley - Bregger, 1951-1990
Box 1, Folder 60	Bresler Galleries - Brickman, 1957-1962
Box 1, Folder 61	Bridges, S. Powell, 1976-1989
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Series 3: Gallery Files, 1957-1993

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Box 8, Folder 4	Milch Galleries, 1957-1967
Box 8, Folder 5-12	Oehlschlaeger Galleries (Everett), 1967-1988
Box 8, Folder 13-16	Oehlschlaeger Galleries (Frank J.), 1962-1986

Box 8, Folder 17-18 River Edge Galleries, 1980-1988

Box 8, Folder 19-21 Sazama Gallery, 1986-1989

Box 8, Folder 22 Signature Gallery, 1986

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Series 4: Personal Business Records, 1939-1994

1.4 Linear feet (Boxes 8-10)

Scope and Contents: The series consists of agreements and contracts, check registers, invoices and receipts for Associated American Artists and other organizations, professional and personal financial ledgers, lists of artwork, mailing lists and contacts, price lists, real estate and royalty records, and tax records that include information on artworks. Also included are files containing correspondence, project plans, photographs of pottery sketchbooks, printed material, and financial material for projects with Madison Public Schools and a pottery collaboration with ceramist F. Carlton Ball.

Box 8, Folder 23	Agreements and Contracts, 1945-1968
Box 8, Folder 24-25	Check Registers, 1969-1991
Box 8, Folder 26-36	Contacts, Card File, 1965-1988
Box 9, Folder 1-4	Contacts, Card File, 1965-1988
Box 9, Folder 5	Insurance Records, 1945-1989
Box 9, Folder 6	Investment Records, 1946-1981
Box 9, Folder 7-16	Invoices and Receipts, 1939-1989, undated
Box 9, Folder 17-20	Ledgers, Artwork Sales and Expenses, 1963-1992
Box 9, Folder 21	Ledger, Trust Accounts, 1987-1989
Box 9, Folder 22	List of Artist Interview Tapes in Mugar Library at Boston University, circa 1970
Box 9, Folder 23	Lists of Artwork by Bohrod in Public Collections, 1980-1987
Box 9, Folder 24	Lists of Artwork, circa 1970s
Box 9, Folder 25	Lists of Artwork from Unidentified Exhibition, circa 1966
Box 9, Folder 26	Mailing Lists and Contacts, undated
Box 9, Folder 27-29	Mailings Lists, undated
Box 9, Folder 30-32	Mailings Lists, 1987-1993
Box 9, Folder 33	Mailing Lists, Members of Special Painting Class Under Bohrod, 1949-1954
Box 9, Folder 34	Mailing Lists, "Milwaukee No Shore", undated
Box 9, Folder 35	Price Lists, 1955-1991

Box 9, Folder 36-39	Price Lists, Card Files, circa 1951, undated
Box 10, Folder 1-2	Price Lists, Card Files, circa 1951
Box 10, Folder 3	Price Lists, Notebook, 1940-1952
Box 10, Folder 4-5	Project, Pottery Collaboration with F. Carlton Ball, 1949-1956
Box 10, Folder 6	Project, Instructional Materials for Madison Public Schools-Plan, 1967
Box 10, Folder 7	Project, Instructional Materials for Madison Public Schools - Programs on Bohrod and His Artwork, 1966-1968
Box 10, Folder 8	Project, Instructional Materials for Madison Public Schools - Programs on Bohrod and His Artwork, Slides, 1966-1968
Box 10, Folder 9-12	Real Estate Records, 1945-1985
Box 10, Folder 13	Royalty Payment Records, 1975-1991
Box 10, Folder 14-20	Receipts for Artwork, Art Supplies, and Stamps, 1951-1994
Box 10, Folder 21-23	Tax Records, 1951-1991

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Series 5: Writings, circa 1948-circa 1979

0.2 Linear feet (Box 10, OV 24)

Scope and Contents: Writings by Bohrod include drafts and typescripts for the book *A Decade of Still Life*, book reviews, lectures, and manuscripts along with notes, an obituary for Georges Schreiber, and other writings. Most of the writings by others are articles, typescript, and student compositions about Bohrod. Other writings include a proposal to license artists by Jack A. Belland and a paper regarding atomic power by Adolph J. Ackerman.

Oversize 24	Book, <i>A Decade of Still Life</i> , 1966
Box 10, Folder 24-29	Book, <i>A Decade of Still Life</i> , 1966 Notes: Includes a published copy of the book.
Box 10, Folder 30	Book Reviews, circa 1950s
Box 10, Folder 31	Lectures, circa 1948-circa 1965
Box 10, Folder 32	Manuscripts About John Sloan, circa 1966
Box 10, Folder 33	Manuscript, "Mr. Jones", circa 1950s
Box 10, Folder 34	Miscellaneous Writings and Fragments, circa 1960s
Box 10, Folder 35-37	Notes, circa 1951-circa 1970s
Box 10, Folder 38	Obituary for Georges Schreiber, 1977
Box 10, Folder 39	By Others, Articles About Bohrod, Published, 1954-1972
Box 10, Folder 40	By Others, Articles About Bohrod, Unpublished, 1954-1973
Box 10, Folder 41	By Others, Proposal to License Artists by Jack A. Belland, circa 1972
Box 10, Folder 42-43	By Others, Student Compositions About Bohrod, circa 1949-1957
Box 10, Folder 44-50	By Others, Typescripts About Bohrod, undated
Box 10, Folder 51	By Others, "Atomic Power, A Failure in Engineering Responsibility" by Adolph J. Ackerman, 1962

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Series 6: Printed Materials, 1831-1991

3 Linear feet (Boxes 10-13, 19, OV 24)

Scope and Contents: Artwork reproductions, a few books dealing with art subjects, booklets and brochures, clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, magazines and journals, postage stamps, posters, and press releases and programs that mainly feature Bohrod and his artwork.

Box 19, Folder 2	Artwork Reproductions, circa 1940-circa 1965
Box 10, Folder 52-54	Artwork Reproductions, circa 1947-circa 1977
Box 11, Folder 1-3	Artwork Reproductions, circa 1942-circa 1973
Box 19, Folder 3	Artwork Reproductions, 1947
Box 11, Folder 4	Book, John Sloan's Last Summer by Herbert Faulkner West, 1952
Box 11, Folder 5	Book, Peintres de la Réalité du xxe Siècle by Jean Giono, 1958
Box 11, Folder 6	Book, Western Almanac by Edwin E. Prentiss, 1831
Box 11, Folder 7	Book, What is Tempera? by Herbert E. Martini, 1920
Box 11, Folder 8	Booklets, 1942-1963
Box 11, Folder 9-16	Brochures, circa 1948-1990
Box 11, Folder 17	Calendars of Events, 1947-1989
Box 11, Folder 18-46	Clippings, 1904-1979
Box 12, Folder 1-6	Clippings, 1980-1995
Box 19, Folder 2	Clippings, 1934-1950
Box 12, Folder 7-40	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, circa 1931-1991
Box 12, Folder 41	Greeting and Postcards, circa 1940s
Box 12, Folder 42	Magazines and Journals, 1934-1973
Box 13, Folder 1	Magazines and Journals, 1934-1973
Box 19, Folder 2	Magazines and Journals, 1943-1972
Box 13, Folder 2	Postage Stamps, circa 1962

Oversize 24 Posters, circa 1982

Box 13, Folder 3 Press Releases, 1966-1986

Box 13, Folder 4-5 Programs, 1946-1969

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Series 7: Scrapbooks, 1929-1992

1.3 Linear feet (Boxes 13, 18, BVs 20-23)

Scope and Contents: The series includes seven scrapbooks containing mostly clippings and other printed material such as book jackets and artwork reproductions. Other material consists of photographs of artwork, award certificates, and correspondence including a letter from Nancy Reagan in scrapbook 4.

Volume 20	Scrapbook 1, 1937-1958
Volume 21	Scrapbook 2, 1946-1966
Volume 22	Scrapbook 3, 1966-1977
Volume 23	Scrapbook 4, 1973-1992
Box 18, Folder 1	Scrapbook 5, 1929-1939
Box 13, Folder 6-10	Scrapbook 5, Loose Material, 1929-1939
Box 18, Folder 2-3	Scrapbook 6, 1932-1945
Box 18, Folder 4	Scrapbook 7, 1955-1981
Box 13, Folder 11	Scrapbook 7, Loose Material, 1955-1981

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Series 8: Photographic Materials, circa 1930-1992

3.8 Linear feet (Boxes 13-16, 19, OV 24)

Scope and Contents: The series contains portraits and candid photographs of Bohrod; his studio; family and friends including Max Waldman and members of the Associated American Artists group; exhibitions; and events. A large portion of the series includes photographs of artwork by Bohrod including scenes from World War II, still lifes, ceramics, and early work by Bohrod. The folders dealing with travel includes material funded by two Guggenheim grants during 1935 to 1938 of states and cities, interiors and buildings, people, carnivals, zoo animals, and scenes taken overseas.

Box 13, Folder 12-17	Bohrod, circa 1930-1992
Box 19, Folder 4	Bohrod, circa 1940s
Oversize 24	Bohrod, 1972
Box 13, Folder 18	Bohrod's Studio, circa 1968
Box 13, Folder 19	Family, circa 1940-1979
Box 13, Folder 20	Friends and Colleagues, 1942-1967
Box 13, Folder 21-38	Artwork by Bohrod, undated
Box 14, Folder 1-2	Artwork by Bohrod, undated
Box 19, Folder 4	Artwork by Bohrod, undated
Box 14, Folder 3-10	Artwork by Bohrod, Early Work - States, undated Notes: Photographs are arranged in alphabetical order by state name.
Box 14, Folder 11	Artwork by Bohrod, Early Work - Female Figures, undated
Box 14, Folder 12	Artwork by Bohrod, Early Work - Murals, undated
Box 14, Folder 13-17	Artwork by Bohrod, Still Lifes, undated
Box 14, Folder 18-34	Artwork by Bohrod, Still Lifes - Titles A-F, undated
Box 15, Folder 1-37	Artwork by Bohrod, Still Lifes - Titles G-U, undated
Box 16, Folder 1-5	Artwork by Bohrod, Still Lifes - Titles V-Z, undated
Box 16, Folder 6-9	Artwork by Bohrod, World War II, undated
Box 16, Folder 10	Artwork by Others, undated

Box 16, Folder 11-12	Exhibitions, 1943-1970s
Box 16, Folder 13	Events, circa 1940-1970s
Box 16, Folder 14	Miscellaneous, undated
Box 16, Folder 15-16	Ringling Brothers Circus, 1940s
Box 16, Folder 17-62	Travel, circa 1930-circa 1950

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Series 9: Artwork, 1507-circa 1989

0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 17, 19)

Scope and Contents: Artwork contains sketch pads with caricatures and doodles, drawings for projects, designs for fabrics, and prints by Bohrod. Also included are etchings and lithographs by Philip Evergood, Philip Pearlstein, and M. Waldman; and a woodcut book illustration from the 16th-Century attributed to A. Dürer.

Box 17, Folder 1	Design for Pin, circa 1950s
Box 17, Folder 2	Drawings, circa 1970s
Box 17, Folder 3	Drawings, Sketchpads, circa 1980s
Box 17, Folder 4	Fabric Designs, 1954
Box 17, Folder 5	Prints, circa 1960
Box 19, Folder 1	Prints, Japanese Calendar Folio, 1960
Box 17, Folder 6	Etchings and Lithographs by Others, circa 1932-circa 1951
Box 17, Folder 7	Woodcut from Sebastian Brandt by A. Dürer (?), 1507

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