



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Ronald Lee Boise papers

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Ronald Lee Boise papers
Date:	1964-1966
Identifier:	AAA.boisrona
Creator:	Boise, Ronald Lee, 1931-1966
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet ((on partial microfilm reel))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lent and donated 1983-1984 by Lars Speyer, photographer and close friend of Boise.

Location of Originals

Frames 245-481: Originals returned to lender, Lars Speyer, after microfilming.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 3098 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Sculptor; California and New Mexico. Created his pieces from metal scraps found in junk yards. In 1961, his "Kama Sutra" series of sculpture depicting couples in various stages of coitus was confiscated from the Vorpal Gallery in San Francisco and its owners placed on trial for showing the works. In 1966, Boise died of heart failure.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, including letters from author Ken Kesey, and other friends; photographs of Boise's work, of him and his friends; 3 ink drawings; exhibition announcements; a photocopy of a transcript of Alan Watt's statement concerning Boise's work; 2 Kama Sutra calendars, 1967, containing photographs of Boise's controversial sculptures, and material relating to the confiscation and trial over them; exhibition catalogs; business cards; clippings; a book, NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND; and programs from Boise's funeral service.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Censorship
Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century -- California

Names:

Kesey, Ken

Occupations:

Sculptors -- California
Sculptors -- New Mexico