



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Stephan Bourgeois Papers, 1908-circa 1964, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Stephan Bourgeois papers
Date:	1908-circa 1964
Identifier:	AAA.bourstep
Creator:	Bourgeois, Stephan, 1881-1964
Extent:	4.2 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English, French, German and Greek.
Summary:	The papers of New York art dealer and consultant Stephan Bourgeois measure 4.2 linear feet and date from 1908 to circa 1964. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, writings, personal business records and printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Stephan Bourgeois papers were donated to the Archives of American Art in 1980 by Mrs. Stephan Bourgeois, widow of Bourgeois.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Rihoko Ueno in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Stephan Bourgeois papers, 1908-circa 1964. 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.

Biographical / Historical

Stephan Bourgeois (1881-1964) was an art dealer, historian, writer and gallery owner based in New York City.

Stephan Bourgeois was born in 1881 in Cologne, Germany. He came from a long line of prominent art dealers and collectors. Bourgeois studied law at the University of Geneva, Switzerland and later studied art history at the University of Strasbourg in France as well as the universities of Bonn and Berlin in Germany. After his studies, he traveled extensively and then settled in Paris, France. In 1906, he began his career as an art dealer and consultant for museums and private collections.

Bourgeois immigrated to the United States in 1910 and lived in New York City. From 1911 to 1933, he was the founding director of Bourgeois Galleries. Bourgeois Galleries specialized in Old Master paintings as well as modern art, and featured artists such as Degas, Delacroix, Corot, Cezanne, Renoir, Gauguin, Van Gogh, Toulouse Lautrec, Albert Gleizes, Joseph Stella, Oscar Bluemner, Mario Toppi, and others.

After the gallery closed its doors in 1933, Bourgeois continued his work as an art historian, art dealer, and consultant. He lectured at numerous art institutions and universities such as the Art Institute of Chicago, Columbia University, and New York University. Bourgeois wrote several books including *Evolution of Images in Art* and *Two Polarities of Modern Art: Henri Rousseau and Pablo Picasso*. He was especially interested in the life and art of El Greco and he organized an exhibition about him at Knoedler Gallery in 1941 and later wrote a book about the artist. Bourgeois died in 1964.

Scope and Contents

The papers of New York art dealer and consultant Stephan Bourgeois measure 4.2 linear feet and date from 1908 to circa 1964. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, writings, personal business records and printed material.

Biographical material includes an address book, biographical statement, passport, a few photographs and some miscellaneous artifacts.

Correspondence consists of Stephan Bourgeois's letters to and from museums, clients and other art dealers. There is business correspondence with lawyers and art dealers in Cologne, Germany. Alphabetical correspondence mostly dates from Stephan Bourgeois's time in New York City on the subject of art and exhibitions. There is also correspondence regarding specific paintings.

Writings consists of notebooks on artists, writings about various art subjects, research and writings on El Greco, notes on places and sociology, and finally miscellaneous notes.

Personal business records include income tax records, bills and receipts, material related to requesting compensation from the German government, and miscellaneous financial records.

The bulk of the printed material consists of exhibition catalogs from Bourgeois Galleries. There are a few articles about Stephan Bourgeois, catalogs from other galleries, and assorted clippings.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as five series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1908-circa 1964 (7 folders; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1928-1962 (0.6 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: Writings, circa 1910-circa 1964 (2.9 linear feet; Boxes 1-4)
- Series 4: Personal Business Records, circa 1910-circa 1964 (0.3 linear feet; Box 4)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1915-1961 (0.4 linear feet; Boxes 4-5)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Business records
Photographs

Names:

Bourgeois Galleries (New York, N.Y.)
Greco, 1541?-1614

Occupations:

Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York
Art historians -- New York (State) -- New York
Gallery owners -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1908-circa 1964

7 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes an address book, short biographical statement, fabric sample, intaglio nameplate, Paris travel document, passport, and a few photographs of unidentified people, probably members of the Bourgeois family.

Box 1, Folder 1	Address Book, circa 1920-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Statement, 1961
Box 1, Folder 3	Fabric Sample, circa 1915-circa 1964
Box 1, Folder 4	Intaglio Nameplate, 1949
Box 1, Folder 5	Paris Travel Document, 1908
Box 1, Folder 6	Passport, 1926-1928
Box 1, Folder 7	Photographs of Unidentified People, circa 1920-circa 1964

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1928-1962

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series mostly contains professional correspondence with museums, clients, and other art dealers. Cologne correspondence consists of business correspondence with lawyers, art dealers, and clients in Cologne, Germany. Most of the Cologne correspondence is written in German. Alphabetical Correspondence mostly dates from Stephan Bourgeois time in New York City on the subject of sales, acquisition and provenance of artwork, as well as information about artists and exhibitions. Notable correspondents include Benjamin Abraham, Leon Anthony Arkus, A. L. Cole, Robert Tyler Davis, Roland de France, Martin Friedman, F. Cleveland Morgan, Ivan N. Podgorsky and Gordon Bailey Washburn. Finally there is some correspondence regarding the authenticity and appraisal of Rembrandt's *Juno* based on an article Bourgeois read about the painting when it went on the market. There is also correspondence regarding the provenance, authentication, and sale of the Rubens painting *The Holy Family*.

Box 1, Folder 8	Cologne Correspondence, 1928-1930
Box 1, Folder 9	Cologne Correspondence, 1931
Box 1, Folder 10	Cologne Correspondence, 1932
Box 1, Folder 11	Cologne Correspondence, 1948
Box 1, Folder 12	Cologne Correspondence, 1949-1950
Box 1, Folder 13	Alphabetical Correspondence, A, 1951-1962 Notes: Includes correspondence with Benjamin Abraham and Leon Anthony Arkus.
Box 1, Folder 14	Alphabetical Correspondence, B, 1955-1962
Box 1, Folder 15	Alphabetical Correspondence, C, 1948-1962 Notes: Includes correspondence with A. L. Cole.
Box 1, Folder 16	Alphabetical Correspondence, Da, 1948-1961 Notes: Includes correspondence with Robert Tyler Davis.
Box 1, Folder 17	Alphabetical Correspondence, De-Du, 1954-1961 Notes: Includes correspondence with Roland De France.
Box 1, Folder 18	Alphabetical Correspondence, E, 1954-1959
Box 1, Folder 19	Alphabetical Correspondence, F, 1953-1961 Notes: Includes correspondence with Martin Friedman.
Box 1, Folder 20	Alphabetical Correspondence, G, 1954-1960
Box 1, Folder 21	Alphabetical Correspondence, H, 1952-1959

Box 1, Folder 22	Alphabetical Correspondence, I-J, 1955-1959
Box 1, Folder 23	Alphabetical Correspondence, K-L, 1955-1962
Box 1, Folder 24	Alphabetical Correspondence, M, 1953-1962 Notes: Includes correspondence with F. Cleveland Morgan.
Box 1, Folder 25	Alphabetical Correspondence, N, 1953-1962
Box 1, Folder 26	Alphabetical Correspondence, O, 1953-1961
Box 1, Folder 27	Alphabetical Correspondence, P, 1953-1961 Notes: Includes correspondence with Ivan Podgoursky.
Box 1, Folder 28	Alphabetical Correspondence, R, 1946-1961
Box 1, Folder 29	Alphabetical Correspondence, S, 1950-1961
Box 1, Folder 30	Alphabetical Correspondence, T-V, 1948-1962
Box 1, Folder 31	Alphabetical Correspondence, W-Z, 1951-1962 Notes: Includes correspondence with Gordon Bailey Washburn.
Box 1, Folder 32	Unidentified Correspondents and Letter Fragments, circa 1958-circa 1962
Box 1, Folder 33	Correspondence Regarding Rembrandt's Juno, 1937-1938
Box 1, Folder 34	Correspondence Regarding Rubens's The Holy Family, 1958-1964

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Series 3: Writings, circa 1910-circa 1964

2.9 Linear feet (Boxes 1-4)

Scope and Contents: Writings is the largest series in the collection and consists of Bourgeois's research, essays, lectures, notes, notebooks and manuscript drafts on art and other subjects. There are notebooks containing research on artists, writings on various art topics, El Greco research and manuscript drafts, notes on places and sociology, and miscellaneous notes. Many of the writings are in French and German.

Arrangement: Writings are arranged as 5 subseries.

- 3.1: Notebooks on Artists, circa 1910-circa 1960
- 3.2: Notes on Art, circa 1930-circa 1964
- 3.3: El Greco Research and Writings, circa 1935-circa 1964
- 3.4: Notes on Places and Sociology, circa 1930-circa 1964
- 3.5: Notes on Other Subjects, circa 1921-circa 1964

3.1: Notebooks on Artists, circa 1910-circa 1960

Scope and Contents: Notebooks on artists consist of research and lecture drafts. Some of the notebooks are dedicated to a specific artist, but most notebooks contain information on multiple artists. Artists researched in the notebooks include Alexander Archipenko, Michelangelo, Pablo Picasso, and Piero Della Francesca. Many of the notes are in French and a few are in German.

Box 1, Folder 35	Alexander Archipenko Notebook, circa 1910-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 36	Leonardo Da Vinci Notebook, circa 1910-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 37	Michelangelo Notebook, circa 1910-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 38	Pablo Picasso Notebook, circa 1910-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 39	Piero della Francesca Notebook, circa 1910-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 40	Henri Rousseau Notebook, circa 1910-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 41	Notebook on Multiple Artists, circa 1910-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 42	Notebook on Multiple Artists, circa 1910-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 43	Notebook on Multiple Artists, circa 1910-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 44	Notebook on Multiple Artists, circa 1910-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 45	Notebook on Multiple Artists, circa 1910-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 46	Notebook on Multiple Artists, circa 1910-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 47	Notebook on Multiple Artists, circa 1910-circa 1960

Box 1, Folder 48 Notebook on Multiple Artists, circa 1910-circa 1960

3.2: Writings on Art, circa 1930-circa 1964

Scope and Contents: Writings on art include handwritten and typed drafts of books and essays on art historical subjects such as Byzantine art or Paleolithic art. Several of the manuscripts are untitled.

Box 2, Folder 1 A B C of Art, circa 1940-circa 1964

Box 2, Folder 2-5 The Art Paradox, circa 1950-circa 1964

Box 2, Folder 6 Byzantine Art Manuscript, circa 1946-circa 1964

Box 2, Folder 7 Development and Rise of Museums and Collections, circa 1930-circa 1964

Box 2, Folder 8-9 The Stone Age: Meet Your Ancestors, circa 1945-circa 1964

Box 2, Folder 10 Untitled Art History Manuscript Preface and Chapters 1-3, circa 1940-circa 1964

Box 2, Folder 11 Untitled Art History Manuscript Chapters 4, circa 1940-circa 1964

Box 2, Folder 12 Untitled Art History Manuscript Chapters 7-8, circa 1940-circa 1964

Box 2, Folder 13 Untitled Art History Manuscript Chapters 9-10, circa 1940-circa 1964

Box 2, Folder 14 Authentication of Amerigo Vespucci Portrait, circa 1950-circa 1964

Box 2, Folder 15 Authentication of Goya Painting, circa 1950-circa 1964

Box 2, Folder 16 Authentication of Henri Toulouse-Lautrec Painting, 1961

3.3: El Greco Research and Writings, circa 1935-circa 1964

Scope and Contents: Stephan Bourgeois spent approximately twenty years researching and writing a book on the life of the artist El Greco. This subseries includes his correspondence, research notes, chronology and drafts on the subject.

Box 2, Folder 17 El Greco Correspondence, 1939-1947

Box 2, Folder 18 El Greco Correspondence, 1948-1952

Box 2, Folder 19-21 El Greco Chronology, circa 1935-circa 1964

Box 2, Folder 22-25 El Greco Research Notes, circa 1935-circa 1964

Box 2, Folder 26 Research Notes on "El Greco's Life", circa 1935-circa 1964

Box 2, Folder 27	Research Notes on "El Greco's Signature", circa 1935-circa 1946
Box 2, Folder 28-30	Research Notes on "El Greco Pictures", circa 1935-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 1-2	Research Notes on "El Greco Pictures", circa 1935-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 3	El Greco Manuscript Prologue, circa 1940-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 4	El Greco Manuscript Chapters 1-3, circa 1940-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 5	El Greco Manuscript Chapters 4-5, circa 1940-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 6	El Greco Manuscript Chapter 6, circa 1940-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 7-8	El Greco Manuscript Chapter 7, circa 1940-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 9-10	El Greco Manuscript Addenda and Other Edits, circa 1940-circa 1964

3.4: Writings on Places and Sociology, circa 1930-circa 1964

Scope and Contents: This subseries consists of research notes on the sociology of cultures based on geographic location, such as Africa, Ancient Greece, Germany, Spain and Italy.

Box 3, Folder 11-12	"Africa, Egypt, Rhodesia" Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 13-14	"Arabia" Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 15-16	"Creta" Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 17-18	"Easter Island" Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 19-20	"The Greeks" Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 21	"Mount Athos and Mistra" Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 22-24	"Rhineland" Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 25	"Rhineland" Notebook 1, circa 1930-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 26	"Rhineland" Notebook 2, circa 1930-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 27-28	"Spain I" Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 29-30	"Spain II" Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 31-32	"Spain III" Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 33	"Venice and Rome" Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964

Box 4, Folder 1	"Venice and Rome" Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
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Box 4, Folder 2-3	"Ancient Man" Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
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Box 4, Folder 4	"Climate and Man" Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
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3.5: Notes on Other Subjects, circa 1921-circa 1964

Scope and Contents: Included herein are miscellaneous notes on a range of topics and what appears to be a partial draft for an untitled novel.

Box 4, Folder 5	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1921-circa 1951
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Box 4, Folder 6	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
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Box 4, Folder 7	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
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Box 4, Folder 8	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
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Box 4, Folder 9	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
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Box 4, Folder 10	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
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Box 4, Folder 11	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
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Box 4, Folder 12	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
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Box 4, Folder 13	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
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Box 4, Folder 14	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
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Box 4, Folder 15	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1930-circa 1964
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Box 4, Folder 16	Untitled Novel Partial Manuscript, circa 1950-circa 1964
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Series 4: Personal Business Records, circa 1910-circa 1964

0.3 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: The bulk of the personal business records consist of income tax records, including material from Bourgeois Galleries. There are also some bills and receipts, documents related to requesting compensation from the German government for lost and damaged property, and a few miscellaneous financial records.

Box 4, Folder 17	Bills and Receipts, 1954-1958
Box 4, Folder 18	German State Papers - Bund der Auslandsdeutschen, circa 1910-circa 1923
Box 4, Folder 19	Income Tax Records, 1933
Box 4, Folder 20	Income Tax Records, 1934-1936
Box 4, Folder 21	Income Tax Records, 1937-1939
Box 4, Folder 22	Income Tax Records, 1940-1944
Box 4, Folder 23	Income Tax Records, 1954-1955
Box 4, Folder 24	Income Tax Records, 1956-1957
Box 4, Folder 25	Income Tax Records, 1958-1961
Box 4, Folder 26	Miscellaneous Financial Records, circa 1940-circa 1964

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1915-1961

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 4-5)

Scope and Contents: Most of the printed material consists of exhibition catalogs from Bourgeois Galleries. Also included are a few clippings about Stephan Bourgeois, catalogs and auctions from other galleries, and articles from *Gazette des Beaux-Arts* and *Harijan*.

Arrangement: Material related to Stephan Bourgeois and Bourgeois Galleries are at the beginning of the series, followed by other printed material.

Box 4, Folder 27	Clippings about Stephan Bourgeois, 1958-1961
Box 4, Folder 28	Undated Bourgeois Galleries Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1915-circa 1918
Box 4, Folder 29	Bourgeois Galleries Exhibition Catalogs, 1915-1918
Box 4, Folder 30	Bourgeois Galleries Exhibition Catalogs, 1919
Box 4, Folder 31	Bourgeois Galleries Exhibition Catalogs, 1920
Box 4, Folder 32	Bourgeois Galleries Exhibition Catalogs, 1921
Box 4, Folder 33	Bourgeois Galleries Exhibition Catalogs, 1922-1923
Box 4, Folder 34	Bourgeois Galleries Exhibition Catalogs, 1925
Box 4, Folder 35	Bourgeois Galleries Exhibition Catalogs, 1927
Box 4, Folder 36	Bourgeois Galleries Exhibition Catalogs, 1928-1929
Box 4, Folder 37	Bourgeois Galleries Exhibition Catalogs, 1930-1932
Box 4, Folder 38	Other Exhibition Catalogs, 1939-circa 1962
Box 5, Folder 1	Gazette Des Beaux-Arts Articles, 1943-1945
Box 5, Folder 2	Harijan Articles by Gandhi, 1940
Box 5, Folder 3	Koln, Dusseldorf, Bonn Travel Guidebook, 1928

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