



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Charles Cajori Papers, 1942-2011, in the Archives of American Art

Joy Weiner

November 14, 2011

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

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Charles Cajori papers
Date:	1942-2011 1940-2015
Identifier:	AAA.cajochar
Creator:	Cajori, Charles, 1921-2013
Extent:	7.3 Linear feet 0.07 Gigabytes
Language:	Some records are in Italian and Spanish.
Summary:	<p>The papers of New York painter, Charles Cajori measure 7.3 linear feet and 0.070 GB and date from 1940-2015. The collection documents Cajori's activities as a painter, educator, and co-founder of the Tanager Gallery that was located on the Lower East Side in New York through correspondence; writings and notes; interviews, talks, and panel discussions, one digitized, on art and artists; and printed materials. There is a 2.3 linear foot unprocessed addition to this collection donated in 2015 and 2021 that includes correspondence consisting of postcards from Barbara Grossman to Charles Cajori, 1967-1968, and condolences to Barbara regarding Cajori's death; writings; printed material and a sound recording relating to Charles Cajori and the Tanager Gallery; printed material regarding works of art and exhibition reviews; thumb drives and DVDs containing interviews, works of art, installations, Cajori memorial; photographs are of Cajori (several BW oversized), with family and friends, black and white and color photographs of works of art, events and exhibition installations, slides of works of art including masters, and three black and white photographs of Franz Kline and Willem de Kooning and Franz Kline's studio; biographical information; printed material; files regarding the New York Studio School and the conservation of paintings. Material dates from circa 1940-2015.</p>

Administrative Information

Provenance

The collection was donated by Charles Cajori in 2011 and by Barbara Grossman in 2015 and 2021.

Processing Information

The papers were processed to a minimal level by Joy Weiner in 2011. The 2015 and 2021 additions are unprocessed.

Preferred Citation

Charles Cajori papers, 1940-2015. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

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Biographical Note

Painter and teacher Charles Cajori (1921-2013) worked in New York City and Connecticut.

Born in Palo Alto, California in 1921, Charles Cajori studied painting at Colorado College and the Cleveland Art School. Cajori served in the United States Air Force during World War II. Upon his return, he attended Columbia University and then spent two years at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, where he became acquainted with Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning, and other Abstract Expressionist artists.

Charles Cajori was one of the founding members of the Tanager Gallery, an early artists' cooperative gallery, originally located at 90 East Tenth Street in New York, which provided a venue for contemporary artists to exhibit their work. In 1956, Charles Cajori had his first solo exhibition at the Tanager Gallery and since then, he continuously showed his work in numerous solo and group exhibitions in the United States and abroad including American University, Bertha Schaeffer Gallery, David Findlay Jr. Gallery, El Museo de Bellas Artes de Caracas, Ingber Gallery, Lohin Geduld Gallery, Mattatuck Museum, New Arts Gallery, Paesaggio Gallery, Sala di Esposizione della Biblioteca Americana, Stable Gallery, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Charles Cajori's work is represented in a number of public and private collections including the Ciba-Geigy Corporation, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Academy of Design, Walker Art Center, and the Weatherspoon Museum.

In conjunction with his activities as an artist, Charles Cajori taught painting and drawing at major academic institutions and art schools: Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Cooper Union, Cornell University, and the University of California at Berkeley. Cajori was a co-founder of the New York Studio School, where he continues to serve on the faculty.

Charles Cajori received many honors for his work including the 1959 Distinction in the Arts, Yale University; Benjamin Altman, Figure Prize at the National Academy, 1983, 1987; the Childe Hassam Purchase Award by the Institute of Art and Letters Award, 1975-1976, 1980; and the Louis Comfort Tiffany Award, 1979. Also, Cajori was awarded a Fulbright grant to Italy, 1952-1953 and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1981.

Charles Cajori was married to the painter Barbara Grossman and they lived in Watertown, Connecticut.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of New York painter, Charles Cajori measure 7.3 linear feet and 0.070 GB and date from 1940-2015. The collection documents Cajori's activities as a painter, educator, and co-founder of the Tanager

Gallery that was located on the Lower East Side in New York through correspondence; writings and notes; interviews, talks, and panel discussions on art and artists; and printed materials.

Correspondence is personal and professional and consists of mostly incoming letters to Cajori from artists, friends, family, art historians, and academic institutions. There are a few letters from Charles Cajori, including draft of his letters. Among the correspondents are Pat Adams, Leland Bell, Bernard Chaet, Cooper Union, Cleve Gray, Louis Finkelstein, Philip Pearlstein, Sidney Simon, Norman Turner, and the University of California at Berkeley. Of interest, are letters from the founders of the Tanager Gallery, such as Lois Dodd, Angelo Ippolito, and William King. Correspondence also documents Cajori's dealings with galleries and museums as well as his involvement in arts organizations; included are letters from American University, Watkins Gallery; Bertha Schaffer Gallery; Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center; Gallery Association of New York; Museum of Modern Art; Roko Gallery; Stable Gallery; and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Writings and notes are and about Charles Cajori. Cajori's writings include drafts on painting and drawing that Cajori prepared for classroom lectures and panel discussions; essays on Paul Cézanne and Chaim Soutine; and his account of the founding of the Tanager Gallery. Cajori's writings also include a biographical account and an artist's statement. There are writings by Louis Finkelstein, Andrew Forge, and Mercedes Matter about Cajori's work. Included are several guest registers for Cajori's exhibitions at the David Findlay Gallery, Lohin Geduld Gallery, and the New York Studio School.

Interviews, talks, and panel discussions include a transcript of an interview with Charles Cajori, audiotaped and videotaped interviews with Charles Cajori, and panel discussions with Cajori and others. Panel discussions with Cajori and others cover such topics as the New York school artists and Chaim Soutine. Many of recordings focus on Cajori's association with the Tanager Gallery, the art scene in New York during the 1950s, and his reflections on art. Also included are miscellaneous videotaped recordings. One panel discussion is digitized.

Printed material contains exhibition catalogs, checklists, announcements, invitations, press releases, clippings, reviews, brochures, and miscellaneous printed material. A file of printed materials on the Tanager Gallery includes exhibition catalogs and clippings.

There is a 2.3 linear foot unprocessed addition to this collection donated in 2015 and 2021 that includes correspondence consisting of postcards from Barbara Grossman to Charles Cajori, 1967-1968 and condolences to Barbara regarding Cajori's death; writings; printed material and a sound recording relating to Charles Cajori and the Tanager Gallery; printed material regarding works of art and exhibition reviews; thumb drives and DVDs containing interviews, works of art, installations, Cajori memorial; photographs are of Cajori (several BW oversized), with family and friends, black and white and color photographs of works of art, events and exhibition installations, slides of works of art including masters, and three black and white photographs of Franz Kline and Willem de Kooning and Franz Kline's studio; biographical information; printed material; files regarding the New York Studio School and the conservation of paintings. Material dates from circa 1940-2015.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 5 series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1942-2011 (Boxes 1-2; 1.1 linear feet)
- Series 2: Writings and Notes, 1949-2010 (Box 2; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 3: Interviews, Talks, and Panel Discussions, 1983-2010 (Boxes 2-3; 1.2 linear feet, ER01; 0.070 GB)
- Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1950s-2010 (Boxes 3-4; 1.4 linear feet)
- Series 5: Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-2015 (Boxes 5-11; 2.3 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Photographs
Sound recordings
Transcripts
Video recordings

Names:

Adams, Pat, 1928-
American University (Washington, D.C.)
Bell, Leland
Bertha Schaefer Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
Chaet, Bernard
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center
Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art
Cézanne, Paul, 1839-1906
David Findlay Galleries (New York, N.Y.)
Dodd, Lois, 1927-
Finkelstein, Louis
Forge, Andrew
Gallery Association of New York State
Gray, Cleve
Ippolito, Angelo
King, William, 1925-2015
Lohin Geduld Gallery
Matter, Mercedes
Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)
New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture
Pearlstein, Philip, 1924-
Roko Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
Simon, Sidney, 1917-1997
Soutine, Chaim, 1893-1943
Stable Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
Tanager Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
University of California, Berkeley
Watkins Art Gallery (American University)
Whitney Museum of American Art

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1942-2011

(Boxes 1-2; (1.1 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: This series includes letters to Charles Cajori from artist friends, family, art historians, and others. Correspondents discuss the art scene, ongoing projects, and activities; among the correspondents are: Pat Adams, Leland Bell, Bernard Chaet, Cooper Union, Richard Diebenkorn, Cleve Gray, Lawrence Fane, Louis Finkelstein, Barbara Grossman, Karl Kasten, Mercedes Matter, Philip Pearlstein, Anne Poor, Paul Resika, Irving Sandler, Sidney Simon, Norman Turner, and the University of California at Berkeley. Interspersed among the correspondence are letters from museums, galleries, and academic institutions relating to the scheduling of exhibitions, acquisitions, sales of Cajori's work, and faculty appointments, including American University, Watkins Gallery; Bertha Schaffer Gallery; Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center; Gallery Association of New York; Museum of Modern Art; University of Washington, Henry Gallery; University of Texas at Austin; and the Whitney Museum of Art.

Correspondence consists of letters, e-mails, invitations, telegrams, greeting cards, postcards. Many of the letters include enclosures, such as informational sheets; exhibition itineraries; loan receipts and agreements; price lists; miscellaneous receipts; and printed material, such as clippings and reproductions.

Arrangement: Correspondence is arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1942-1949
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1950-1955
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1956-1959
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1960
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1961-1962
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1963
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1964
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, 1965
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1966
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1967
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1968-1969
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1970

Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence, 1971-1972
Box 1, Folder 15	Correspondence, 1974-1975
Box 1, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1976
Box 1, Folder 17	Correspondence, 1977
Box 1, Folder 18	Correspondence, 1978-1979
Box 1, Folder 19	Correspondence, 1980-1981
Box 1, Folder 20	Correspondence, 1982,1985
Box 1, Folder 21	Correspondence, 1989
Box 1, Folder 22	Correspondence, 1990
Box 1, Folder 23	Correspondence, 1991-1992
Box 1, Folder 24	Correspondence, 1993
Box 1, Folder 25	Correspondence, 1994-1996
Box 1, Folder 26	Correspondence, 1997-1999
Box 1, Folder 27	Correspondence, 2000
Box 1, Folder 28	Correspondence, 2001
Box 1, Folder 29	Correspondence, 2002
Box 1, Folder 30	Correspondence, 2003-2004
Box 1, Folder 31	Correspondence, 2005
Box 1, Folder 32	Correspondence, 2006-2007
Box 2, Folder 1	Correspondence, 2008-2009
Box 2, Folder 2	Correspondence, 2010-2011
Box 2, Folder 3	Unidentified Correspondents, Surnames Omitted, undated
Box 2, Folder 4	Correspondence, Fragments, undated
Box 2, Folder 5	Loose Envelopes, 1998, 1990

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Series 2: Writings and Notes, 1949-2010

(Box 2; 0.3 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: This series contains typescripts and handwritten drafts of Charles Cajori's writings and notes and writings by others. Included are Cajori's drafts of lectures and essays on drawing, painting, and other art-related topics; essays on Paul Cézanne and Chaim Soutine; and biographical information. A file on the Tanager Gallery includes Cajori's account of the founding of the gallery and its place in the New York art community, a press release, the transcript of his interview with Lois Dodd, "Reminiscences of the Tenth Street Days" conducted by Joellen Bard and correspondence relating to the interview.

Writings about Charles Cajori contain a typescript of Louis Finkelstein's review of Charles Cajori's one-man exhibition at the Tanager Gallery in 1961 and drafts of Alexander Forge's essay on Charles Cajori. Of interest, is Mercedes Matter's handwritten assessment of Charles Cajori's work. Also found are miscellaneous writings and notes.

There are several guest registers for Cajori's exhibitions at the David Findlay Gallery, Lohin Geduld Gallery, and the New York Studio School.

Box 2, Folder	Writings by Charles Cajori
Box 2, Folder 6-7	On Art and Artists, 1949-2000, undated (2 folders)
Box 2, Folder 8	On the Tanager Gallery, 1950s-1977
Box 2, Folder 9	Notes on Art and Artists, circa 1977-2010, undated
Box 2, Folder 10	Writings about Charles Cajori, 1961-1992, undated
Box 2, Folder 11	Miscellaneous Writings and Notes, 1965-1977, undated
Box 2, Folder 12	Guest Registers, 1992-2007

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Series 3: Interviews, Talks, and Panel Discussions, 1983-2010

1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

0.07 Gigabytes (ER01)

Scope and Contents: This series includes a transcript of a Charles Cajori interview conducted by Gary Lenhart for *Transfer*; sound and video recordings of interviews with Charles Cajori; digitized panel discussion with Charles Cajori; and a video recording, *An Afternoon with the New York School Artists*, 1992 with Charles Cajori taking part in the panel discussion. Also there is a gallery talk to students at the Gross-McCleef Gallery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and a classroom lecture at an unidentified venue.

Arrangement: Recordings are arranged by subject and thereafter in chronological order.

Box 2, Folder	Interviews with Charles Cajori
Box 2, Folder 13	Charles Cajori Interview (1988, September 22), 1988 (floppy disk)
Box 2, Folder 14	Charles Cajori Interview (transcript), circa 1989-1990
Box 2, Folder 15	Charles Cajori Interview (1991, October 28), 1991 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 2, Folder 16	Charles Cajori, Artists Talk on Art (1995, April 28), 1995 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 2, Folder 17	Charles Cajori on His Work (1996, April 9), 1996 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 2, Folder	Talks
Box 2, Folder 18	Charles Cajori Talk to Students at Gross McCleef Art Gallery, circa 1980s 2 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Folder 19	Charles Cajori Talk to Students at Unidentified Venue (1983, August 10), 1983 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 2, Folder	Panel Discussions
Box 2, Folder 20	An Afternoon with the New York School Artists (1992, November 8), 1992 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 2, Folder 21	An Afternoon with the New York School Artists (1993, May 2), 1993 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 3, Folder 1	Sources of Creativity: A Discussion by New York Artists (1996, May), 1996

1 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 3, Folder 2	Growth of Artistic Ideas Toward the Realm of the Spritual (1997, May 4), 1997 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Folder ER01	WNYC's Fishko Files, Discussion on Post-War Painters (2010, October 1), Digital Audio Recording, 2010 0.07 Gigabytes (One computer file)
Box 3, Folder 3	Panel Discussion on Chaim Soutine (1998, April 21), 1998 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 3, Folder	Miscellaneous Recordings, 2010
Box 3, Folder 5	Max, a film by Jeffrey Solon, 1992 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 3, Folder 6	Florian Cajori and the Golden Age of Colorado College, 1992 1 Videocassettes (VHS)

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Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1950s-2010

(Boxes 3-4; 1.4 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: This series houses exhibition catalogs; scattered checklists; announcements; posters; invitations; press releases; printed material, such as clippings, articles, brochures, and miscellaneous printed material. Exhibition catalogs and checklists document Charles Cajori's solo and group exhibitions from 1953 through 2010.

A file of printed materials relating to the Tanager Gallery consists of exhibition catalogs and brochures; announcements and invitations; and clippings.

Printed Material is arranged by format and thereafter in chronological order.

Box 3, Folder 7-9	Tanager Gallery, Exhibition Catalogs and Brochures; Announcements and Invitations; and Clippings, 1952-2002 (3 folders)
Box 3, Folder	Catalogs of Charles Cajori's Exhibitions
Box 3, Folder 10	Solo Exhibitions, 1972-2007
Box 3, Folder 11-14	Group Exhibitions, 1953-1972 (4 folders)
Box 4, Folder 1-3	Group Exhibitions, 1973-2010 (3 folders)
Box 4, Folder 4	Checklists, circa 1960s-1997
Box 4, Folder 5-11	Announcements, 1950s-2010, undated (7 folders)
Box 4, Folder 12	Invitations, circa 1959-2009, undated
Box 4, Folder 13	Press Releases, 1967-2009, undated
Box 4, Folder 14-15	Clippings, 1957-2010 (2 folders)
Box 4, Folder 16	Brochures, 1984-2005
Box 4, Folder 17	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1950s-2001

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