



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Carus Gallery Records,  
1967-2002, 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>  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Carus Gallery records
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.carugall
<b>Date:</b>	1967-2002
<b>Extent:</b>	3.2 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Carus Gallery
<b>Language:</b>	The majority of collection is in English. Some of the correspondence is in German.
<b>Summary:</b>	The records of Carus Gallery measure 3.2 linear feet and date from 1967-2002. This collection documents Dorothea Carus Isserstedt's management of the New York gallery through a small amount of business and personal correspondence; business records regarding acquisitions, sales, and consignments; inventories of artwork and rare books; exhibition catalogs, press clippings, and other printed material; and photographs depicting artwork and exhibition installations.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The records were donated to the Archives in 2004 by Dr. Gheorghe Costinescu and Mrs. Silvelin von Scanzoni Costinescu, the heirs and executors of Dorothy Carus Isserstedt's estate.

### Processing Information

The collection was minimally processed by Justin Brancato in December 2007. The Finding Aid for the collection was finalized by intern Dominique Luster in July 2014.

### Preferred Citation

Carus Gallery Records, 1967-2002. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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## Biographical / Historical

The Carus Gallery was founded by Dorothea Carus Isserstedt (1914-2002). The gallery's primary interest was in European Graphic Arts, specifically German Expressionism, and Russian Constructivism. The gallery exhibited works by Alexander Archipenko, Ernst Barlach, Max Beckmann, Heinrich Campendonk, Otto Dix, Lyonel Feininger, Natalia Goncharova, George Grosz, Erich Heckel, Alexej Jawlensky, Wassily Kandinsky, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Paul Klee, Gustav Klimt, Max Klinger, Kathe Kollowitz, El Lissitzky, Kazimir Malevich, László Moholy-Nagy, Marlow Moss, Otto Mueller, Edvard Munch, Emil Nolde, Christian Rohlf and Egon Schiele.

In 1968, following the death of her parents, Isserstedt opened the Carus Gallery, which was located on the ground level of her home at 243 E 82nd street in New York. The gallery was relocated to Madison Avenue in 1974 and finally to 1044 Madison Avenue where it remained until Isserstedt's retirement in 1996.

Dorothy was born in 1914 in Elberfeld, Germany. She studied art history and archeology at Freiburg University, receiving a doctorate in 1944. Towards the end of World War II Dorothy escaped to East Germany where she settled in Hamburg and found work as a supervisor with the British Forces Network. In 1952 she immigrated to Yorkville, NY where she worked in her father's print and framing shop. Dorothy became an American citizen in 1957.

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## Scope and Contents

The records of Carus Gallery measure 3.2 linear feet and date from 1967-2002. This collection documents Dorothea Carus Isserstedt's management of the New York gallery through a small amount of business and personal correspondence; business records regarding acquisitions, sales, and consignments; inventories of artwork and rare books; exhibition catalogs, press clippings, and other printed material; and photographs depicting artwork and exhibition installations.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 5 series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1974-2000 (4 folders; Box 1)
- Series 2: Business Records, 1971-1996 (1.8 linear feet; Box 1-2)
- Series 3: Inventories, 1973-2002 (0.6 linear feet; Box 2-3)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1967-1992 (0.6 linear feet; Box 3-4)
- Series 5: Photographic Material, 1980s-1990s (4 folders; Box 4)

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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, Modern -- 20th century  
Constructivism (Art)  
Expressionism (Art)  
Futurism (Art)

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Carus Isserstedt, Dorthea, 1914-2002

Functions:

Art galleries, Commercial -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1972-2000

#### *4 Folders (Box 1)*

Correspondence is minimal and consist primarily of art inquiries and similar letters to private collectors, conservators, and other galleries, specifically the Prakapas Gallery and the Skulima Galarie. There is also a small amount of correspondence regarding exhibitions and sales.

Box 1, Folder 1	Personal Correspondence, 1988-1996
Box 1, Folder 2	Business Correspondence, 1977-2000
Box 1, Folder 3	Business Correspondence, Prakapas Gallery, 1974-1976, 1994-1995
Box 1, Folder 4	Business Correspondence, Skulima Galerie, 1986-1991

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## Series 2: Business Records, 1971-1996

### *1.8 Linear feet (Box 1-2)*

Business records include documents detailing acquisitions, sales, and consignments. Also found are financial, legal, and office documents.

Box 1, Folder 5-6	Acquisitions and Sales, 1987-1990, 1972-1977
Box 1, Folder 7	Acquisitions, 1994
Box 1, Folder 8-13	Sales, 1974-1996
Box 1, Folder 14-18	Invoices, 1971-1995
Box 1, Folder 19-20	Consignments, 1976-1996
Box 1, Folder 21	Pricelists, 1975-1995
Box 2, Folder 1-6	Check Ledger, 1982-1987
Box 2, Folder 7	Taxes, 1975-1982
Box 2, Folder 8-9	Phone Log, 1988-1995
Box 2, Folder 10	"Jawlensky Affair" Legal Proceedings, 1994-1995
Box 2, Folder 11-12	Europe, 1977-1980
Box 2, Folder 13-14	Notebooks, 1972-1985

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## Series 3: Inventories, 1973-2002

### *0.6 Linear feet (Box 2-3)*

Inventories include lists of artworks and rare books that could be found at the Carus Gallery. This series also includes a set of index cards containing catalog information regarding artwork.

Box 2, Folder 14-15	Artworks, 1973-2002
Box 2, Folder 15-16	Rare Artists' Book Sale, 1967-1995
Box 2, Folder 17	Artists' Books and Prints, 2002
Box 2, Folder 18	Index Cards of Gallery Library, circa 1980s-1990s
Box 3, Folder 1-2	Index Cards of Gallery Library, circa 1980s-1990s

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## Series 4: Printed Material, 1967-1992

### *0.6 Linear feet (Box 3-4)*

Printed material includes a number of gallery catalogs, exhibition announcements, and press releases. The series also includes a catalog that was originally bound detailing information regarding the gallery's art holdings; most entries also include a small thumbnail. Additionally, this series contains a limited number of magazine and newspaper clippings.

Box 3, Folder 3-6	Catalogs, 1975-1983
Box 3, Folder 7-9	Gallery Invitations, 1975-1992
Box 3, Folder 10	Magazine and Newspaper Clippings, 1980-1983
Box 3, Folder 11	Catalog Clippings, A-J, circa 1980s-1990s
Box 3, Folder 12	Catalog Clippings, K-Z, circa 1980s-1990s
Box 4, Folder 1	Printed Artwork, circa 1980s-1990s
Box 4, Folder 2	Carus Gallery Advertisements, 1967-1982
Box 4, Folder 3	Press Kit Materials, 1980s
Box 4, Folder 4	Press Releases, 1980s-1990s

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## Series 5: Photographic Material, 1980s-1990s

### *4 Folders (Box 4)*

Photographs and slides depict artwork by Felix Del Marle, El Lissitzky, and others. In addition to photographs, this series also contains slides of gallery installations at the Carus Gallery.

Box 4, Folder 5	Photographs of Artwork, 1980s-1990s
Box 4, Folder 6	Photographs of Artwork, Felix Del Marle, 1980s-1990s
Box 4, Folder 7	Photographs of Artwork, El Lissitzky, 1980s-1990s
Box 4, Folder 8	Installation Photographs and Slides, circa 1980s-1990s

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