



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Challis Galleries Records,  
1950-1994, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Challis Galleries records
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.chalgall
<b>Date:</b>	1950-1994
<b>Extent:</b>	2.2 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Challis Galleries (Laguna Beach, Calif.)
<b>Language:</b>	The collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The records of Challis Galleries located in Laguna Beach, California, measure 2.2 linear feet and date from 1950 to 1994. The bulk of the records consist of artists' files and sales ledgers. Also included are a few administrative files and business correspondence.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Challis Galleries records were donated to the Archives of American Art by gallery owner Richard Challis in 1994.

### Processing Information

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

### Preferred Citation

Challis Galleries records, 1950-1994. 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Challis Galleries (1950-1984) was an art gallery in Laguna Beach, California, that featured the work of local and regional artists.

Richard Challis was born in London, England in 1920 and moved to Laguna Beach, California in 1946. Roughly three years after arriving in California, he purchased a building at 1390 South Coast Highway which became Laguna Studio Gallery, later renamed as Challis Galleries in 1966. The gallery officially opened its doors in 1950.

Challis Galleries showcased the work of California watercolorists and regional artists. Among the artists represented are Bennett Bradbury, Sergei Bongart, Rex Brandt, Virginia Dan, Paul Di Bert, Phil Dike, Leon Franks, Roger Kuntz, Eliot O'Hara, Polia Pillin, Burt Proctor, and many others. The gallery held regular exhibitions with Richard Challis as its director until his retirement in 1984. Shortly thereafter the gallery was sold to Esther Wells and became known as the Esther Wells Collection.

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## Scope and Contents

The records of Challis Galleries located in Laguna Beach, California, measure 2.2 linear feet and date from 1950 to 1994. The bulk of the records consist of artists' files and sales ledgers. Also included are a few administrative files and business correspondence.

Administrative files include Challis Galleries brochures, materials related to exhibitions and events; one folder on Adele Bednarz Galleries, which Richard Challis ran for two years; and one folder of miscellaneous printed material.

Business correspondence is from art world colleague Paul Farron, accountant Lacy Marlette, Laguna Beach City Council, and Laguna Beach Museum of Art on matters relating to operating Challis Galleries.

Artists' files include a range of materials on artists represented by Challis Galleries such as biographical outlines, photographs, printed material and price lists. Notable artists include Bennett Bradbury, Sergei Bongart, Rex Brandt, Virginia Dan, Paul Di Bert, Phil Dike, Leon Franks, Roger Kuntz, Eliot O'Hara, Polia Pillin and Burt Proctor, among others.

There are 16 ledgers that record the sales of artwork at Challis Galleries.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as four series.

- Series 1: Administrative Files, 1965-1989 (Box 1; 6 folders)
- Series 2: Business Correspondence, 1951-1983 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 3: Artists' Files, 1950-1994 (Boxes 1-2; 1.3 linear feet)
- Series 4: Sales Ledgers, 1958-1984 (Boxes 2-3; 0.6 linear feet)

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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 galleries, Commercial -- California -- Laguna Beach  
Art, Modern -- 20th century -- California -- Exhibitions

Names:

Adele Bednarz Galleries  
Bongart, Sergei, 1918-1985  
Bradbury, Bennett

Brandt, Rex, 1914-2000  
Challis, Richard  
Dan, Virginia  
DiBert, Paul  
Dike, Phil, 1906-1990  
Farron, Paul  
Franks, Leon  
Kuntz, Roger, 1926-1975  
Laguna Art Museum (Laguna Beach, Calif.)  
Laguna Beach. City Council (Calif.)  
Marlette, Lacy  
O'Hara, Frank, 1926-1966  
Pillin, Polia  
Proctor, Burt

Occupations:

Artists -- California

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Administrative Files, 1965-1989

#### *6 Folders (Box 1)*

Administrative files include one folder of artist biographies from Adele Bednarz Galleries, which Richard Challis ran for two years; Challis Galleries brochures; materials related to exhibitions and events Richard Challis possibly helped organize, such as the *All California Art Exhibit* and the Costa Mesa Art League Centennial; and one folder of miscellaneous printed material.

This series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Box 1, Folder 1	Adele Bednarz Galleries - Artist Biographies, circa 1975-circa 1976
Box 1, Folder 2	<i>All California Art Exhibit - 20th Annual Los Angeles Home Show, 1965</i>
Box 1, Folder 3	Challis Galleries Brochures, circa 1966-circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 4	Costa Mesa Art League Centennial, 1989
Box 1, Folder 5	<i>Paintings by 7 Distinguished Californian Watercolorists: Brandt, Brommer, Dike, Haines, Parshall, Post, Wood, 1977</i>
Box 1, Folder 6	Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1974-1989

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## Series 2: Business Correspondence, 1951-1983

### *0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Correspondence is with colleague Paul Farron often providing information about and inquiring after artists and their work, accountant Lacy Marlette about Challis Galleries operating expenses and taxes, Laguna Beach City Council regarding parking and construction along South Coast Highway, and Laguna Beach Museum of Art about acquiring paintings from Challis Galleries for their collection.

The material in this series is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

Box 1, Folder 7	Farron, Paul, 1951-1977
Box 1, Folder 8	Laguna Beach City Council, 1971-1974
Box 1, Folder 9	Laguna Beach Museum of Art, 1981-1983
Box 1, Folder 10	Marlette, Lacy, 1970-1974
Box 1, Folder 11	Marlette, Lacy, 1975-1978

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## Series 3: Artists' Files, 1950-1994

### 1.3 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Artists' files include a range of materials on artists represented by Challis Galleries such as biographical outlines, exhibition catalogs and announcements, photographs, clippings, sales records, price lists and receipts. While there are usually assorted materials on most artists, several of the folders on artists only contain exhibition catalogs. Notable artists include Ben Abril, Bennett Bradbury, Sergei Bongart, Rex Brandt, Gerald F. Brommer, Mark Coomer, Virginia Dan, Italo D'Andrea, Paul Di Bert, Gilbert E. DiCicco, Phil Dike, Sir William Russell Flint, Leon Franks, Frank Hamilton, Paul Blaine Henri, Leonard Kaplan, Roger Kuntz, Ken Knutson, Charles McGrath, Eliot O'Hara, Erika Oller, Polia Pillin, Burt Proctor and Paul M. Souza, among others.

This series is arranged alphabetically. Artists with a large amount of material, such as correspondence, price lists, and printed material, have multiple folders arranged by document type.

Box 1	Abril, Ben
Box 1, Folder 12	Biographical Outline and Photograph, circa 1964
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1964-1983
Box 1, Folder 14	Price Lists and Sales Records, circa 1965-1973
Box 1, Folder 15	Printed Material, 1964-1981
Box 1, Folder 16	Anderson, Lucia, 1974
Box 1, Folder 17	Asaro, John, 1979
Box 1, Folder 18	Badcock, Douglas, 1981
Box 1, Folder 19	Baird, Warner and Anne Von, 1965
Box 1, Folder 20	Beck, Joan, 1975-circa 1976
Box 1, Folder 21	Benson, R. A., 1978-1990
Box 1, Folder 22	Berger, Pat, 1981
Box 1, Folder 23	Bogardus, Ellie, 1978-1991
Box 1	Bongart, Sergei
Box 1, Folder 24	Correspondence, circa 1964-1977



Box 1, Folder 25	Photographs, circa 1964-circa 1975
Box 1, Folder 26	Price Lists and Sales Records, circa 1964-circa 1975
Box 1, Folder 27	Printed Material, 1962-1978
Box 1	Bradbury, Bennett
Box 1, Folder 28	Biographical Outline, circa 1951-circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 29	Correspondence, 1951-1971
Box 1, Folder 30	Photographs, circa 1951-circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 31	Price Lists, Sales Records and Receipts, 1951-1969
Box 1, Folder 32	Printed Material, 1953-1991
Box 1, Folder 33	Bradbury Collection, circa 1961-circa 1974
Box 1	Brandt, Rex
Box 1, Folder 34	Biographical Outlines, 1964-1973
Box 1, Folder 35	Correspondence, 1966-1972
Box 1, Folder 36	Correspondence, 1973-1974
Box 1, Folder 37	Correspondence, 1975-1976
Box 1, Folder 38	Price Lists and Sales Records, 1964-1974
Box 1, Folder 39	Sales and Consignment Receipts, 1969-1975
Box 1, Folder 40	Printed Material, circa 1969-1988
Box 1, Folder 41	Brommer, Gerald F., circa 1973-1994
Box 1, Folder 42	Bunkall, Richard, circa 1977-1980
Box 1, Folder 43	Canavier, Elena Karina, 1974
Box 1	Challis, Patricia

Box 1, Folder 44	Correspondence, 1966-circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 45	Photographs, circa 1965
Box 1, Folder 46	Price Lists, Sales Records and Receipts, circa 1965-circa 1968
Box 1, Folder 47	Printed Material, 1966-1968
Box 1, Folder 48	Clark, Timothy J., circa 1981-1989
Box 1, Folder 49	Clymer, Albert, circa 1971-1973
Box 1, Folder 50	Cohen, Michael, 1965
Box 1, Folder 51	Coomer, Mark, 1969-1994
Box 1	Dan, Virginia
Box 1, Folder 52	Correspondence, 1971-1982
Box 1, Folder 53	Price Lists, Sales Records and Receipts, 1969-1982
Box 1, Folder 54	D'Andrea, Italo, circa 1963-1978
Box 1, Folder 55	Day, B. Sanford, 1974
Box 1, Folder 56	Deane, Miriam Shelton, 1981
Box 1, Folder 57	Delair, circa 1981
Box 1	Di Bert, Paul
Box 1, Folder 58	Biographical Outline and Correspondence, circa 1965-circa 1975
Box 1, Folder 59	Price Lists, Sales Records and Receipts, 1965-1982
Box 1, Folder 60	Printed Material, circa 1973-circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 61	DiCicco, Gilbert E., 1980-1983
Box 1, Folder 62	Dike, Phil, circa 1971-1992

Box 1, Folder 63	Fellman, Gerald, circa 1960-circa 1975
Box 1, Folder 64	Flint, Sir William Russell, 1955-1984
Box 1, Folder 65	Florian, Mark, circa 1960-circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 66	Foster, Will, circa 1953
Box 1, Folder 67	Frame, Robert, 1976-1978
Box 2	Franks, Leon
Box 2, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1964-1981
Box 2, Folder 2	Price Lists and Sales Records, 1961-1982
Box 2, Folder 3	Printed Material, circa 1961-circa 1964
Box 2, Folder 4	Friesz, Ray, 1963-1968
Box 2, Folder 5	Gilkerson, Phil, circa 1964
Box 2, Folder 6	Greene, Lucille Brown, 1982
Box 2, Folder 7	Grimmer, Jerome, 1976-1978
Box 2, Folder 8	Hamilton, Frank, 1973-1989
Box 2, Folder 9	Henrie, Paul Blaine, circa 1962-circa 1966
Box 2, Folder 10	Hopkins, Art, 1980
Box 2, Folder 11	Howlett, Ray, 1979
Box 2, Folder 12	Irving, Joan, 1976-1980
Box 2, Folder 13	"Jocko", circa 1978
Box 2, Folder 14	Kaplan, Leonard, circa 1965-circa 1991
Box 2, Folder 15	Knaus, Frank, circa 1968
Box 2, Folder 16	Knutson, Ken, 1968-1991

Box 2	Kuntz, Roger
Box 2, Folder 17	Photographs, Price Lists and Sales Records, circa 1975
Box 2, Folder 18	Printed Material, 1964-1990
Box 2, Folder 19	Lake, Randall, 1989
Box 2, Folder 20	Leeper, John, 1978
Box 2, Folder 21	Logan, Michael, 1979
Box 2, Folder 22	Lussier, Illene, 1973
Box 2, Folder 23	Malvina, 1962-1963
Box 2	McGrath, Clarence
Box 2, Folder 24	Correspondence, 1965-1978
Box 2, Folder 25	Price Lists and Sales Records, circa 1962-circa 1976
Box 2, Folder 26	Printed Material, circa 1976-1990
Box 2, Folder 27	Moreton, Russell, circa 1950-circa 1965
Box 2, Folder 28	Nagano, Ann, 1980
Box 2, Folder 29	Nugent, Kristina Rice, 1991-1994
Box 2	O'Hara, Eliot
Box 2, Folder 30	Correspondence, 1953-1968
Box 2, Folder 31	Photographs, 1950-1978
Box 2, Folder 32	Price Lists, Sales Records and Receipts, 1952-1968
Box 2, Folder 33	Printed Material, circa 1953-circa 1955
Box 2, Folder 34	Oller, Erika, circa 1988

Box 2, Folder 35	Parshall, Douglass, 1961-1979
Box 2, Folder 36	Peche, Dale C., circa 1976-circa 1980
Box 2, Folder 37	Peck, Bob, 1972
Box 2, Folder 38	Petersen, Roland, 1976
Box 2, Folder 39	Pierce, Ruth A. , circa 1960-circa 1975
Box 2	Pillin, Polia
Box 2, Folder 40	Biographical Outline and Price List, circa 1960-1985
Box 2, Folder 41	Correspondence, circa 1987-1992
Box 2, Folder 42	Photographs, 1985
Box 2, Folder 43	Printed Material, circa 1971-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 44	Post, George, 1976-1979
Box 2, Folder 45	Power, Robert, 1979
Box 2	Proctor, Burt
Box 2, Folder 46	Biographical Outline and Correspondence, circa 1969-1981
Box 2, Folder 47	Photographs, 1978-1980
Box 2, Folder 48	Price Lists, Sales Records and Receipts, 1960-1980
Box 2, Folder 49	Printed Material, circa 1980
Box 2, Folder 50	Pullen, Guy, circa 1965-circa 1980
Box 2, Folder 51	Rankin, Lou, circa 1980
Box 2, Folder 52	Rauch, George, 1975
Box 2, Folder 53	Roberts, David, 1973
Box 2, Folder 54	Simandle, Marilyn, 1980-1981

Box 2, Folder 55	Snyder, Ruth, 1978-1981
Box 2, Folder 56	Souza, Paul M., circa 1974-1975
Box 2, Folder 57	Storch, Sally, 1980
Box 2, Folder 58	Todd, Cecelia, 1975
Box 2, Folder 59	Tommela, Sandra, 1980
Box 2, Folder 60	Trout, Marjorie G., 1979
Box 2, Folder 61	Weekes, Shirley, 1972-1974
Box 2, Folder 62	Weiss, Lee, 1977
Box 2, Folder 63	Weldon, Barbara, 1978-1979
Box 2, Folder 64	Winslow, Valerie, 1981
Box 2, Folder 65	Winter, Peter, 1981
Box 2, Folder 66	Wood, Jane, 1977-1980
Box 2, Folder 67	Wood, Robert E., 1977-1994

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## Series 4: Sales Ledgers, 1958-1984

*0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)*

There are 16 sales ledgers that record the sales of artwork at Challis Galleries.

The ledgers are arranged chronologically.

Box 2, Folder 68	Sales Ledger, 1958-1959
Box 2, Folder 69	Sales Ledger, 1960
Box 2, Folder 70	Sales Ledger, 1961-1962
Box 2, Folder 71	Sales Ledger, 1963
Box 2, Folder 72	Sales Ledger, 1964
Box 2, Folder 73	Sales Ledger, 1965
Box 2, Folder 74	Sales Ledger, 1966-1967
Box 2, Folder 75	Sales Ledger, 1968-1969
Box 2, Folder 76	Sales Ledger, 1970-1971
Box 2, Folder 77	Sales Ledger, 1972-1974
Box 2, Folder 78	Sales Ledger, 1975-1977
Box 2, Folder 79	Sales Ledger, 1978
Box 2, Folder 80	Sales Ledger, 1979
Box 2, Folder 81	Sales Ledger, 1980-1981
Box 3, Folder 1	Sales Ledger, 1982
Box 3, Folder 2	Sales Ledger, 1983-1984

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