



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the William Clutz Papers,  
1930-2016, in the Archives of American Art

Hilary Price

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Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	William Clutz papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.clutwill
<b>Date:</b>	1930-2016
<b>Extent:</b>	3.1 Linear feet 11 Gigabytes
<b>Creator:</b>	Clutz, William
<b>Language:</b>	Collection is in English
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of New York painter William Clutz measure 3.1 linear feet and date from 1930-2016. The collection consists of biographical material, correspondence, personal business records, printed material, photographic material, artworks, and twelve sketchbooks which illuminate the career and artistic development of Clutz, a painter known for depictions of figures in urban settings. The photographic material is particularly robust and includes hundreds of photographs, slides, transparencies, and digital images of Clutz, family, friends, his painting, as well as documentation of exhibition installations. Artwork and sketchbooks in pencil, pastel, and charcoal provide a glimpse into the preliminary stages of his work process.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated to the Archives of American Art between 1980-2016 by William Clutz.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Hilary Price in 2017.

### Preferred Citation

William Clutz papers, 1930-2016. 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. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

William Clutz (1933- ) is a painter and art instructor who lived in New York City from 1955-1996 and now resides in Rhinebeck, New York. He was born in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and later studied at the Mercersburg Academy and University of Iowa before moving to New York City. Clutz's paintings, pastels, and charcoal drawings often depict figures in urban landscapes, with light playing a key role in composition and mood. He has exhibited with a number of galleries over the past several decades including the Bertha Schaefer Gallery, Brooke Alexander Gallery, Alonzo Gallery, Tatistcheff Gallery, the Katharina Rich Perlow Gallery, and others. In addition to his career as a professional artist, Clutz taught painting and drawing at Parsons the New School for Design from 1970-1992.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of New York painter William Clutz measure 3.1 linear feet and date from 1930-2016. The collection consists of biographical material, correspondence, personal business records, printed material, photographic material, artworks, and twelve sketchbooks which illuminate the career and artistic development of Clutz, a painter known for depictions of figures in urban settings. The photographic material is particularly robust and includes hundreds of photographs, slides, transparencies, and digital images of Clutz, family, friends, his painting, as well as documentation of exhibition installations. Artwork and sketchbooks in pencil, pastel, and charcoal provide a glimpse into the preliminary stages of his work process.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as seven series

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1930-2015 (4 folders; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1946-2015 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: Personal Business Records, 1967-2015 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 149-2012 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1, OV 5)
- Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1940-2016 (1.2 linear feet; Box 1-2, OV 6; 11 gigabytes; ER01-ER03)
- Series 6: Artwork, circa 1960-2000 (2 folders; Box 2, OV 7)
- Series 7: Sketchbooks, circa 1955-1990 (0.9 linear feet; Box 2-4)

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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 -- Study and teaching  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Photographs  
Sketchbooks

Occupations:

Art teachers -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 1930-2015

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

Biographical material dates from 1930-2015 and includes biographical notes, resumes, awards, as well as one folder of photographs and clippings related to his family and one related to his longtime partner, John F. Sheehy. One unpublished writing about Clutz is also filed here.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Notes, Diplomas, Awards, 1951-2015
Box 1, Folder 2	Clutz Family, 1930-1988
Box 1, Folder 3	John F. Sheehy, circa 2000-2003
Box 1, Folder 4	Writing by Robert H. Luck, "William Clutz: Today's Master of the Loaded Brush", circa 1977

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## Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1946-2015

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

Correspondence dates from circa 1946-2015 and is both personal and professional in nature. Early correspondence includes several letters Clutz wrote to his parents while in college, some describing his paintings. Professional correspondence is with galleries, museums, critics, and others regarding exhibition planning and logistic, gifts, loans, and sales. Scattered among the correspondence are contracts, loan agreements, and sales invoices.

Box 1, Folder 5	Chronological Correspondence, circa 1946-1969
Box 1, Folder 6	Chronological Correspondence, 1970s
Box 1, Folder 7	Chronological Correspondence, 1980s
Box 1, Folder 8	Chronological Correspondence, 1990s
Box 1, Folder 9	Chronological Correspondence, circa 2000-2015

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## Series 3: Personal Business Records, 1967-2015

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

Personal business records date from 1967-2015 and consist of documentation relating to the conservation, exhibitions, sales, gifts, and photographic reproduction of Clutz's works.

Box 1, Folder 10	Conservation and Framing, 2001-2005
Box 1, Folder 11	Gifts to Museums, 1990-2015
Box 1, Folder 12	Katharina Rich Perlow Gallery, 1999-2012
Box 1, Folder 13	Receipts, Invoices, Agreements, circa 2004
Box 1, Folder 14	Sales, 1967-1979

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## Series 4: Printed Material, 1949-2012

*0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 5)*

Printed material dates from 1949-2012 and documents Clutz's professional career and exhibition history through announcements, clippings, exhibition catalogs, periodicals, press releases, price lists, and other types of printed matter.

Box 1, Folder 15	Announcements, 1949-2009
Box 1, Folder 16-17	Clippings, circa 1960-2012
Box 1, Folder 18-20	Exhibition Catalogs, 1950s-2000s
Box 1, Folder 21	Periodicals, Bulletins, Pamphlets, circa 1972-1995
Box 1, Folder 22	Press Releases, 1969-1981
Box 1, Folder 23	Price Lists, 1977-1991
Box OV 5	Oversized Calendar, 1984

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## Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1940-2016

*11 Gigabytes (ER01-ER03)*

*1.2 Linear feet (Box 1-2, OV 6)*

The photographic material dates from circa 1940-2016 and includes primarily photographs and digital photographs with a few slides and transparencies. One folder contains photographs of Clutz throughout all stages of his life and with family and friends. Several folders contains photographs and digital photographs of his artwork throughout his career. Exhibition and installation photographs are arranged chronologically and document Clutz's exhibitions through the decades, including those at Bertha Schaefer Gallery, Brooke Alexander Gallery, Alonzo Gallery, Tatistcheff Gallery, Katharina Rich Perlow Gallery, and others. The last folder contains a few photographs that were used as source material for a painting.

Box 1, Folder 24	William Clutz, Family, Friends, circa 1940-2007 Oversized photographs housed in OV 6
Box 1, Folder 25-26	Artwork, Black and White Prints, circa 1950-1980
Box 2, Folder 1	Artwork, Black and White Prints, circa 1950-1980
Box 2, Folder 2-3	Artwork, Color Prints, circa 1980-2010
Box 2, Folder 4	Artwork, Computer Printouts and Digital Photographs, Collection of David and Theresa Clutz, 2015-2016 Includes born digital material, see ER01
Box ER01	Digital Photographs, 2015-2016 <i>108 Megabytes (20 computer files)</i>
Box 2, Folder 5	Artwork, Computer Printouts and Digital Photographs, Portfolio, 2014 Includes born digital material, see ER02
Box ER02	Digital Photographs, 2014 <i>1.77 Gigabytes (566 computer files)</i>
Box ER03	Artwork, Digital Photographs, 2004-2014 <i>9.13 Gigabytes (1,136 computer files)</i>
Box 2, Folder 7	Artwork, Slides and Transparencies, circa 1965-2000
Box 2, Folder 8-13	Exhibitions and Installations, circa 1960-2013
Box 2, Folder 14	Source Photographs, circa 2000
Box OV 6	Oversized William Clutz Photographs from Box 1, Folder 24

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## Series 6: Artwork, circa 1960-2000

*2 Folders (Box 2, OV 7)*

Artworks date from circa 1960-2000 and include sketches in pencil, charcoal, and pastel, as well as a few paintings. Some works are preliminary studies for larger works, including street scenes occupied by groups of figures, while others are casual subjects in his everyday life including his cat and partner John F. Sheehy.

Box 2, Folder 15            Sketches and Preliminary Studies, circa 1960-2000

Box OV 7                    Oversized Sketches and Preliminary Studies, circa 1960-2000

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## Series 7: Sketchbooks, circa 1955-1990

### *0.9 Linear feet (Box 2-4)*

Twelve sketchbooks date from circa 1955-1990 and are filled with hundreds of sketches in pencil, charcoal, and watercolor. Some sketches illustrate Clutz's preparatory thinking for finished works and others were completed as part of a technical demonstration in one of his courses. Subjects range from exterior to domestic scenes to portraits. A few pages contain logistical notes pertaining to his courses.

Box 2, Folder 16	Sketchbook, 1955
Box 2, Folder 16	Sketchbook, 1955-1960
Box 2, Folder 17	Sketchbook, circa 1970
Box 3, Folder 1	Sketchbook, circa 1970
Box 3, Folder 2	Sketchbook, circa 1970
Box 3, Folder 3	Sketchbook, circa 1975
Box 3, Folder 4	Sketchbook, circa 1990
Box 3, Folder 5	Sketchbook, circa 1990
Box 4, Folder 1	Sketchbook, circa 1990
Box 4, Folder 2	Sketchbook, circa 1990
Box 4, Folder 3	Sketchbook, circa 1990
Box 4, Folder 4	Sketchbook, circa 1990

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