



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Calvert Coggeshall Papers, 1920-1999, bulk 1965-1989, in the Archives of American Art

Judy Ng

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provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art

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Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-7950
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Calvert Coggeshall Papers
Date:	1920-1999 (bulk 1965-1989)
Identifier:	AAA.cogcalv
Creator:	Coggeshall, Calvert, 1907-1990
Extent:	1.7 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Maine abstract painter and interior designer Calvert Coggeshall measure 1.7 linear feet and date from 1920-1999, with the bulk of the material dating from 1965-1989. They consist of scattered biographical material, personal and business related correspondence, writings, exhibition files, design business files, printed material, and photographs of Coggeshall, his friends, and his work.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers of Calvert Coggeshall were donated in 2006 by his son Tomlin Coggeshall.

Processing Information

The collection was fully processed by Judy Ng in January 2011.

Preferred Citation

Calvert Coggeshall papers, 1920-1999, bulk 1965-1989. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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Biographical Note

Calvert Coggeshall (1907-1990) worked as an abstract painter and interior designer primarily in Maine and New York City. From 1951 to 1978, he exhibited regularly with the Betty Parsons Gallery.

Born in Whitesboro, New York, Coggeshall started his career as an interior designer, working on commissions for clients in the New York City area. He later consulted on the interior designs for Henry Dreyfuss' line of cruise/cargo ships called American Export, popular from the 1940s through the 1960s. In the 1940s, he also worked with inventor Arthur Young to design interiors for the first full-sized scale of Bell helicopter models. By the 1950s, Coggeshall began splitting his time between painting and design work, though he continued to regularly consult and work on several architectural and interior design projects throughout the 1980s.

As a painter, his early monochromatic abstracts were influenced by his friend and abstract expressionist, Bradley Walker Tomlin. An early member of Betty Parson's stable of painters, Coggeshall was friends with other artists, including Jack Tworkov, Grace Hartigan, Katharine Kuh, Nora Sayre, Hedda Sterne, and Richard Tuttle. After summering and eventually moving to Newcastle, Maine in the 1960s, he began introducing color into his abstract paintings. and A major retrospective of his work was held at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art in Maine in 1977. In 1978, he received a Guggenheim fellowship in recognition of his work. Working out of his studios in Newcastle and Manhattan, Coggeshall continued producing abstract paintings into the late 1980s. Coggeshall died in 1990.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Maine abstract painter and designer Calvert Coggeshall measure 1.7 linear feet and date from 1920-1999, with the bulk of the material dating from 1965-1989. They consist of biographical material, personal and business correspondence, personal writings, exhibition and business files, printed material, and photographs. The bulk of the material documents Coggeshall's professional work and his friendships with other artists.

Biographical material includes Coggeshall's personal address books and day planning notes, oral history transcripts, including an interview discussing his friendship with Walker Evans, a copy of his Guggenheim application and acceptance letters, and miscellaneous records.

Correspondence is predominantly in the form of cards, postcards, and short letters received from family and friends. These include correspondence from Coggeshall's father, children, his older grandchildren, and his mother-in-law, Frances Coralie Perkins. Other frequent correspondents include family friend Daphne Cox, artists Michael Lekakis, Loren McIver, Jack Tworkov, and museum director Gordon Washburn.

Personal writings consist of poetry notes and drafts and a short essay on church design.

Exhibition files concern Coggeshall's one man shows at the Betty Parsons Gallery during the 1970s and early 1980s, his retrospective at Bowdoin College in 1977, and his inclusion in shows at Artists Space, the Farnsworth Museum, and Jack Tilton Gallery.

Business files related to Coggeshall's interior design work consist of architectural renderings and blueprints, work proposals, invoices, and receipts. Some of the more significant projects include work done for Lisa de Kooning, Priscilla Morgan, Arthur Penn, and Shoji Sadao.

Printed material includes newspaper clippings, exhibition announcements from other artists, and a booklet showcasing abstract artists titled, "Artfully Taught."

Photographs are color and black and white prints of Coggeshall and his friends in his studio and outside his Newcastle, Maine residence. There are also black and white photographs of Coggeshall's early design work in furniture and fabric, as well as documentation of his gallery design work for the Albright Art Gallery.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 7 series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1960-1990 (Box 1, OV 3; 8 folders)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1920-1993 (Box 1, OV 3; 28 folders)
- Series 3: Writings, 1965-1989 (Box 1; 5 folders)
- Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1970-1992 (Box 1, OV 3; 12 folders)
- Series 5: Business Files, 1973-1989 (Boxes 1-2, OV 4-5; 27 folders)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1950-1999 (Box 2, OV 3; 6 folders)
- Series 7: Photographs, 1940-1985 (Box 2; 6 folders)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Artists' studios -- Photographs
Designers -- Maine
Interior decorators -- New York (State) -- New York
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Poets -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Architectural drawings
Blueprints
Drafts (documents)
Essays
Notes
Oral histories (document genres)
Photographs
Poems
Transcripts

Names:

Artists Space (Gallery)
Betty Parsons Gallery
Bowdoin College, Museum of Art
Evans, Walker, 1903-1975
Jack Tilton Gallery
Lekakis, Michael, 1907-
Morgan, Priscilla
Penn, Arthur, 1922-
Perkins, Frances
Shoji, Sadao, 1937-
Tworkov, Jack
Washburn, Gordon B. (Gordon Bailey), 1904-1983
William A. Farnsworth Library and Art Museum

Occupations:

Painters -- Maine

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1960-1990

8 Folders (Box 1, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes Coggeshall's personal address books and day planning notes, his birth certificate and obituary, and a copy of his Guggenheim application and acceptance letters. There are also two oral history transcripts, the first concerning Coggeshall's life and dual career as a painter and designer, the second concerning his friendship with Walker Evans. The interviewers for each oral history are identified as W.B. and N.S. respectively, and may have been conducted by close friends Wally Barker and Nora Sayers. Also included are the records of his Manhattan home renovation project from 1975-1981.

Box 1, Folder 1	Address Book, circa 1960-1989
Box 1, Folder 2	Birth Certificate, 1972
Box 1, Folder 3	Guggenheim Fellowship, 1978-1979
Box 1, Folder 4	Home Renovation, Notes and Receipts, 1975-1981 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 3
Box 1, Folder 5	Interview Transcript, Coggeshall Oral History, circa 1973-1974
Box 1, Folder 6	Interview Transcript, Coggeshall re. Walker Evans, 1989
Box 1, Folder 7	Obituary, 1990
Box OV 3	Home Renovation Blueprints and Renderings, 1975-1981 Notes: Oversized material from Box 1, F4

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1920-1993

28 Folders (Box 1, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is predominantly in the form of cards, postcards, and short letters received from family and friends. These include informal letters and cards from Coggeshall's father, children, his older grandchildren, and his mother-in-law, Frances Coralie Perkins. Other frequent correspondents include family friend Daphne Cox, artists Michael Lekakis, Loren Mclver, Jack Tworkov, and museum director Gordon Washburn. Additional correspondents include Walter Barker, Mrs. Alfred J. Barr (Marga), Chouteau Chapin, Nancy Grove, Grace Hartigan, Katharine Kuh, Nora Sayre, Hedda Sterne, Jack Tilton, Richard Tuttle, and Catherine Viviano. A handful of business letters related to Coggeshall's paintings and representation in galleries are also included in the series.

Arrangement: Correspondence is arranged into 3 subseries:

- Subseries 2.1: Business, 1967-1993
- Subseries 2.2: Family, 1920-1989
- Subseries 2.3: Friends, 1954-1991

2.1: Business, 1967-1993

Box 1, Folder 8 Letters Received, Fine Arts Related, 1967-1993

2.2: Family, 1920-1989

Box 1, Folder 9 Coggeshall, Howard W., circa 1920-1930, 1935, 1939
Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 3

Box 1, Folder 10 Coggeshall, John, Kate, Pleasance, and Tomlin, 1969-1989

Box 1, Folder 11 Daniel, Kirstin, and Zoe, 1988-1989

Box 1, Folder 12 Perkins, Frances, circa 1960-1969

Box OV 3 Oversized Clipping, 1946
Notes: Oversized material from Box 1, F9

2.3: Friends, 1954-1991

Box 1, Folder 13 A, Miscellaneous, 1970-1989
Notes:

- Alain
- Alice
- Alison
- Alison and George
- Anna
- Ardis

Box 1, Folder 14 B, Miscellaneous, 1975-1990
Notes:

- Barker, Walter W.
- Barnes, Kate

- Barr, Mrs. Alfred J. (Marga)
- Batine
- Berry, Joyce
- Bewin, Bruce and Naomi
- Bill
- Binnings, Robin
- Breit, Alice Morris
- Brown, Amelia

Box 1, Folder 15 Cox, Daphne, 1970-1989

Box 1, Folder 16 C, Miscellaneous, 1979-1989
Notes:

- Chapin, Chouteau
- Chris
- Clara and Bill
- Claude
- Coolidge, Helen

Box 1, Folder 17 D, Miscellaneous, 1954-1988
Notes:

- Dache, Lilly
- De Kooning, Lisa
- De Menil, J.
- Dennie
- Diddy
- Donald

Box 1, Folder 18 E-G, Miscellaneous, 1955-1988
Notes:

- Emory
- Flora
- Frencher, Peter
- Gifford, Pete and Marie
- Glidden, Arthur B.
- Grove, Nancy
- Gwyn

Box 1, Folder 19 H, Miscellaneous, 1970-1991
Notes:

- H
- Haggin, Bernard
- Hal
- Hall, Lee
- Hartigan, Grace
- Holme, Frida
- Holt, John and Elizabeth
- Houghton, Betty

Box 1, Folder 20 I-K, Miscellaneous, 1980-1989
Notes:

- Itami, Michi
- Izumi, Mihoko
- Jane
- Kramer, Roz
- Kuh, Katharine

Box 1, Folder 21	Lekakis, Michael, 1948-1980
Box 1, Folder 22	L, Miscellaneous, 1966-1989 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LaF.O., W.• Lenore• Leslie, Anne, Seaver, and Genevieve• Lily• Lindlay, Frances• Lippard, Peg• Lise
Box 1, Folder 23	MacIver, Loren, 1978-1989
Box 1, Folder 24	M, Miscellaneous, 1966-1982 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• M• M, Dorothy• Marian and Louis• Matisse, Pierre• McRise, Paul• Mellen, Constance
Box 1, Folder 25	N-O, Miscellaneous, 1985-1990 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nancy and Bob• Natasha• Nicholson, Bettina• Noguchi, Isamu• Oliver, Harriet
Box 1, Folder 26	P, Miscellaneous, 1978-1989 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• P., E.• Pelletur, Brenda• Peterson, Dorothy• Potter, Alice• Priscilla
Box 1, Folder 27	R, Miscellaneous, 1954-1988 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rankin, V.• Reichek, Jessie• Rikur• Ritcha, Jane• Rossie• Russell
Box 1, Folder 28	S, Miscellaneous, 1975-1991 Digital Content
Box 1, Folder 29	Tworok, Jack and Wally, 1967-1982
Box 1, Folder 30	T, Miscellaneous, 1966-1990 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• T.• Taylor, Emily

- Tilton, Jack
- Tuttle, Richard

Box 1, Folder 32 U-V, Miscellaneous, 1987-1989
Notes: • U., J.B.
 • Valerie
 • Viviano, Catherine

Box 1, Folder 31 Washburn, Gordon, 1978-1981

Box 1, Folder 33 Y, Miscellaneous, 1988
Notes: • Yvonne

Box 1, Folder 34 Unidentified Correspondents, circa 1965-1989

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Series 3: Writings, 1965-1989

5 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Personal writings consist of a short essay, "A Christmas Church" and numerous poetry drafts and notes. One series of seven poems, "Seven" is typewritten.

Box 1, Folder 35	Essay, "A Christmas Church,", circa 1965-1985
Box 1, Folder 36	Notes, circa 1965-1989
Box 1, Folder 37	Poetry, "Seven,", 1976
Box 1, Folder 38	Poetry, Drafts, circa 1965-1989
Box 1, Folder 39	Poetry, Notebook, circa 1965-1989

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Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1970-1992

12 Folders (Box 1, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: Exhibition files include photographs, correspondence, announcements, and lists related to Coggeshall's one man shows at the Betty Parsons Gallery during the 1970s and early 1980s and his retrospective at Bowdoin College in 1977. The Bowdoin retrospective also include blueprints of the gallery space and Coggeshall's notations on the planned layout of his works. Additional correspondence regarding his inclusion in shows at Artists Space, the Farnsworth Museum, and Jack Tilton Gallery are also included in the series.

Box 1, Folder 40	Announcement Lists, circa 1970-1989
Box 1, Folder 41	Artists Space, 1987
Box 1, Folder 42-46	Betty Parsons Gallery, 1970-1982 5 Folders
Box 1, Folder 47-48	Bowdoin College, 1977 2 Folders Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 3
Box 1, Folder 49	Farnsworth Museum, 1990-1992
Box 1, Folder 50	Jack Tilton Gallery, 1985
Box OV 3	Oversize Blueprints and Renderings, 1977 Notes: Oversized material from Box 1, F48

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Series 5: Business Files, 1973-1989

27 Folders (Boxes 1-2, OV 4-5)

Scope and Contents: Business files related to Coggeshall's interior design work consist of his client and contractor address book, architectural renderings and blueprints, work proposals, lists, invoices, and receipts. Some of the more significant projects include apartment design renovations for Lisa de Kooning, Priscilla Morgan, Arthur Penn, Shoji Sadao, Richard Lombard, and John Silberman.

Arrangement: Projects are generally in the following order: blueprints, estimates, payment, notes, receipts, and invoices.

Box 1, Folder 51	Address Book, circa 1973-1989
Box 1, Folder 52	Client Blueprints, Miscellaneous, circa 1973-1985 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4
Box 1, Folder 53	Client Invoices, 1973-1988
Box 1, Folder 54	Day Planning Notes, circa 1973-1985
Box 1, Folder 55	Brown, Kate, circa 1980-1989
Box 1, Folder 56	Davidson, Joan, 1986-1988
Box 1, Folder 57-58	de Kooning, Lisa, 1983-1989 2 Folders Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4
Box 1, Folder 59	Gunther, Jane, 1988
Box 1, Folder 60	Hall, Naomi, 1984-1985
Box 1, Folder 61-63	Lombard, Richard, 1983-1986 3 Folders Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4
Box 2, Folder 1-4	Lombard, Richard, 1983-1984 4 Folders
Box 2, Folder 5	Lurie, Jerome, 1984-1985 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4
Box 2, Folder 6	Morgan, Priscilla, 1982-1984 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4
Box 2, Folder 7	Penn, Arthur, 1984 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 5
Box 2, Folder 8	Rockefeller University, 1973-1974

	Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 5
Box 2, Folder 9	Sadao, Shoji, 1983-1988 Digital Content
Box 2, Folder 10-12	Silberman, John, 1986-1988 3 Folders Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 5
Box OV 4	Oversize Blueprints and Renderings, 1983-1989 Notes: Oversized material from Box 1, F52, F57-58, F61 and Box 2, F5-6
Box OV 5	Oversize Blueprints and Renderings, 1973-1988 Notes: Oversized material from Box 2, F7-9, F11

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Series 6: Printed Material, 1950-1999

6 Folders (Box 2, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes newspaper clippings reviewing Coggeshall's work, exhibition announcements from other artists, including Lyonel Feininger, Moy Glidden, Ken Greenleaf, David Plowden, and Jack Tworkov. A booklet showcasing abstract artists sponsored by the New York Governor's office titled, "Artfully Taught" is also included in the series.

Box 2, Folder 13	Exhibition Announcements, Other Artists, 1950-1992
Box 2, Folder 14	Booklet, "Artfully Taught," 1999
Box 2, Folder 15	Clippings, Coggeshall Art, 1968-1992 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 3
Box 2, Folder 16	Clippings, Coggeshall Design, 1944, undated
Box 2, Folder 17	Clippings, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1989
Box OV 3	Oversize Clippings, 1967, 1969, 1977 Notes: (Oversized material from Box 2, F15)

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Series 7: Photographs, 1940-1985

6 Folders (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Photographs include color and black and white prints of Coggeshall and his friends in his studio and outside his Newcastle, Maine residence. There are also black and white photographs of Coggeshall's early design work in furniture and fabric, as well as documentation of his gallery design work for the Albright Art Gallery.

Arrangement: A list of additional photographs in the collection can be found in Folder 18.

Box 2, Folder 18	Coggeshall, Artwork and Studio, 1964-1977
Box 2, Folder 19	Coggeshall, Friends of, circa 1960-1985
Box 2, Folder 20	Coggeshall, Maine Residence, 1986
Box 2, Folder 21	Design, Albright Art Gallery, circa 1940-1949
Box 2, Folder 22	Design, Fabric, 1951
Box 2, Folder 23	Design, Tables, Chairs, and Lamps, circa 1940-1949

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