



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the George Cohen Papers, 1943-1980, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3
Series 1: Correspondence, 1943-1980.....	3
Series 2: Teaching Files, 1948-1979.....	4
Series 3: Professional Activity Files, 1957-1976.....	5
Series 4: Printed Material, 1945-1980.....	7
Series 5: Photographs, 1947-1977.....	8

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	George Cohen papers
Date:	1943-1980
Identifier:	AAA.cohegeor
Creator:	Cohen, George, 1913-1980
Extent:	1.8 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of George Cohen measure 1.8 linear feet and date between 1943 and 1980. The papers document his career as a painter and educator through correspondence; lectures, course outlines and notes, four audio reel interviews on teaching art, and other teaching files; a resume, financial records, exhibition documents with galleries, and other professional activity; clippings, exhibition catalogs, magazine contributions, and other printed material; and photographs of artwork, Cohen in his studio, and Cohen teaching.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The George Cohen papers were donated to the archives in 1982 by Lois Jean Cohen, widow of George Cohen.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2020.

Preferred Citation

George Cohen papers, 1943-1980. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

H. George Cohen (1913-1980) was a painter and educator in Massachusetts. Cohen was born in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1913. He attended the Worcester Art Museum School and the Institute of Design, Chicago, Illinois. Cohen taught art and film classes at Smith College between 1942 and 1980. Cohen participated in numerous exhibition in the New England area from the late 1940s through the 1970s.

Scope and Contents

The papers of George Cohen measure 1.8 linear feet and date between 1943 and 1980. Materials include a resume; correspondence with Anthony Caro and others; manuscripts for radio broadcast series, "This is Jazz, A People's Music"; price lists for works of art; financial material; subject files of exhibition material, gallery correspondence and his teaching materials for classes on film and art; exhibition catalogs and announcements; press releases; clippings; photographs and slides of Cohen and his art; three 16mm motion pictures including an interview with Cohen, "Richard Hunt--Welding Sculpture" and "Artist and Fabricator"; and taped interviews with David Aronson, Lawrence Kupferman, Joseph Hodgson and Bernard Chaet.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into five series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1943-1980 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Teaching Files, 1948-1979 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 3: Professional Activity, 1957-1976 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1, FC 4-6)
 - Series 4: Printed Material, 1945-1980 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
 - Series 5: Photographs, 1947-1977 (0.3 linear feet; Box 2, OV 3)
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Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Interviews

Names:

Aronson, David, 1923-2015
Caro, Anthony, 1924-
Chaet, Bernard
Hodgson, Joseph
Kupferman, Lawrence Edward, 1909-1982

Occupations:

Educators -- Massachusetts
Painters -- Massachusetts

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1943-1980

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is with colleagues concerning Cohen's teaching career, and material related to exhibitions he participated in.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1943-1969
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1973
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1974
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1975
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1976
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1977
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1978
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, 1979
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1980

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Teaching Files, 1948-1979

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Teaching materials include outlines and notes for courses taught by Cohen, "Blues-New Orleans to Bop" Jazz lecture, and a "Teaching the Student-Artist" interview series in which Cohen is interviewed by prominent educators.

Box 1, Folder 11	Film Courses, 1970-1979
Box 1, Folder 12	Art of the 60s, undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Art 13, 1963-1966
Box 1, Folder 14	"Communication" Lecture, undated
Box 1, Folder 15-16	Advanced Placement in Art, 1967-1970
Box 1, Folder 17	Pop Art, 1949-1962
Box 1, Folder 18	Jazz Music, Smith College, 1948-1949
Box 1, Folder 19	Art Schools and Art Education, circa 1966
Box 1, Folder 20	Jazz Lecture Notes, "Blues-New Orleans to Bop", undated
Box 1, Folder 21-22	"Portrait of the Artist", 1968
Box 1, Folder 23	Notes on Painters, undated
Box 1, Folder 24	Miscellaneous, 1967-1975
Box 1, Folder 25, Item 1	"Teaching the Student Artist": Interview with David Aronson, 1962 March 26 1 Sound tape reel
Box 1, Folder 25, Item 2	"Teaching the Student Artist": Interview with Bernard Chaet, 1962 March 26 1 Sound tape reel
Box 1, Folder 26, Item 1	"Teaching the Student Artist": Interview with Joseph Hodgson, 1962 March 27 1 Sound tape reel
Box 1, Folder 26, Item 2	"Teaching the Student Artist": Interview with Lawrence Kupferman, 1962 March 29 1 Sound tape reel

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Professional Activity Files, 1957-1976

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, FC 4-6)

Scope and Contents: Material includes a resume, financial records, exhibition files for various galleries, two film reels depicting the installation of artwork by other artists for exhibitions, and a filmed interview with Cohen conducted by Nathan Knobler.

Box 1, Folder 27	Resume, circa 1976
Box 1, Folder 28	Financial Records, 1962-1969
Box 1, Folder 29	Angeleski Gallery, 1960-1962
Box 1, Folder 30	Ward-Nasse Gallery, 1967-1974
Box 1, Folder 31	Whitman College, 1969-1970
Item FC 4	<p>Amateur Films: "Artist and Fabricator" Exhibition, 1975 1 Motion picture film</p> <p>Notes: Film depicts a group of people installing a red sculpture outside a building.</p> <p>Note on Container: "Artist and Fabricator"; Installation of sculpture by Robert Murray - Commissioned by Univ. of Mass. Sept. 1975; for plaza area of Fine Arts Center Amherst, Mass. In addition, several other pieces of metal sculpture fabricated by Lippincott, New Haven, Conn. are shown in exhibit of works show in various sites of fine arts bldg. Artists in order of works seen in film. rbt. Murray - George Sugerma - Louise Nevelson - Claes Oldenburg - James Rosati - Ellsworth Kelly</p>
Item FC 5	<p>Amateur Film: Richard Hunt Welding Sculpture, circa 1969 1 Motion picture film</p> <p>Notes: Begins with a large box shipped from Richard Hunt to Hillyer Gallery, and shows Hunt at work welding the shipment of metal pieces together.</p> <p>Note on Container: Richard Hunt welding a metal piece of sculpture. Place: Hillyer Gallery Smith College</p>
Item FC 6	<p>Interview of George Cohen for Television, circa 1961 1 Motion picture film</p> <p>Notes: George Cohen being interviewed by Nathan Knobler while sitting in front of a piece of artwork.</p> <p>Note on Container: Filmed interview of George Cohen by Nathan Knobler Chairman-Dept. of Art Univ. of Conn. One man exhibition by George Cohen.</p> <p>Note on Can: Property of George Cohen Art dep. This interview by Nathan Knobler was filmed for television broadcast.</p>

Box 1, Folder 32-33 Miscellaneous, 1957-1968

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Printed Material, 1945-1980

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Material includes clippings, exhibition catalogs, and magazine contributions regarding Cohen as well as material related to Anne Robb.

Box 1, Folder 34 Chicago Institute of Design Course Outline, 1949

Box 1, Folder 35 Clippings, 1946-1978

Box 1, Folder 36-40 Exhibition Catalogs, 1945-1979

Box 2, Folder 1-2 Exhibition Catalogs, 1954-1980

Box 2, Folder 3 Material on Anne Robb, 1975-1978

Box 2, Folder 4-5 Magazine Contributions, 1947-1965

Box 2, Folder 6 Miscellaneous, 1958-1979

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Photographs, 1947-1977

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: Photographs include photos of George Cohen, photos of his artwork, Cohen at work in his studio, and slides of Cohen teaching.

Box 2, Folder 7	George Cohen, 1948-1977
Oversize 3	George Cohen, undated
Box 2, Folder 8	Artwork, 1947-1960
Box 2, Folder 9	Miscellaneous, 1948
Box 2, Folder 10	Slides, Miscellaneous, circa 1965

[Return to Table of Contents](#)