



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Jean Cohen Papers, 1935-2012, in the Archives of American Art

Harriet E. Shapiro

July 30, 2013

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1961-2011	4
Series 2: Correspondence, 1970-2011	5
Series 3: Writings, 1960s-1970s	6
Series 4: Subject Files, circa 1962- circa 1998	7
Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1962-2001	8
Series 6: Photographs, 1928-2012	9

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Jean Cohen papers
Date:	1928-2012
Identifier:	AAA.cohejean
Creator:	Cohen, Jean
Extent:	0.8 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English.
Summary:	The papers of painter and educator Jean Cohen measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1928-2012. The collection consists of limited biographical material, a small amount of printed material, photographs of family and friends including Cohen's former husband, painter, Alex Katz, and a long correspondence with painter, Lois Dodd.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated to the Archives of American Art in 2013 by Philip Douglas Heilman of Philip Douglas Fine Art, Cohen's dealer.

Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Harriet E. Shapiro in 2013. The Archives of American Art has implemented minimal processing tactics when possible in order to increase information about and access to more of our collections. Minimal processing included arrangement to the series and folder levels. Generally, items within folders were simply verified with folder titles, but not arranged further. Folders within boxes were not numbered. The collection was housed in archival containers and folders, but not all staples and clips were removed.

Preferred Citation

Jean Cohen papers, 1928-2012. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original materials requires an appointment.

Terms of Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the [Smithsonian's Terms of Use](#) for additional information.

Biographical / Historical

Jean Cohen (1927-2013), an abstract painter, studied and worked in the New York area and was involved with the 1950s avant garde art scene.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, she was educated at Pratt Institute, Cooper Union, and the Skowhegan School of Painting in Maine. During the 1950s and 1960s she lived on Tenth Street in Manhattan and was a member of the Tenth Street Artists Galleries, also showing at the Tanger Gallery.

From 1950 to 1956 Cohen was married to painter, Alex Katz. She lived with painter, John Grillo, from 1957 to 1962. She later married photographer, Bill Miller in the 1970s. Cohen taught art at many institutions, including the Philadelphia College of Art, and had paintings in public collections such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Later in life, she moved to eastern Long Island, New York, where she continued to teach and work.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and educator Jean Cohen measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1928-2012. The collection consists of limited biographical material, a small amount of printed material, photographs of family and friends including Cohen's former husband, painter, Alex Katz, and a long correspondence with painter, Lois Dodd.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1961-2011 (Box 1; 0.1 linear feet)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, 1970-2011 (Box 1; 0.1 linear feet)
 - Series 3: Writings, 1960s-1970s (Box 1; 1 folder)
 - Series 4: Subject Files, circa 1962-circa 1998 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)
 - Series 5: Printed Materials, circa 1962-2001 (Boxes 1-2; 0.2 linear feet)
 - Series 6: Photographs, 1935-2012 (Box 2; 0.2 linear feet)
-

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Women artists
Women educators
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Dodd, Lois, 1927-
Katz, Alex, 1927-

Occupations:

Educators -- New York (State)

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1961-2011

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series includes lists of Cohen's solo and group exhibitions, a detailed job application setting forth Cohen's education and teaching credits and a genealogy file concerning the O'Flaherty family, who were relatives of Cohen's significant other, Dan Burns.

Box 1, Folder 1 Biographical Materials, 1961-2011

Box 1, Folder 2 Genealogy, 1961-1998

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1970-2011

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Letters are from friends and fellow painters. There also is a long correspondence with fellow painter, Lois Dodd.

Box 1, Folder 3	Letters, 1974-2011, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence with Lois Dodd, 1970-1998

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Writings, 1960s-1970s

1 Folder (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The writing "The Bar Haven is Northeast," by Dan Burns is a draft essay, which chronicles the activity of a fishing ship, the *Bar Haven*.

Box 1, Folder 5 Writings by Don Burns, 1960s-1970s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Subject Files, circa 1962- circa 1998

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The Jack Micheline file contains a book of poems by Micheline entitled *I Kiss Angels*, letters from Micheline to Cohen and printed materials discussing Micheline's artwork in relation to "Beat Generation" artists. The other files contain printed material relating to Al Copley's art and poems and letters by Mary Fiori.

Box 1, Folder 6 Jack Micheline, circa 1962-circa 1998

Box 1, Folder 7 Al Copley, circa 1969-circa 1998

Box 1, Folder 8 Mary Fiori, 1980s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1962-2001

0.2 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Exhibition announcements are from solo and group shows of various abstract artists in downtown New York galleries. Catalogs are from exhibitions in New York and Texas.

Box 1, Folder 9 Exhibition Announcements, 1962-1979

Box 2, Folder 1 [Exhibition Catalogs and Press Releases, 1984-2001](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Photographs, 1928-2012

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: There are numerous black and white photographs of family and friends, many showing Jean Cohen alone or with friends, students, and colleagues. Also found are inventory record forms that identify some people, including Cohen's former husband, Alex Katz and other Skowhegan painters.

Box 2, Folder 2	Jean Cohen, 1940s-2012
Box 2, Folder 3	Family and Friends, 1928-1990
Box 2, Folder 4	Friends and Family, 1935-circa 1960
Box 2, Folder 5	Colleagues and Students, 1990-circa 2000
Box 2, Folder 6	Accent Gallery, circa 1950s-2010

[Return to Table of Contents](#)