



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Max Cole Papers, 1949-2021, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

2023 April 4

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 Materials, 1967-2017	4
Series 2: Gallery Files, 1978-2021	5
Series 3: Professional Files, 1963-2021	7
Series 4: Printed Materials, 1963-2021	9
Series 5: Photographic Materials, 1949-2018	11
Series 6: Unidentified Born Digital Materials, circa 2005-circa 2015	13

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Max Cole papers
Date:	1949-2021
Identifier:	AAA.colemax
Creator:	Cole, Max, 1937- Charlotte Jackson Fine Art (Gallery)
Extent:	7.8 Linear feet
Language:	English , German .
Summary:	The papers of painter Max Cole (1937-) measure 7.8 linear feet and date from 1949 to 2021. The collection comprises biographical materials containing curriculum vitae, writings by and about Cole, and recordings and transcripts of interviews; gallery files for Charlotte Jackson Fine Art, Haines Gallery, Schmidt Contemporary Art, and several galleries in Europe; professional files consisting of administrative records, sales and shipping reports, buyer and collector information, and chronological files containing mixed professional activity records; printed materials including clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, press binders, posters, and a few German publications; photographic materials contain photographs, slides, transparencies, negatives, and electronic discs containing portraits and self portraits of Cole, photos of her studios, photographs of locations by Cole, and works of art; and unidentified born digital materials.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated in 2022 by Max Cole.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Max Cole papers, 1949-2021. 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 born-digital records or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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

Max Cole (1937-) is a painter based in Las Vegas, New Mexico.

Cole was born in Kansas in 1937. She received a B.A. from Fort Hays State University in 1961 and a M.F.A. from the University of Arizona in 1964. After school, she began her art career in Los Angeles where she lived from 1964 to 1978. From 1978 until 2002, she lived in New York City. She was the recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in 1983, was an artist in residence at the Roswell Museum and Art Center in 1995, and in 2009 she was a participant in the Artist's Meeting with the Pope in Vatican City. Her artwork is in the permanent collections of the Panza di Biumo Collection, Museum of Modern Art, Vatican Museum's Contemporary Art Collection, and other major museum collections. Cole is known for her neutral-toned, minimalist paintings. She cites Cherokee philosophy, imparted on her by her father who was half Cherokee, and time spent in the American Southwest as major influences in her artwork.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter Max Cole (1937-) measure 7.8 linear feet and date from 1949 to 2021. The collection comprises biographical materials containing curriculum vitae, writings by and about Cole, and recordings and transcripts of interviews; gallery files for Charlotte Jackson Fine Art, Haines Gallery, Schmidt Contemporary Art, and several galleries in Europe; professional files consisting of administrative records, sales and shipping reports, buyer and collector information, and chronological files containing mixed professional activity records; printed materials including clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, press binders, posters, and a few German publications; photographic materials contain photographs, slides, transparencies, negatives, and electronic discs containing portraits and self portraits of Cole, photos of her studios, photographs of locations by Cole, and works of art; and unidentified born digital materials.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1967-2017 (0.8 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Gallery Files, 1978-2021 (1.0 linear foot; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 3: Professional Files, 1963-2021 (1.0 linear foot; Boxes 2-3)
- Series 4: Printed Materials, 1963-2021 (3.0 linear feet; Boxes 3-5, OV 10)
- Series 5: Photographic Materials, 1949-2018 (2.0 linear feet; Boxes 5-9)
- Series 6: Unidentified Born Digital Materials, circa 2005-circa 2015 (22 electronic discs; Boxes 9)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Native American
- Women artists
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Interviews

Names:

- Haines Gallery
- Schmidt Contemporary Art

Occupations:

- Painters -- California

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1967-2017

0.8 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Cole's biographical records include an award certificate from D.M.A. for an honorable mention in a 1967 exhibition, curriculum vitae and chronologies, writings by Cole and by others about Cole including a binder of material dating from 1988 to 2017, digital recordings and transcripts of interviews with Cole in the film *Max Cole: Glimpses of Clarity, Glimpses of Insight*, an interview with Jeffrey Collins, and a few other interviews.

Box 1, Folder 1	Award Certificate, D.M.A. 10th Art Unlimited Honorable Mention, 1967
Box 1, Folder 2	Curriculum Vitae and Biographies, circa 1994-circa 2013 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc (DVD).
Box 1, Folder 3	Curriculum Vitae, Chronologies, and Writings Binder, 2017
Box 1, Folder 4	General Biographical Materials, 2007-2014 4 Electronic discs (DVD) 1 Electronic discs (CD)
Box 1, Folder 5	Interview, Cole Interviewed by Jeffrey Collins, 2012 2 Electronic discs (DVD)
Box 1, Folder 6	Interview, Conversation with Max Cole, 2007 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc (DVD).
Box 1, Folder 7	Interview, Max Cole: Glimpses of Clarity, Glimpses of Insight Film, 2007 1 Electronic discs (DVD)
Box 1, Folder 8	Interview Transcripts, circa 1985-2014
Box 1, Folder 9	Writing by Cole, "Thoughts on Art", 2012
Box 1, Folder 10	Writings About Cole, Bibliography, 1988
Box 1, Folder 11	Writings About Cole, Student Writings About Cole's Classroom Visit, 2015
Box 1, Folder 12	Writings About Cole, circa 1990-circa 2007
Box 1, Folder 13	Writings About Cole Binder, 1988-2017

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Gallery Files, 1978-2021

1 Linear foot (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: The series consists of correspondence, exhibition announcements and catalogs, gallery information, financial records, price lists, and information regarding exhibitions and the transfer of Cole's artwork. Gallery files featured in the series are Charlotte Jackson Fine Art, Haines Gallery, Schmidt Contemporary Art, and several galleries in Europe including Galerie Wenger, Galerie Lindner, Galerie Schlegl, Neuer Kunstverein Aschaffenburg, Studio La Citta, and Walter Storms Galerie. A number of folders contain digital files, likely containing digital images of Cole's artwork and material related to exhibitions. Additional sales records and price lists can be found in Series 3: Professional Files.

Box 1, Folder 14	Charlotte Jackson Fine Art, 2012-2021 Notes: Includes 13 electronic discs (CD/DVD).
Box 1, Folder 15	Eberhard Ludke Gallery, 2001
Box 1, Folder 16	Galerie Lindner, 2007-2018 Notes: Includes 3 electronic discs (CD/DVD).
Box 1, Folder 17-19	Galerie Schlegl, 1996-2012 Notes: Includes 4 electronic discs (CD/DVD).
Box 1, Folder 20	Galerie Wenger, 2012 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc (CD).
Box 1, Folder 21-23	Haines Gallery, 1996-circa 2010 Notes: Includes 22 electronic discs (CD/DVD).
Box 1, Folder 24	Haus fur Konstruktive und Konkrete Kunst, 1999-2001
Box 1, Folder 25	Kolumba Art Museum, 2004-2010
Box 1, Folder 26	Koplin Gallery, 1981-1982
Box 1, Folder 27	L.A. Louver, 1978-1985
Box 2, Folder 1	Larry Becker Contemporary Art, circa 2010
Box 2, Folder 2	Markus Richler Gallery, 2004-2006
Box 2, Folder 3	Michael Sturm Gallery, 1997-2008
Box 2, Folder 4	Neuer Kunstverein Aschaffenburg, 1982-2010
Box 2, Folder 5	Norton Simon Museum, 2000

Box 2, Folder 6	Prague City Gallery, 2018
Box 2, Folder 7	Schmidt Contemporary Art, 2008-2011
Box 2, Folder 8	Studio La Citta, 2001-2004
Box 2, Folder 9	Studio La Citta, circa 2007 5 Electronic discs (CD) 9 Electronic discs (DVD)
Box 2, Folder 10	Walter Storms Galerie (Munich), 2002-2004
Box 2, Folder 11	Miscellaneous Galleries, 1977-2012

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Professional Files, 1963-2021

1 Linear foot (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Files in the series contain administrative records, collector and mailing lists, a list of announcements and catalogs for Cole's exhibitions, client lists, a couple of folders for the Panza Collection, a recording and transcript of a lecture given by Cole at Miami Dade College, shipping records, sales records and reports, price lists, and card files for collectors, artwork locations, and sold works described by artwork title, buyer's information, and seller's information. Also included are chronological files that consist of miscellaneous records relating to Cole's professional activities.

Box 2, Folder 12 Administrative Records, circa 2010
2 Electronic discs (CD)
2 Electronic discs (DVD)
Notes: Discs are labeled: documents, letterheads, desktop misc., and storage report.

Box 2, Folder 13 Assorted Materials for Unidentified Project, 1969-2012
Notes: The folder contains mostly announcements and catalogs for Cole's exhibitions. Some items have notes consisting of titles, and page and item numbers.

Box 2, Folder 14 Card File, Artwork Locations, 2013
Notes: The folder includes 3 subsets of cards labeled: drawings and prints in gallery, works at Brandl, and paintings St. Peter.

Box 2, Folder 15 Card File, Incomplete Collectors, 2000s-2010s

Box 2, Folder 16 Card File, 1960s-1980s

Box 2, Folder 17 Client Lists, circa 1978

Box 2, Folder 18 Editions VFO (Print Publisher), 2004-2008

Box 2, Folder 19 Etchings, Regarding, circa 1980

Box 2, Folder 20 Lecture at Miami Dade College, 1982
Notes: Includes 1 sound cassette and transcript of Cole's lecture.

Box 2, Folder 21 Lists, Collectors, circa 1975

Box 2, Folder 22 List of Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 2021

Box 2, Folder 23 Lists, Mailings and Related Material, 2004-2009

Box 2, Folder 24 National Endowment for the Arts, 1980-1984

Box 2, Folder 25 Panza Collection, circa 2011

	5 Electronic discs (DVD)
Box 2, Folder 26-28	Panza Collection, 1996-2018 Notes: Includes 10 electronic discs (CD).
Box 2, Folder 29	Price Lists, Drawings, 1991-2018
Box 2, Folder 30	Sales Records, 1976-2002
Box 2, Folder 31	Sales Report (From Harris), 2004
Box 2, Folder 32	Shipping, 2010-2012
Box 2, Folder 33	Shipping Records from Europe, 2012-2017
Box 2, Folder 34	University of Arizona, 1991-1993
Box 2, Folder 35	"Visions of Inner Space: The Action Mark in Contemporary American Painting" (1987-1988), 1988
Box 3, Folder 1-4	Chronological Files, 1963-1980
Box 3, Folder 5-9	Chronological Files, 1981-1988
Box 3, Folder 10-11	Chronological Files, 1991-1999
Box 3, Folder 12	Chronological Files, 2000-2009
Box 3, Folder 13	Chronological Files, 2012-2018
Box 3, Folder 14	Chronological Files, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Printed Materials, 1963-2021

3 Linear feet (Boxes 3-5, OV 10)

Scope and Contents: Printed materials consist of announcements and catalogs for Cole's exhibitions dating from the start of her career in the 1960s until 2021, press and review binders that contain mainly clippings relating to Cole and her exhibitions, art gallery guides, brochures and pamphlets, cards and postcards featuring artwork by Cole or photographs of the artist, a few German publications, and exhibition posters.

Box 3, Folder 15	Art Gallery Guides, 1983-1993
Box 3, Folder 16	Brochures and Pamphlets, circa 2015
Box 3, Folder 17	Cards and Postcards, circa 2000s
Box 3, Folder 18-19	Clippings, 1963-circa 2018
Box 3, Folder 20	Clippings, Magazine Articles, 1981-circa 2013
Box 3, Folder 21	Clippings About Pope and Pope's Address, 2009-2011
Box 3, Folder 22-23	Clippings of Reviews, 1976-2013
Box 3, Folder 24-25	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1960s
Box 4, Folder 1	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1960s
Box 4, Folder 2-4	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1970s-1980s
Box 4, Folder 5-8	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1990s
Box 4, Folder 9-15	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 2000s
Box 4, Folder 16-18	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 2010s
Box 5, Folder 1-3	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 2010s
Box 5, Folder 4	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 2020-2021
Box 5, Folder 5	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, undated
Box 5, Folder 6	Fabric Sample, undated
Box 5, Folder 7	German Publications, 1992-2012
Oversize 10	Posters, circa 1980-circa 2004

Box 5, Folder 8	Press Binder, 1969-1985
Box 5, Folder 9-10	Press Binder, 1985-1993
Box 5, Folder 11-12	Press Binder, 1994-2003
Box 5, Folder 13-14	Press Binder, 2004-2010
Box 5, Folder 15	Press Releases, circa 1985-2010
Box 5, Folder 16-17	"Reviews / Essays / Articles" Binder, 2011-2017 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc (DVD).

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Photographic Materials, 1949-2018

2 Linear feet (Boxes 5-9)

Scope and Contents: The series consists of photographs of Cole, including numerous portraits, self portraits, and snapshots of Cole with friends. Many of these photographs were taken for exhibition catalogs and other projects. Several binders of drawings and paintings contain a mixture of transparencies, slides, negatives, and photographic prints. Also included are 162 electronic discs mostly of works of art, as well as portraits, installation photos, other unidentified photographs, and of Cole's home and studios in Ruby N.Y., Manhattan, and Altadena. The folder titled Landscapes and Locations contains photographs of Egypt and other locations taken by Cole. Electronic disc titles in the folder for Miscellaneous Digital Phototgraphs indicate that the contents are photographs, but no further information is provided. Also, researchers should note that binder covers have been removed, but the contents remain in original order within the folders.

Box 5, Folder 18	Cole, circa 1960-circa 2003
Box 5, Folder 19-20	Portraits, circa 1965-circa 2009
Box 9	Portraits and Personal, circa 2005-circa 2015 4 Electronic discs (DVD) 12 Electronic discs (CD)
Box 5, Folder 21-22	"Portrait Photos" Binder, 1963-circa 2009 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc (DVD).
Box 6, Folder 1-2	"Portraits" Binder, 1949-circa 2006
Box 6, Folder 3	Self Portraits for Photogravure Project, 2006 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc (DVD).
Box 6, Folder 4	Cole in the Studio, 1965
Box 6, Folder 5-6	Studios, 1968-circa 2004 Notes: Includes photographs of Cole's studios in Manhattan, Ruby, N.Y., and Altadena.
Box 9	Studios and Home, circa 2005-2018 4 Electronic discs (DVD) 11 Electronic discs (CD)
Box 6, Folder 7	Cole with Others, circa 1970-2019
Box 6, Folder 8	Friends, Margaretha Bull and Carl Magnus Visit, 2007-2008 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc (CD).
Box 6, Folder 9	"Influences" Binder, circa 1990s
Box 6, Folder 10-11	"Installation Photos" Binder, 1976-circa 2007

	Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc (CD).
Box 6, Folder 12	Landscapes and Locations, Photographs by Cole, circa 2010
Box 9	Miscellaneous Digital Photographs, circa 2005-circa 2015 4 Electronic discs (CD) 8 Electronic discs (DVD)
Box 6, Folder 13-14	Drawings, circa 1990
Box 6, Folder 15-23	Paintings, 1976-2000
Box 7, Folder 1-4	Paintings, 1991-circa 2001
Box 7, Folder 5-6	Paintings, circa 1985-circa 2005 Notes: Includes 3 electronic discs (DVD).
Box 7, Folder 7	Paintings, Early Works, circa 1985-circa 2005 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc (DVD).
Box 9	Works of Art, Exhibitions and Events, circa 2005-circa 2015 4 Electronic discs (CD) 8 Electronic discs (DVD)
Box 7, Folder 8	Works of Art, Installations, circa 1985-2010 Notes: Includes 2 electronic discs (CD).
Box 7, Folder 9-17	Works of Art, General, circa 1970-circa 2000s
Box 8, Folder 1-2	Works of Art, General, circa 1980-circa 1999
Box 9	Works of Art, General, circa 2005-circa 2015 83 Electronic discs (CD) 14 Electronic discs (DVD)
Box 8, Folder 3	"Work Spaces" Binder, circa 2000 Notes: Includes photographs of Cole's studios and at Fanal Printshop in Basel, Switzerland.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Unidentified Born Digital Materials, circa 2005-circa 2015

14 Electronic discs (CD)

8 Electronic discs (DVD)

Scope and Contents: Unidentified born digital material includes 22 electronic discs that are either unlabeled or the labels lack clear descriptions and cannot be placed into another series.

Box 9	Unidentified Born Digital Materials, circa 2005-circa 2015 14 Electronic discs (CD) 8 Electronic discs (DVD)
-------	--

[Return to Table of Contents](#)