



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Douglas Cramer Papers,
circa 1970-2014, in the Archives of American Art

Hilary Price

2017 February 14

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Douglas Cramer papers
Date:	circa 1970-2014
Identifier:	AAA.cramdoug
Creator:	Cramer, Douglas S.
Extent:	1.41 Linear feet
Language:	Collection is in English
Summary:	The papers of New York art collector Douglas Cramer measure 1.41 linear feet and date from circa 1970-2014. Papers include letters from artists, four guest books signed by visitors to Cramer's art collection and attendees of his parties, printed material documenting Cramer's career in television as well as his prominence as an art collector, and photographs of people and artists who attended his parties including Ellsworth Kelly, Ed Ruscha, Mary Boone, Leo Castelli, and others. There is an unprocessed addition to this collection of nine items donated in 2022 that include correspondence and works of art to Douglas Cramer consisting of handmade Christmas cards by Bryan Hunt, David Hockney, and Harland Miller; a sketch by Ellsworth Kelly; a postcard from Sol Lewitt; a sketch in oil on cardstock by Eric Fischl; and a collage by Richard Meier. Materials date from circa 1986-1994 and undated.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Archives of American Art in 2016 by Douglas S. Cramer. 9 additional documents were donated by the Douglas S. Cramer Jr. Revocable Trust in 2022 via Herbert Bush III, Cramer's spouse and trustee.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Douglas Cramer conducted by Avis Berman in 2013.

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Douglas Cramer papers, circa 1970-2014. 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

Douglas Cramer (1931-) is an art collector and television producer in New York, New York and Miami, Florida. A producer of noted television series including *The Love Boat*, *Dynasty*, and *The Brady Bunch*, Cramer is also an avid art collector and was a founding member of the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

Scope and Contents

The papers of New York art collector Douglas Cramer measure 1.41 linear feet and date from circa 1970-2014. Papers include letters from artists, four guest books signed by visitors to Cramer's art collection and attendees of his parties, printed material documenting Cramer's career in television as well as his prominence as an art collector, and photographs of people and artists who attended his parties including Ellsworth Kelly, Ed Ruscha, Mary Boone, Leo Castelli, and others.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged as five series

- Series 1: Letters, 1972-2014 (2 folders; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Guest Books, 1990-1997 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1-2)
 - Series 3: Printed Material, circa 1972-2012 (0.7 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 4: Photographs, circa 1970, circa 1985 (1 folder; Box 1)
 - Series 5: Unprocessed Addition, circa 1986-1994 and undated (0.108 linear feet; folder 3, OV 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 -- Collectors and collecting -- Florida -- Miami
Art -- Collectors and collecting -- New York (State) -- New York
Television producers and directors -- Florida -- Miami
Television producers and directors -- New York -- New York

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Visitors' books

Names:

Boone, Mary
Castelli, Leo
Kelly, Ellsworth, 1923-
Ruscha, Edward

Container Listing

Series 1: Letters, 1972-2014

2 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Letters date from 1972-2014 and are predominantly from artists thanking Cramer for his support. Artists include Tony Berlant, Jim Dine, Eric Fischl, April Gornik, Donald Sultan, Peter Halley, Jasper Johns, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Ellen Phelan, Susan Rothenberg, David Salle, Sean Scully, and others.

Box 1, Folder 1 A-L, General, 1972-2014

Box 1, Folder 2 M-Z, General, 1988-1994

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Series 2: Guest Books, 1990-1997

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: The four guest books found here date from 1990-1997 and contain names, signatures, and notes from visitors to Cramer's art collection and attendees at his parties, including the Barn Dance party.

Box 1, Folder 3	Guest Book, Gallery Tours, 1990-1993
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Box 1, Folder 4	Guest Book, 1996-1997
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Box 2, Folder 1	Guest Book, Parties, 1991-1993
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Box 2, Folder 2	Guest Book, 1994-1997
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Series 3: Printed Material, circa 1972-2012

0.7 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Printed material dates from circa 1972-2012 and includes auction catalogs from Sotheby's sales of Cramer's collection, a biographical statement, exhibition catalogs featuring works in his collection, and clippings documenting his successful career in television and his art collection. There are also three folders with copies of pages from publicity books that Cramer had made to collect articles written about him in publications such as *Architectural Digest*, *Vanity Fair*, and others.

Box 1, Folder 5	Auction Catalog, 2001
Box 1, Folder 6	Auction Catalog, 2012
Box 1, Folder 7	Biographical Statement, circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 8-10	Copies from Publicity Books, 2000s
Box 1, Folder 11	Exhibition Catalogs, 1991-2004
Box 1, Folder 12-15	News and Magazine Clippings, circa 1972-1992

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Series 4: Photographs, circa 1970, circa 1985

1 Folder (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: One photograph depicts Cramer in circa 1970 and the others are party snapshots dating from circa 1985. Snapshots are of artists and Hollywood stars including Kirk Douglas, Danielle Steel, Ellsworth Kelly, Ed Ruscha, Mary Boone, Leo Castelli, and others.

Box 1, Folder 16	Photographs, circa 1970, circa 1985
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Series 5: Unprocessed Addition, 1986-1994 and undated

0.3 Linear feet

Folder 3	Unprocessed Papers
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Oversize 4	Unprocessed Papers
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