



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Robert M. Cronbach Papers, 1914-2004, in the Archives of American Art

Hilary Price

2017 February 2

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

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Collection Overview | 1 |
| Administrative Information | 1 |
| Arrangement..... | 2 |
| Scope and Contents..... | 2 |
| Biographical / Historical..... | 2 |
| Names and Subjects | 2 |
| Container Listing | 3 |
| Series 1: Biographical Material, 1925-1996..... | 3 |
| Series 2: Correspondence, 1934-2004..... | 4 |
| Series 3: Writings, 1929-1970..... | 7 |
| Series 4: Project and Commission Files, 1932-1990..... | 8 |
| Series 5: Exhibition Files, circa 1960-2000..... | 11 |
| Series 6: Printed Material, 1914-2001..... | 12 |
| Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1930-1995..... | 13 |

Collection Overview

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Robert M. Cronbach papers |
| Date: | 1914-2004 |
| Identifier: | AAA.cronrobe |
| Creator: | Cronbach, Robt. (Robert M.), 1908- |
| Extent: | 3.9 Linear feet |
| Language: | Collection is in English |
| Summary: | The papers of sculptor and educator Robert M. Cronbach date from 1914-2004 and measure 3.9 linear feet. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, writings, project and commission files, exhibition files, printed material, and photographic material relating to the life and career of Cronbach. The bulk of material is comprised of project and commission files pertaining to sculptures, fountains, and other proposals for public and private spaces. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Archives of American Art by Robert M. Cronbach in 1992 and in 2016 by Cronbach's daughter, Paula Maria Espinosa. Portions of the collection were lent for microfilming in 1966 by Cronbach and subsequently donated.

Available Formats

Portions of this collection are available on 35 mm microfilm reels D260-D261 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Robert M. Cronbach papers, 1914-2004. 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.

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

Robert M. Cronbach (1908-2001) was a sculptor and teacher in New York, New York. Born in St. Louis, Cronbach studied sculpture at the St. Louis School of Fine Arts before heading east to continue his studies at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. His sculpture and fountain commissions for many public and private spaces include Temples, the Fashion Institute of Technology, and the United Nations. He also created work as part of the Works Progress Administration's Federal Art Project program. Cronbach taught at Adelphi College in Garden City, New York from 1947-1961 and was an instructor at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine, where he also served as chairman of the school's board of governors from 1975-1982.

Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor and educator Robert M. Cronbach date from 1914-2004 and measure 3.9 linear feet. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, writings, project and commission files, exhibition files, printed material, and photographic material relating to the life and career of Cronbach. The bulk of material is comprised of project and commission files pertaining to sculptures, fountains, and other proposals for public and private spaces.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as seven series

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1925-1996 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, 1934-2004 (0.7 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 3: Writings, 1929-1970 (4 folders; Box 1)
 - Series 4: Project and Commission Files, 1932-1990 (1.6 linear feet; Box 1-2, 4, OV 5-10)
 - Series 5: Exhibition Files, circa 1960-2000 (0.2 linear feet; Box 2)
 - Series 6: Printed Material, 1914-2001 (1.1 linear feet; Box 2-3)
 - Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1930-1995 (2 folders; Box 3)
-

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century -- United States

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Occupations:

Art teachers -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1925-1996

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material dates from 1925-1996 and includes awards, certificates, biographies, a curriculum vitae, a high school yearbook, and identification documents including military service papers and membership cards to the Artists Union of New York, Welder's Club and other affiliations. The pouch that contained these documents is also arranged in this last folder, as well as two photographs of Cronbach's first wife, Maxine Silver Cronbach.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Awards and Certificates, circa 1950-1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Biographies, 1950-1964 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Curriculum Vitae, 1996 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | High School Yearbook, 1925 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Identification and Membership Documents, 1934-1962 |

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1934-2004

0.7 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence dates from 1934-2004 and primarily pertains to professional activities including exhibitions, commissions, projects, proposals, and involvement in organizations. Correspondents include galleries, museums, contractors, and other individuals with whom Cronbach needed to communicate the logistics of a project. Documents attached to correspondence include loan agreements, statements of sale, contracts, meeting notes, and agendas.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Ackerman, C. W., 1946-1950 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Adelphi College, 1947-1963 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Ambellan, Harold, 1959-1965 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Architectural League of New York, 1947-1953 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Arts Equity Association, 1950-1954 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Arts Equity Bureau (D. W. Millsaps Jr.), 1950 |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Associated American Artists Galleries, 1950-1954 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | A, General, 1934-1990 |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Brooklyn Museum, 1938-1948 |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | B, General, 1937-1986 |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Century Association, 1968-1992 |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | C, General, 1937-1986 |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | Denver Art Museum, 1949 |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | D, General, 1952-1987 |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Espinosa, Paula Maria, 1979-2004 |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | E, General, 1951-1961 |
| Box 1, Folder 22 | Fairmount Park Art Association, 1940-1949 |
| Box 1, Folder 23 | F, General, 1937-1963 |
| Box 1, Folder 24 | Glaberson, Sam, 1947 |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 25 | Goodman, Percival, 1937-1955 |
| Box 1, Folder 26 | Guggenheim Foundation, 1952-1954 |
| Box 1, Folder 27 | G, General, 1937-1987 |
| Box 1, Folder 28 | H, General, 1949-1965 |
| Box 1, Folder 29 | Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Association, 1947-1949 |
| Box 1, Folder 30 | Johnson, Corydon M., 1949-1956 |
| Box 1, Folder 31 | J, General, 1974-1975 |
| Box 1, Folder 32 | K, General, 1940-1957 |
| Box 1, Folder 33 | L, General, 1934-1983 |
| Box 1, Folder 34 | M, General, 1941-1992 |
| Box 1, Folder 35 | The Nation Benefit Auction, 1949-1950 |
| Box 1, Folder 36 | National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution, 1971-1972 |
| Box 1, Folder 37 | North Shore Community Art Center, 1951-1953 |
| Box 1, Folder 38 | North Shore Hospital Fund, 1951 |
| Box 1, Folder 39 | N, General, 1940-1986 |
| Box 1, Folder 40 | O, General, 1964 |
| Box 1, Folder 41 | P, General, circa 1937-1965 |
| Box 1, Folder 42 | R, General, 1941-1965 |
| Box 1, Folder 43 | Saturday Review of Literature, 1945-1966 |
| Box 1, Folder 44 | Sculptors Guild, 1951 |
| Box 1, Folder 45 | Skowhegan School, 1958-1992 |
| Box 1, Folder 46 | S, General, 1947-1983 |
| Box 1, Folder 47 | U, General, 1945-1952 |
| Box 1, Folder 48 | V-Z, General, 1938-1986 |

Box 1, Folder 49

Outgoing Letters, 1934-1982

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Writings, 1929-1970

4 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Writings date from 1929-1970 and include notes, lists, speeches, teaching techniques and lectures, as well as two travel journals from Cronbach's summer sojourns to Europe in 1929 and 1930.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 50 | Notes and Lists, circa 1944-1970 |
| Box 1, Folder 51 | Speeches, 1938-1944 |
| Box 1, Folder 52 | Teaching Techniques and Lectures, 1947-1969 |
| Box 1, Folder 53 | Travel Journals, 1929-1930 |

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Project and Commission Files, 1932-1990

1.6 Linear feet (Box 1-2, 4, OV 5-10)

Scope and Contents: Project and commission files date from 1932-1990 and document over two dozen projects and proposals through correspondence, notes, blueprints, photographs, and printed material. The series also contains hundreds of drawings and sketches done in pencil, pen, and ink for the designs of sculptures, fountains, and other works.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 54 | 240 Central Park Fountain, Mayer and Whittlesey Architects, 1953-1961 Notes: Oversized items housed in Box 4, Folder 1. |
| Box 1, Folder 55 | Adelphi Mace, 1957-1958 |
| Box 1 | Chizuk Amuno Congregation |
| Box 1, Folder 56 | Correspondence, 1958-1969 |
| Box 1, Folder 57 | Printed Material and Photographs, 1961-1962 |
| Box 1, Folder 58 | Sketches for Burning Bush Sculpture, circa 1960 Notes: Oversized items housed in Box 4, Folder 2 |
| Box 1, Folder 59 | Sketches for Menorah and Eternal Light, circa 1960 Notes: Oversized items housed in Box 4, Folder 3 |
| Box 2, Folder 1 | Dorr-Oliver Building, 1958-1962 Notes: Oversized items housed in Box 4, Folder 4 |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | East Hills Sculpture, 1981-1987 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Fashion Institute of Technology, 1974-1977 |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Garden State Plaza, 1956 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Leroy Gruman Sculpture, 1972 |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | Hollenden Hotel Bar, 1946-1947 Notes: Oversized items housed in OV 5 |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | Isserman Commission, 1963-1964 |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Kanawna County Public Library, 1965-1978 |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | James Madison Memorial Building Fountain, 1972-1980 |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Mairie de Savasse, 1990 |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Philadelphia Fountain Competition, 1964-1965 Notes: Oversized items housed in OV 6 |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Reynolds Metal Trophy, 1960-1961 Notes: Oversized items housed in OV 7 |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Saint Louis Federal Building Fountain, 1960-1963 Notes: Oversized items housed in OV 8 |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Saint Louis Municipal Auditorium Panels, 1932-1985 |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | Social Security Building, 1940-1947 Notes: Oversized items housed in Box 4, Folder 5 |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | Society of Medalists, Sunrise and Moonrise Medal, 1986-1987 |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | Temple Israel, Saint Louis, 1959-1963 Notes: Oversized items housed in OV 9 |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | Trinity Lutheran Fountain, 1959-1975 Notes: Oversized items housed in Box 4, Folder 6 |
| Box 2, Folder 19 | United Nations Meditation Room Sculpture, 1959-1978 Notes: Oversized items housed in Box 4, Folder 7 |
| Box 2, Folder 20 | Ward School Fountain, 1958-1959 Notes: Oversized items housed in OV 10 |
| Box 2, Folder 21 | Wichita State University, 1974 |
| Box 2, Folder 22 | Willerts Park Housing Project, 1938-1940 |
| Box 4, Folder 1 | Oversized 240 Central Park Fountain from Box 1, Folder 54 |
| Box 4, Folder 2 | Oversized Chizuk Amuno Sketches for Burning Bush from Box 1, Folder 58 |
| Box 4, Folder 3 | Oversized Chizuk Amuno Sketches for Menorah and Eternal Light from Box 1, Folder 59 |
| Box 4, Folder 4 | Oversized Dorr-Oliver Building from Box 2, Folder 1 |
| Box 4, Folder 5 | Oversized Social Security Building from Box 2, Folder 15 |
| Box 4, Folder 6 | Oversized Trinity Lutheran Fountain from Box 2, Folder 18 |
| Box 4, Folder 7 | Oversized United Nations Meditation Room Sculpture from Box 2, Folder 19 |
| Box OV 5 | Oversized Hollenden Hotel Bar from Box 2, Folder 6 |
| Box OV 6 | Oversized Philadelphia Fountain Competition from Box 2, Folder 11 |
| Box OV 7 | Oversized Reynolds Metal Trophy from Box 2, Folder 12 |

Box OV 8 Oversized Saint Louis Federal Building Fountain from Box 2, Folder 13

Box OV 9 Oversized Temple Israel, Saint Louis from Box 2, Folder 17

Box OV 10 Oversized Ward School Fountain from Box 2, Folder 20

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Exhibition Files, circa 1960-2000

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Exhibition files date from circa 1960-2000 and include two files devoted to specific exhibitions, while the other files contain exhibition material that is arranged chronologically. Files include price lists, press releases, announcements, and correspondence related to Cronbach's exhibitions, including many at the Bertha Shaefer Gallery in New York City.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 23 | Robert Cronbach, Selected Works 1939-1975 (1976), circa 1976 |
| Box 2, Folder 24 | Works Progress Administration (WPA) Anthology and Exhibition Projects, 1968-1975 |
| Box 2, Folder 25 | Chronological Exhibition Files, 1960s |
| Box 2, Folder 26 | Chronological Exhibition Files, 1970s |
| Box 2, Folder 27 | Chronological Exhibition Files, 1980s |
| Box 2, Folder 28 | Chronological Exhibition Files, 1990s |

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Printed Material, 1914-2001

1.1 Linear feet (Box 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Printed material dates from 1914-2001 and includes announcements, clippings, exhibition catalogs, and other publications documenting Cronbach's career. A few files at the end of this series contain printed material regarding specific subjects.

Box 2, Folder 29 Announcements, 1937-1999

Box 2, Folder 30-31 Clippings, 1914-2001

Box 3, Folder 1-10 Exhibition Catalogs, 1930s-1990s

Box 3, Folder 11 Other Publications, 1930s-1960s

Box 3, Folder 12 Adelphi College, circa 1950-1952

Box 3, Folder 13 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, circa 1960-1965

Box 3, Folder 14 Subway Art, 1936-1938

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1930-1995

2 Folders (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material dates from circa 1930-1995 and contains photographs and slides of Cronbach and his artwork. Cronbach is seen in portraits, with friends and family, teaching, working, and posing with his sculptures.

Box 3, Folder 15 Cronbach and Others, circa 1930-1995

Box 3, Folder 16 Artwork, circa 1971-1995

[Return to Table of Contents](#)