



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	4
Series 1: Biographical Material, 1925-1996.....	4
Series 2: Correspondence, 1934-2004.....	5
Series 3: Writings, 1929-1970.....	8
Series 4: Project and Commission Files, 1932-1990.....	9
Series 5: Exhibition Files, circa 1960-2000.....	12
Series 6: Printed Material, 1914-2001.....	13
Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1930-1995.....	14

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Robert M. Cronbach papers
Identifier:	AAA.cronrobe
Date:	1914-2004
Extent:	3.9 Linear feet
Creator:	Cronbach, Robt.(Robert M.), 1908-
Language:	English 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.

Conditions Governing Use

The Robert M. Cronbach papers, 1914-2004 are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

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:

Art teachers -- New York (State) -- New York
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York
Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century -- United States

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1925-1996

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

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)

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)

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)

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 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 <i>Burning Bush</i> Sculpture, circa 1960 Oversized items housed in Box 4, Folder 2
Box 1, Folder 59	Sketches for Menorah and <i>Eternal Light</i> , circa 1960 Oversized items housed in Box 4, Folder 3
Box 2, Folder 1	Dorr-Oliver Building, 1958-1962 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 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 Oversized items housed in OV 6
Box 2, Folder 12	Reynolds Metal Trophy, 1960-1961 Oversized items housed in OV 7
Box 2, Folder 13	Saint Louis Federal Building Fountain, 1960-1963 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 Oversized items housed in Box 4, Folder 5
Box 2, Folder 16	Society of Medalists, <i>Sunrise and Moonrise</i> Medal, 1986-1987
Box 2, Folder 17	Temple Israel, Saint Louis, 1959-1963 Oversized items housed in OV 9
Box 2, Folder 18	Trinity Lutheran Fountain, 1959-1975 Oversized items housed in Box 4, Folder 6
Box 2, Folder 19	United Nations Meditation Room Sculpture, 1959-1978 Oversized items housed in Box 4, Folder 7
Box 2, Folder 20	Ward School Fountain, 1958-1959 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 <i>Burning Bush</i> from Box 1, Folder 58
Box 4, Folder 3	Oversized Chizuk Amuno Sketches for Menorah and <i>Eternal Light</i> 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)

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	<i>Robert Cronbach, Selected Works 1939-1975 (1976), circa 1976</i>
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)

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)

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](#)