



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Eva Lee Gallery Records,
1921-1973, in the Archives of American Art

Jean Fitzgerald

Funding for the digitization of this collection was
provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Eva Lee Gallery records
Identifier:	AAA.evalee
Date:	1921-1973
Extent:	4 Linear feet
Creator:	Eva Lee Gallery
Language:	English
Summary:	<p>The scattered records of the New York contemporary American art Eva Lee Gallery measure 4.0 linear feet and date from 1921-1973. Artist files contain provenance notes, photographs of artwork, records of sales and consignments, exhibition catalogs from other galleries, and reference information on numerous contemporary artists, many represented by the gallery. There are also scattered letters and artwork from artists, scattered sales records of J.B. Neuman's New Art Circle Gallery, and a photocopy of an auction catalog for Korvettes Art Galleries in Douglastan, New York. A significant amount of information is found within the collection about Alexander Calder, Lovis Corinth, Salvadore Dali, Lyonel Feininger, George Grosz, Robert Indiana, Harry Lieberman, Rene Magritte, John Marin, Lowell Nesbitt, Ben Shahn, Victor Vasarely, and Max Weber.</p>

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Eva Lee Gallery records were donated in 1973 by Eva Lee through Eloise Spaeth, and in 1978 by Neal Richmond of the Paul Klapper Library, Queens College, Flushing, New York, who had been asked to disperse Lee's gallery records following her sudden death in 1973. A photocopy of the Korvettes Art Galleries Auction Catalog was donated by Eva Lee in 1970.

Lee's records also contained financial files belonging to art dealer J. B. Neumann and his New Art Circle Gallery, whose estate she had worked on in 1966.

Alternative Forms Available

The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2015 and is available on the Archives of American Art's website. Materials which have not been scanned include blank pages, blank versos of photographs, and duplicates. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.

Processing Information

The papers received a preliminary level of arrangement after donation and the Korvettes Art Galleries Auction Catalog was microfilmed onto reel 2. In 2007, the collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Jean Fitzgerald. The collection was digitized in 2015 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

Eva Lee Gallery records, 1921-1973. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Ownership and Literary Rights

The Eva Lee gallery records 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.

Historical Note

Eva Lee was born circa 1924. She fled from Nazi Germany to the United States, becoming an art dealer and the owner of the Eva Lee Gallery, Inc. Located in Great Neck, New York, the Eva Lee Gallery specialized in modern art and handled the work of many prominent artists including Alexander Calder, Lyonel Feininger, George Grosz, Marsden Hartley, Jacob Lawrence, Ben Shahn, and Max Weber. The gallery was in operation through the first half of 1973.

Eva Lee died suddenly on November 4, 1973 in Terre Haute, Indiana, while undergoing unspecified medical treatment.

Scope and Content Note

The scattered records of the New York contemporary American art Eva Lee Gallery measure 4.0 linear feet and date from 1921-1973. Artist files contain provenance notes, photographs of artwork, records of sales and consignments, exhibition catalogs from other galleries, and reference information on numerous contemporary artists, many represented by the gallery. There are also scattered letters and artwork from artists, scattered sales records of J.B. Neumann's New Art Circle Gallery, and a photocopy of an auction catalog for Korvettes Art Galleries in Douglastan, New York.

The records are comprised of artists' files arranged into four categories established by the gallery: general artists' files; notebooks of artists' files; financial artists' files; and consignment and sales artists' files. General artists' files contain background and reference information on numerous contemporary artists, performers, and art-related organizations. More information exists for Alexander Calder and Harry Lieberman than the other names represented in the general files. Lee also arranged provenance notes and photographs of artwork into notebooks, presumably including many of the artists represented by the gallery. There is a significant amount of material in the notebooks on Alexander Calder, Robert Indiana, Lowell Nesbitt, Ben Shahn, Victor Vasarely, and Max Weber.

Financial artists' files contain correspondence with artists and patrons concerning the sale of artwork by both the Eva Lee Gallery and J. B. Neumann of the New Art Circle Gallery, scattered artwork, printed material, photographs of artists, and checks signed by Neumann and endorsed by miscellaneous artists. Eva Lee worked on the estate of J. B. Neumann and collected and interspersed his files with her own. These files include letters from Josef Albers, Thomas Hart Benton, Alexander Calder, Christo, Joseph Cornell, Robert Indiana, and a postcard of Calder's studio from Ben Shahn. There are also watercolor sketches by Clifford Odets, an exhibition catalog autographed by Ben Shahn, and photographs of Marsden Hartley, Jacques Lipchitz, composer Frederick Loewe, Paul Mommer, Mert Simpson, and Curt Valentin with Andrew Ritchie.

Eva Lee Gallery artists' consignment and sales files primarily contain photographs of artwork and notes concerning sales of specific artwork by the Eva Lee Gallery. Also found in these sales files are scattered letters, receipts, and printed material. There is a significant amount of material for Ben Benn, Alexander Calder, Lovis Corinth, Salvadore Dali, Lyonel Feininger, George Grosz, Marsden Hartley, John Hopkins, Rene Magritte, and John Marin. It is assumed that Eva Lee separated the two latter sets of artists' files containing sales records.

Also found in the collection is a photocopy of the Korvettes Art Galleries auction catalog, which lists artwork sold at a 1970 auction liquidating the holdings of the Douglaston, New York gallery.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 5 series:

- Series 1: General Artist Files, 1923-1972 (Boxes 1-2; 1.3 linear feet)
- Series 2: Notebooks of Artist Files, 1929-1973 (Boxes 2-3; 1.4 linear feet)
- Series 3: Financial Artist Files, 1921-1970 (Boxes 3-4; 0.6 linear feet)
- Series 4: Eva Lee Gallery Consignment and Sales Artist Files, 1960-1972 (Box 4; 0.7 linear feet)
- Series 5: Photocopy of Korvettes Art Galleries Auction Catalog, 1970 (Box 4; 1 folder)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art galleries, Commercial -- New York (State) -- Long Island
Works of art

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Watercolor drawings

Names:

Albers, Josef
Benn, Ben, 1884-
Benton, Thomas Hart, 1889-1975
Calder, Alexander, 1898-1976
Christo, 1935-

Corinth, Lovis, 1858-1925
Cornell, Joseph
Dalí, Salvador, 1904-
Feininger, Lyonel, 1871-1956
Grosz, George, 1893-1959
Hartley, Marsden, 1877-1943
Hopkins, John
Indiana, Robert, 1928-
Korvettes
Lee, Eva
Lieberman, Harry, 1880-1983
Lipchitz, Jacques, 1891-1973
Loewe, Frederick
Magritte, René, 1898-1967
Marin, John, 1870-1953
Mommer, Paul
Nesbitt, Lowell, 1933-1993
Neumann, J. B. (Jsrael Ber)
New Art Circle (New York, N.Y.)
Odets, Clifford, 1906-1963
Ritchie, Andrew Carnduff
Shahn, Ben, 1898-1969
Simpson, Merton D. (Merton Daniel), 1928-
Valentin, Curt, 1902-1954
Vasarely, Victor, 1906-1997
Weber, Max, 1881-1961

Container Listing

Series 1: General Artist Files, 1923-1972

This series consists primarily of reference files containing brief biographical accounts, clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, miscellaneous printed material, and scattered photographs of artwork for numerous contemporary artists - presumably some, but not all, represented by the gallery. Performers and a few art-related organizations are represented in the files. A few of the files also contain scattered letters and receipts. More information is found for Alexander Calder and Harry Lieberman than for the other artists, and there are photographs of Harold Altman, Harry Lieberman, and Paul Mommer. There is also an exhibition catalog autographed by Luigi Corbellini.

Materials are arranged alphabetically by surname of the artist.

The bulk of this series has been scanned. In some cases exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.

Box 1, Folder 1	Adler, Jankel, 1959-1967 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 2	Altman, Harold, 1964-1966 Image(s)
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Box 1, Folder 4	Antreasian, Garo Z., circa 1930-1965 Image(s)
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Box 1, Folder 9	Arp, Jean, 1962-1967 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 10	Associated American Artists, 1965-1967

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Box 1, Folder 14	Baskin, Leonard, 1956-1970 Image(s)
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Box 1, Folder 16	Baylinson, A. S., 1938-1951 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 17	Beck, Margit, 1962-1971 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 18	Becker, Maurice, 1952-1955 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 19	Becket, Marta (mime dancer), 1962 Image(s)
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Box 1, Folder 25	Bernhard, Georg, 1963

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Box 1, Folder 40	Brody, Iris, 1959-1961

	Image(s)
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Box 1, Folder 44	Burba, Tadas, 1970 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 45	Burch, Claire, 1961-1965 Image(s)
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Box 1, Folder 47	Burlin, Paul, 1963-1965 Image(s)
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Box 1, Folder 51	Calcagno, Lawrence, 1962 Image(s)
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Box 1, Folder 63	Cherney, Marvin, 1962-1964 Image(s)
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Box 1, Folder 69	Constant, George, 1929-1966 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 70	Corbellini, Luigi, 1959-1961 Image(s)
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Series 2: Notebooks of Artist Files, 1929-1973

The contents of these loose-leaf notebooks include scattered letters, provenance notes concerning sales of artwork, miscellaneous printed material, and photographs of artwork. There is a significant amount of material in the notebooks on Alexander Calder, Robert Indiana, Lowell Nesbitt, Ben Shahn, Victor Vasarely, and Max Weber. There is a letter of authentication signed by Victor Vasarely, a reproduction of a photograph autographed by Salvadore Dali, and a catalog from the first exhibition of mobiles by Alexander Calder at the Buchholz Gallery.

Notebooks generally contain files arranged alphabetically by artist name but some variations should be noted: see Notebook 16 for "Pop Artists" and Notebook 24 for additional A-Z files.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

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Box 2, Folder 52	Richard Anuszkiewicz, David Aronson, Jean Arp, Milton Avery, 1965-1968 Image(s)
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Box 2, Folder 53	Leonard Baskin, 1966-1968 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 54	Herbert Bayer, Ben Benn, 1968-1969 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 55	Thomas Hart Benton, Ben-Zion, Eugene Berman, Floriano Bodini, Camille Bombois, Grace Borgenicht, 1965-1972 Image(s)
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Box 2, Folder 88	Marino Marini, Marisol (Escobar), 1968-1969 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 89	Reginald Marsh, 1967-1969

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- Box 2, Folder 90 Henri Matisse, Zygmunt Menkes, Paul Mommer, Richard Mortensen,
Fernand Mourlot, Otto Mueller, 1965-1972
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- Box 2, Folder 92 Lynfield Ott, Jules Pascin, Eleven Pop Artists including Allan D'Archangelo,
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- Box 3, Folder 4-6 Notebook 18: Ben Shahn, 1964-1970
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- Box 3, Folder 7-11 Notebook 19: Ben Shahn, 1962-1968
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Box 3, Folder 36	Pablo Picasso, Pre-Columbian Sculpture, 1973 Image(s)
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Series 3: Financial Artist Files, 1921-1970

This series contains correspondence with artists and patrons concerning sales of artwork by Eva Lee and J. B. Neumann of the New Art Circle Gallery. It includes letters from Josef Albers, Thomas Hart Benton, Alexander Calder, Christo, Joseph Cornell, Robert Indiana, and a postcard of Calder's studio from Ben Shahn. Also found here are checks signed by Neumann and endorsed by miscellaneous artists, scattered artwork including watercolor sketches by Clifford Odets, miscellaneous printed material including an exhibition catalog autographed by Ben Shahn, and photographs of Marsden Hartley, Jacques Lipchitz, composer Frederick Loewe, Paul Mommer, Mert Simpson, and Curt Valentin with Andrew Ritchie.

Materials are arranged alphabetically by surname of the artist.

The bulk of this series has been scanned. In some cases exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.

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Series 4: Eva Lee Gallery Consignment and Sales Artist Files, 1960-1972

This series primarily contains photographs of artwork and notes concerning the consignment and sale of specific artwork. Also included are scattered letters, receipts, and printed material. There is a significant amount of materials for Ben Benn, Alexander Calder, Lovis Corinth, Salvadore Dali, Lyonel Feininger, George Grosz, Marsden Hartley, John Hopkins, Rene Magritte, and John Marin.

Materials are arranged alphabetically by art genre and surname of the artist.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

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Series 5: Photocopy of Korvettes Art Galleries Auction Catalog, 1970

The catalog records artists' names, titles, and media of their artwork sold at the public auction liquidating the holdings of the Korvettes Art Galleries in Douglaston, New York.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 4, Folder 140

Photocopy of Korvettes Art Galleries Auction Catalog and Clipping, 1970

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