



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Ralph Goings Papers, circa  
1950-2005, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

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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/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Ralph Goings papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.goinralp2
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1950-2005
<b>Extent:</b>	2.4 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Goings, Ralph
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of California Photorealist painter Ralph Goings, measure 2.4 linear feet and date from circa 1950 to 2005. The collection is comprised of biographical material, professional correspondence with artists, dealers, museums, and other art organizations, project files, inventory and sales records dating from 1970 to 1975, and printed material featuring Goings and his artwork.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Ralph Goings papers were donated in 2009 by Ralph Goings.

### Related Materials

Also found at the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Ralph Goings, conducted on September 10-11, 2009, by Judith Olch Richards for the Archives of American Art.

### Processing Information

The collection received some preliminary processing in 2017. The papers were further processed and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2020.

### Preferred Citation

Ralph Goings papers, circa 1950-2005. 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.

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Ralph Goings (1928-2016) was a Photorealist painter active in Santa Cruz, California.

Goings attended Hartnell College before enrolling in the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, California, where he studied alongside artists Richard McClean, Nathan Oliveira, and Robert Bechtle. Goings continued his studies at Sacramento State College where he received a Master of Fine Arts in 1965. He was known for the paintings of diners, trucks, and everyday scenes that established him as one of the originators of the Photorealist movement. His work has been exhibited and is in collections throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Goings died in 2016 in Sacramento, California.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of California Photorealist painter Ralph Goings, measure 2.4 linear feet and date from circa 1950 to 2005. The collection is comprised of biographical material, professional correspondence with artists, dealers, museums, and other art organizations, project files, inventory and sales records dating from 1970 to 1975, and printed material featuring Goings and his artwork.

Biographical material includes interview transcripts, personal photographs, teaching records, notes on Realism, and other material. Photorealist artists and dealers represented in the correspondence include Richard McLean, Glennray Tutor, Davis Cone, Daniel Tennant, OK Harris Works of Art, and Ivan Karp. Project files include photographic material used as preparation for Goings's paintings, a work progress notebook, and photographs of finished work.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged into five series.

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1955-circa 1990s (0.4 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1950-2005 (0.4 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: Project Files, 1967-1978 (1.2 linear feet; Boxes 1-3)
- Series 4: Inventory and Sales Records, 1970-1975 (0.2 linear feet; Box 3)
- Series 5: Printed Materials, circa 1970s-2005 (0.2 linear feet; Box 3)

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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:

Photorealist

Types of Materials:

Interviews

Names:

Karp, Ivan C., 1926-2012

McLean, Richard Thorpe, 1934-

O.K. Harris Gallery (New York, N.Y.)

Occupations:

Painters -- California -- Santa Cruz

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1955-circa 1990s

#### *0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Biographical materials include an artist statement written for a Jack Hobbs project, curriculum vitae and a resume for Goings's Master of Arts from Sacramento State College, student transcripts, notes on Realist painting and calendar appointments, and teaching contracts and evaluations. Personal photographs in this series are of Goings, his wife, friends and family, and colleagues. Also found are two transcripts of interviews with Goings conducted by Jack Taylor at the Milwaukee Art Center and Linda Chase at Goings's studio.

Box 1, Folder 1	Artist Statement for Jack Hobbs Project, 1973
Box 1, Folder 2	Curriculum Vitae, 1970
Box 1, Folder 3	Interview Transcript for Interview with Jack Taylor at Milwaukee Art Center, circa 1972
Box 1, Folder 4	Interview Transcript for Interview with Linda Chase at Goings's Studio in Charlottesville, N.Y., 1973
Box 1, Folder 5	Notes, Calendar for May-November 1991, 1991
Box 1, Folder 6	Notes on Realist Painting, circa 1975
Box 1, Folder 7	Personal Photographs, Album, circa 1980s Album has been disbound but original order has been maintained.
Box 1, Folder 8-10	Personal Photographs, Ralph and Shanna Goings, circa 1980s-circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 11	Resume for Sacramento State College Master of Arts, 1967
Box 1, Folder 12	Student Transcripts , 1955-1956, 1961, 1966-1967
Box 1, Folder 13	Teaching, Contracts, 1955-1965, 1970-1971
Box 1, Folder 14	Teaching, Evaluations, 1961-1970 (bulk 1961-1970)

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## Series 2: Correspondence , circa 1950-2005

### *0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Correspondence is with Photorealist artists including Richard McLean, Glennray Tutor, Davis Cone, Daniel Tennant, and others. Also found is business correspondence with OK Harris Gallery, dealers including Ivan Karp, and many museums, art organizations and educational institutions.

Box 1, Folder 15	Akers, Jim , 1988
Box 1, Folder 16	Architectural Digest, 1986
Box 1, Folder 17	Arzamendi y Ortega, Carlos, 1987
Box 1, Folder 18	Barlow's Sporting Goods, 1992
Box 1, Folder 19	Bennett, Rick, 2004
Box 1, Folder 20	Bernarducci Meisel Gallery, 2003
Box 1, Folder 21	Bison Books , 1988
Box 1, Folder 22	Brain Trust, Inc., 1985
Box 1, Folder 23	Bretz, James F., 2004
Box 1, Folder 24	Bruce, Tecoah, 1990-1991
Box 1, Folder 25	California College of Arts and Crafts, 1991
Box 1, Folder 26	California State University, Sacramento, 1987
Box 1, Folder 27	Capps, Kenneth, circa 1950s-2005
Box 1, Folder 28	Clamp, Chris, 2004
Box 1, Folder 29	Coates, John, 1992
Box 1, Folder 30	Cone, Davis, 1986-1987
Box 1, Folder 31	Dameron, James Edward IV, 1991
Box 1, Folder 32	Delaney, Carole, 1986
Box 1, Folder 33	Doran, Lorna, 1986

Box 1, Folder 34	Dubrow, Norman, undated, circa 1950s-2005
Box 1, Folder 35	Easton, Thomas L., 1987
Box 1, Folder 36	Forbes, Gaylord, circa 1950s-2005
Box 1, Folder 37	Gallery 53 Artworks, 1988, 1990
Box 1, Folder 38	Gallery 53 Smithy Artworks, 1986
Box 1, Folder 39	Garbin, Randolph , 1991
Box 1, Folder 40	Germanische National Museum , 1992
Box 1, Folder 41	Hall, Stephanie, 1991
Box 1, Folder 42	Hooper, John, 1990
Box 1, Folder 43	The Hubbard Museum, 1989
Box 1, Folder 44	Jackson, Cindy, 1989
Box 1, Folder 45	Karp, Peter, 1988-1992
Box 1, Folder 46	Kerns, Peter, 1988-1992
Box 1, Folder 47	Klemenzson, Ben, 1991
Box 1, Folder 48	Leonard, 1988
Box 1, Folder 49-50	Louis K. Meisel Gallery, 1987-2004
Box 1, Folder 51	Lukaschewski, Rolf, 1991
Box 1, Folder 52	Macalester College, 1991-1992
Box 1, Folder 53	Margulies, Marty, circa 1987
Box 1, Folder 54	McLean, Richard, 2003-2004
Box 1, Folder 55	Morwood, David T., 1992



Box 1, Folder 56	Moss, Charles B., Jr., 1987
Box 1, Folder 57	National Mental Health Association, 1988
Box 1, Folder 58	Nelken, Axel, 1991
Box 1, Folder 59	New York University-80 Washington Square East Galleries, 2004
Box 1, Folder 60	Norton Center at Centre, 1985
Box 1, Folder 61	O'Callaghan, Julie, 1991
Box 1, Folder 62-64	OK Harris, 1986-2003
Box 1, Folder 65	Parkes, Anthony, circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 66	Paul, 1989
Box 1, Folder 67	Petrie, Michael, 1991
Box 1, Folder 68	Philbrook Art Center, 1985
Box 1, Folder 69	Pomex, Salomon, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 70	The Putnum Funds, 1985
Box 1, Folder 71	Rice University, Sewall Art Gallery, 1992
Box 1, Folder 72	Ringling School of Art and Design, 1991
Box 1, Folder 73	Rosen, Judy, circa 1987
Box 1, Folder 74	Rowohl, 1992
Box 1, Folder 75	San Francisco Museum of Art, 1985
Box 1, Folder 76	San Juan Unified School District, 1969-1970
Box 1, Folder 77	Searles, John R., Jr., 1992
Box 1, Folder 78	Sharlene, 1992
Box 1, Folder 79	Tampa Museum of Art, 1986-1987

Box 1, Folder 80	Tempchin, Stanley, 1983
Box 1, Folder 81-82	Tennant, Daniel K., 1986-2004
Box 1, Folder 83	Tusquets Editores, 1990
Box 1, Folder 84	Tutor, Glennray, 1991-1992
Box 1, Folder 85	U.S. Census Bureau, 2003
Box 1, Folder 86	Unidentified, 1986
Box 1, Folder 87	University of Delaware, 1987
Box 1, Folder 88	University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2003
Box 1, Folder 89	Upper Catskill Community Council of the Arts, Inc., 1988
Box 1, Folder 90	Vallé McLeod Vila Gallery, 1992
Box 1, Folder 91	Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2004
Box 1, Folder 92	Watts Publishing, 2004
Box 1, Folder 93	West Kortright Centre, 2003
Box 1, Folder 94	Wittman, Wolfgang, 1992
Box 1, Folder 95	Yale University Art Gallery, 2003

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## Series 3: Project Files, 1967-1978

### 1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3)

The majority of the series consists of preparatory material that includes photographs, slides, and transparencies of still lifes, diners, trucks, and other subjects commonly seen in Goings's artwork. Also included is a notebook that contains logs of Goings's progress listed by artwork title.

Box 1, Folder 96	Painting of American Flag onto Barn, circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 97	Photographs of Finished Works, circa 1970-1986
Box 1, Folder 98-104	Preparatory Material, General, circa 1970-circa 1990
Box 1, Folder 105	Preparatory Material, Cape Cod Diner, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 1-2	Preparatory Material, Diner Details, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 3-7	Preparatory Material, Diner Interiors, circa 1980s-circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 8	Preparatory Material, Outdoor Food, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 9	Preparatory Material, "Silly Condiments", circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 10-16	Preparatory Material, Still Lifes, circa 1990-circa 2002
Box 2, Folder 17	Preparatory Material, Still Lifes and Close-Ups, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 18	Preparatory Material, Still Lifes and Strawberries, circa 1990s
Box 3, Folder 1	Preparatory Material, Trucks, circa 1990
Box 3, Folder 2	Preparatory Material, Waitress, circa 1990s
Box 3, Folder 3	Preparatory Material, Works in Progress, circa 1980s
Box 3, Folder 4	Work Progress Notebook, circa 1971

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## Series 5: Inventory and Sales Records , 1970-1975

### *0.2 Linear feet (Box 3)*

The inventory and sales records consist of notecards containing artwork descriptions and titles, notes on sales and exhibitions, and photographs.

Box 3, Folder 5	Inventory and Sales Records, 1970-1972
Box 3, Folder 6	Inventory and Sales Records, 1973-1974
Box 3, Folder 7	Inventory and Sales Records, 1975

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## Series 6: Printed Material, circa 1970s-2005

### *0.2 Linear feet (Box 3)*

Printed materials contain clippings regarding Goings's artwork and home, diner menus, and announcements and catalogs for exhibitions of artwork by Goings.

Box 3, Folder 8-12	Clippings, 1976-2005
Box 3, Folder 13	Ephemera, Diner Menus and Cards, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 14	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1985-2003

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