



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Amy Goldin Papers,  
1945-1978, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

2020/11/5

Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Amy Goldin papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.goldamy
<b>Date:</b>	1945-1978
<b>Extent:</b>	3.5 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Goldin, Amy
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of author, art critic, and educator Amy Goldin measure 3.5 linear feet and date from 1945 to 1978. The collection comprises biographical materials that include identification documents, a sketchbook from 1946, student records, and other material; personal and professional correspondence with Goldin's sister Ruth Huston, Oleg Grabar, Robert Duncan, and others; Goldin's writing and research projects and a few writings by others; printed materials mainly featuring Goldin's published writings; and photographic materials consisting of photographs of Goldin, friends and family, and works of art by Goldin and others.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Amy Goldin papers were donated by Mrs. Ruth M. Huston, the sister of Amy Genevieve Goldin, in 1978.

### Related Materials

Also found at the Archives of American art is the Herb Bronstein correspondence with Amy Goldin, circa 1952-1976.

### Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reels 1401 through 1405 for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2020.

## Preferred Citation

Amy Goldin papers, 1945-1978. 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

Amy Goldin (1926-1978) was an art critic, author, and educator in New York, New York.

Goldin started her career in art as a painter in her birthplace of Detroit, Michigan. She attended Wayne University from 1944 to 1946 before attending the University of Chicago from 1946 to 1948. She continued her training in painting after receiving the Art Students' League scholarship for 1948 to 1949 and a scholarship to train under Hans Hofmann from 1950 to 1952. She eventually settled in New York City.

Goldin was a prolific writer over the course of her short career as an art critic. She was contributing editor for the publications *Arts*, *Arts News* and *Art in America*. In 1972 she received a National Endowment Critic's Grant to study with Dr. Oleg Grabar, a leading scholar on Islamic art, at Harvard University and traveled to Iran to study the country's architecture. Goldin devoted much of her career to covering topics such as Islamic art, decoration and pattern, and examining folk art from an original viewpoint. In 1976 the College Art Association awarded her the Frank Jewett Mather award for distinguished art criticism.

Goldin was also a visiting lecturer and educator at the University of California in San Diego, Northwestern University, and Queens College. Goldin and Dr. Michael Brown of Queens College collaborated on the book *Collective Behavior* (1974) that explored style and collective behavior.

Goldin died of cancer in 1978 in New York, N.Y.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of author, art critic, and educator Amy Goldin measure 3.5 linear feet and date from 1945 to 1978. The collection comprises biographical materials that include identification documents, a sketchbook from 1946, student records, and other material; personal and professional correspondence with Goldin's sister Ruth Huston, Oleg Grabar, Robert Duncan, and others; Goldin's writing and research projects and a few writings by others; printed materials mainly featuring Goldin's published writings; and photographic materials consisting of photographs of Goldin, friends and family, and works of art by Goldin and others.

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as five series.

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1945-1978 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
  - Series 2: Correspondence, 1959-1978 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
  - Series 3: Research and Writing Projects, 1950-1977 (2.0 linear feet; Boxes 1-3, OV 4)
  - Series 4: Printed Materials, circa 1960-1978 (0.9 linear feet; Boxes 3-4, OV 5)
  - Series 5: Photographic Materials, circa 1950-circa 1975 (0.1 linear feet; Box 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:

Women art critics  
Women authors

Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

Names:

Duncan, Robert Edward, 1919-  
Grabar, Oleg

Occupations:

Art critics -- New York (State) -- New York  
Authors -- New York (State) -- New York  
Educators -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1945-1978

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

Biographical material includes Goldin's curriculum vitae; a grant application to connect tourists in California with indigenous artists; passports; some personal business papers including financial records; a sketchbook and student records belonging to Goldin; and a file labeled as teaching material which contains several pages of drawn patterns and some printed materials.

Box 1, Folder 1	Curriculum Vitae, circa 1975
Box 1, Folder 2	Grant Application for Tourism Project, 1978
Box 1, Folder 3	Passports, 1970-1976
Box 1, Folder 4	Personal Business, 1959-1976
Box 1, Folder 5	Sketchbook, 1946
Box 1, Folder 6	Student Records, 1945-1976
Box 1, Folder 7	Teaching Material, circa 1971

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1959-1978

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

The series includes Goldin's personal and professional correspondence with her sister Ruth Huston, Max Palevsky, Manny Farber, Oleg Grabar, and Robert Duncan. Also found is correspondence with art publications concerning Goldin's writing projects.

Box 1, Folder 8	General, 1959
Box 1, Folder 9	General, 1964-1975
Box 1, Folder 10	General, circa 1966-circa 1973
Box 1, Folder 11	General, 1976-1978

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## Series 3: Research and Writing Projects, 1950-1977

### 2 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3, OV 4)

This series documents Goldin's writing projects, writing projects by others or unidentified authors, and research material documenting Goldin's career as an art critic and historian. Records relate to Goldin's work as a contributing editor to the publications *Arts*, *Art News*, and *Art in America*, as well as to her freelance work.

In 1969 Goldin served as a consultant to the Helena Rubenstein Foundation, and in 1972 began collaborating with Dr. Michael Brown of Queens College, with whom she wrote *Collective Behavior: A Review and Reinterpretation of the Literature* which was published in 1974. Work related to these projects is also documented here. Researchers should note that Goldin sometimes used the name Amy Mendelson.

### 3.1: Writing Projects by Goldin, circa 1965-circa 1973

The subseries consists of drafts, typescripts, related research material, notes, correspondence, and other material relating to Goldin's numerous projects. These include a teacher's manual titled *Art for Young America*.

Box 1, Folder 12	<i>Art, Perception, and Reality</i> Book Review, 1973
Box 1, Folder 13	"Art as Politics", circa 1972
Box 1, Folder 14-18	"Art for Young America" Teacher's Manual, General, circa 1967
Box 1, Folder 19-25	"Art for Young America" Teacher's Manual, Books 1-4, circa 1967
Box 1, Folder 26	"The Court of Gayumart", circa 1973
Box 1, Folder 27	"Decoration, Matisse and the Timurid Miniature", circa 1974
Box 1, Folder 28	Diane Arbus, 1973
Box 1, Folder 29	"A Dodo in Eternity", circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 30	"Drawing: Writing and Gestural Line", circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 31-34	Fallas in Valencia, Spain, circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 1	Folk Art, circa 1975
Box 2, Folder 2	"Formal Analysis of an Islamic Ceramic Dish", circa 1973
Box 2, Folder 3	"The Form of the Timurid Miniature", circa 1972
Box 2, Folder 4	"Indian Drawings and Painted Sketches" Exhibition Review, 1976



Box 2, Folder 5-12	Islamic Art, circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 13	"A Laboratory Course in Art" Outline, 1967
Box 2, Folder 14	Manny Farber Exhibition Review, circa 1974
Box 2, Folder 15	"On Being Ill at Ease: An Essay on Style and Decorum", 1969
Box 2, Folder 16	"The Perfidy of the Parks Department: An Unbiased View", circa 1967
Box 2, Folder 17	Plastic Arts, circa 1965
Box 2, Folder 18	"Pop Art, Slide Set with Commentary by Amy Goldin", circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 19	"Some Implications of Formal Analysis", circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 20	"Some Remarks About Islamic Decoration", circa 1970

### 3.2: Writing Projects by Others or Unidentified, 1950-1975

Material found here is similar in type to that found in subseries 3.1. Writings are by unidentified authors unless otherwise noted. Because Goldin worked as an editor as well as a writer, some writings are by others but contain edits by Goldin. The last file in the subseries contains various philosophical writings on freedom, love and sex, suicide, and society.

Box 2, Folder 21	"American Art and Anti-Art" Film Transcript, circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 22	Art and Decoration, circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 23	Art History and Elitism, circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 24	Book Review by Alice Cruikshank Dodd, 1975
Box 2, Folder 25-29	Charles McCurdy Material, circa 1970 Folders include writings on Naum Gabo, James Gibbons Huneker, André Gide, Guillaume Apollinaire, and George Moore.
Box 2, Folder 30	"Condemnation and Persecution: Social Control and the Closing of Alternatives. A Case Study" by Michael E. Brown, circa 1968
Box 2, Folder 31	Helena Rubinstein Foundation Material, circa 1969
Box 2, Folder 32	"The Iconic Mode", circa 1960s

Box 2, Folder 33-34	Matisse and Oriental Art, circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 35	Modern Art, circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 36	Plays, circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 37	Politicized Art, circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 38	"Prospectus", circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 39	Rugs and Decoration, circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 40	"Seurat", circa 1965
Box 2, Folder 41	"Some Ideas in Music" by Edward Bland, 1950
Box 2, Folder 42	Various Writings, circa 1960s

### 3.3: Research Material, circa 1960-1977

This subseries includes printed material, bibliographies, photographic slides, conference materials, and notes collected in support of Goldin's writings and research projects.

Box 2, Folder 43	Annotated Book, <i>Reason and Controversy in the Arts</i> by Mortimer R. Kadish, 1968
Box 2, Folder 44	Bibliographies, circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 45-46	Brooklyn and Guggenheim Museums, circa 1972
Box 2, Folder 47	Conceptual Art, 1964
Oversize 5	Conceptual Art, 1970
Box 2, Folder 48-49	Conference Materials, 1974-1976 Includes material for the World of Islam Festival, the Japan Society, Canadian arts, and the College Art Association's art history sessions.
Box 3, Folder 1	General Research Material, circa 1972
Oversize 5	General Research Material, circa 1972
Box 3, Folder 2	Maurice B. Prendergast Chronology, circa 1970

Box 3, Folder 3	Notebook on Canadian Art, circa 1960s
Box 3, Folder 4	Notebook on China, circa 1960s
Box 3, Folder 5	Notebooks on Museums, circa 1960 2 books
Box 3, Folder 6-10	Notebooks, circa 1960s 3 books
Box 3, Folder 11	Note Cards on Topics for Papers, 1968-1977
Box 3, Folder 12-17	Notes, circa 1960s
Box 3, Folder 18-19	Photographic Slides, circa 1975

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## Series 4: Printed Materials, circa 1960-1978

*0.9 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4, OV 5)*

The series consists of art reproductions, brochures and pamphlets, bulletins, clippings, exhibition catalogs, magazines and journals, press releases, and other material that focuses mainly on Goldin, her writing, and, to a lesser extent, her artwork.

Box 3, Folder 20	Art Reproductions, circa 1960s
Oversize 5	Art Reproductions, circa 1960s
Box 3, Folder 21	Booklets, circa 1960s
Box 3, Folder 22	Brochures and Pamphlets, circa 1960s
Box 3, Folder 23	Bulletins, 1975
Box 3, Folder 24	Business Cards, circa 1960-1978
Box 3, Folder 25-29	Clippings, circa 1960s
Oversize 5	Clippings, circa 1960s
Box 3, Folder 30	Exhibition Catalogs, 1963-1977
Box 4, Folder 1	Exhibition Catalog, 1970 Includes the unconventional catalog for the exhibition <i>955,000</i> organized by Lucy Lippard.
Box 4, Folder 2	Journals, 1975
Box 4, Folder 3-4	Magazine, 1960-1974 Includes the magazine <i>Trobar</i> with cover art by Goldin, credited as Amy Mendelson.
Box 4, Folder 5	Postcards, circa 1960s
Box 4, Folder 6	Press Releases, circa 1973

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## Series 5: Photographic Materials, circa 1950-circa 1975

### *0.1 Linear feet (Box 4)*

Photographic materials include photographic prints, negatives and transparencies, and slides of Goldin, as well as of others who appear to be family or friends of Goldin, personal snapshots of interiors, and works of art by Goldin. Other materials of works of art were probably used as supplemental research material.

Box 4, Folder 7	Goldin, circa 1950-circa 1975
Box 4, Folder 8	Others, circa 1950-circa 1975
Box 4, Folder 9	Personal, circa 1960s
Box 4, Folder 10	Buildings, circa 1960s
Box 4, Folder 11	Works of Art by Goldin, circa 1960
Box 4, Folder 12-13	Works of Art, circa 1960s

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