A Finding Aid to the Irving Blum Gallery and Ferus Gallery Announcements, 1961-1973, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Hanson

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

October 08, 2008
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: Irving Blum Gallery and Ferus Gallery announcements
Identifier: AAA.irviblum
Date: 1961-1972
Creator: Irving Blum Gallery
Extent: 0.2 Linear feet
Language: English
Summary: The Irving Blum Gallery and Ferus Gallery announcements consist of 32 announcements for exhibitions at the Los Angeles Ferus Gallery (1957-1966) and its successor the Irving Blum Gallery (1966-circa 1972). Exhibition announcements are for many exhibitions of southern California contemporary and pop artists, as well as New York artists. Artists represented by announcements include John Altoon, Don Bachardy, Larry Bell, Billy Al Bengston, Robert Irwin, Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Craig Kauffman, Roy Lichtenstein, Edward Moses, Kenneth Noland, Ad Reinhardt, Ed Ruscha, Frank Stella, and Andy Warhol, among others.

Administrative Information

Provenance
Mrs. Rochella Orchard donated the Ferus Gallery and Irving Blum Gallery announcements on February 22, 1979.

Related Material
Also found at the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Irving Blum conducted by Paul Cummings on May 31-June 23, 1977.

Alternative Forms Available
This site provides access to the records of Irving Blum Gallery (Los Angeles, Calif.) in the Archives of American Art that were digitized in 2009. The records have been scanned in their entirety, and total 32 images.

Processing Information
The collection was microfilmed on reel 3002 upon receipt. Later, the collection was fully processed and described by Jayna Hanson in October 2008 and scanned in 2009 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation
Restrictions on Access
The collection has been digitized and is available online via AAA’s website.

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Historical Note
In 1957, Walter Hopps (1932-2005) and Edward Kienholz (1927-1994) opened the contemporary art Ferus Gallery on North La Cienega Boulevard in Los Angeles, California. Kienholz sold his share to Irving Blum (b. 1930) one year later. Hopps left in 1962 to become curator and, later, director of the Pasadena Art Museum. Ferus Gallery closed in 1966 and Irving Blum maintained sole ownership and changed the gallery's name to Irving Blum Gallery.

Ferus Gallery was the first gallery in the Los Angeles area to show contemporary American art, and focused heavily on contemporary Southern California artists, such as John Altoon, Larry Bell, Billy Al Bengston, Wallace Berman, Robert Irwin, Craig Kauffman, Ed Kienholz, Ed Moses, Richard Ruben, among many others. Likewise, Ferus Gallery helped to solidify the reputations of many established New York artists, including Roy Lichtenstein, Jasper Johns, Frank Stella, Richard Diebenkorn, Andy Warhol, and others.


In 1957 the gallery was temporarily closed after LAPD officers arrested and charged Wallace Berman with obscenity over work in his exhibition. It was his first and last solo show.

In 1962 "Andy Warhol: Campbell's Soup Cans" was Andy Warhol's first solo pop art exhibition and the first exhibition of the Soup Cans. Five of the canvases sold for $100 each, but Blum bought them back to keep the set intact.

Irving Blum designed many of the exhibition announcements for the gallery with a graphic aesthetic.

In 2007, "The Cool School" was released, a documentary film about the Ferus Gallery and its eccentric artists.

Scope and Content Note
The Irving Blum Gallery and Ferus Gallery announcements consist of 32 announcements for exhibitions at the Los Angeles Ferus Gallery (1957-1966) and its successor the Irving Blum Gallery (1966-circa 1972). Exhibition announcements are for many exhibitions of southern California contemporary and pop artists, as well as New York artists. Artists represented by announcements include John Altoon, Don Bachardy, Larry Bell, Billy Al Bengston, Robert Irwin, Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Craig Kauffman, Roy Lichtenstein, Edward Moses, Kenneth Noland, Ad Reinhardt, Ed Ruscha, Frank Stella, and Andy Warhol, among others.
Although these announcements are scattered, they provide insight to and documentation of the southern California LA art scene and the Beat era. The exhibition announcements themselves are quite unique.

**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged as 2 series:

**Missing Title:**
- Series 1: Ferus Gallery Announcements, 1961-1965 (Box 1; 20 folders)
- Series 2: Irving Blum Gallery Announcements, 1969-1972 (Box 1; 12 folders)

**Names and Subject Terms**

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

**Names:**

- Altoon, John, 1925-
- Bachardy, Don, 1934-
- Bell, Larry, 1939-
- Bengston, Billy Al
- Ferus Gallery (Los Angeles, Calif.)
- Irwin, Robert, 1928-
- Johns, Jasper, 1930-
- Judd, Donald, 1928-
- Kauffman, Craig, 1932-2010
- Lichtenstein, Roy, 1923-1997
- Moses, Ed, 1926-
- Noland, Kenneth, 1924-
- Reinhardt, Ad, 1913-1967
- Ruscha, Edward
- Stella, Frank
- Warhol, Andy, 1928-

**Functions:**

- Art galleries, Commercial -- California
## Container Listing

### Series 1: Ferus Gallery Announcements, 1961-1965

**20 Folders (Box 1)**

**Scope and Contents:** Exhibition announcements for Ferus Gallery arranged in chronological order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>John Altoon and Richard Ruben, 1961 September 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
<td>Robert Irwin, 1962 May 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
<td>John Altoon, 1962 October 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
<td>Billy Al Bengston, 1962 November 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td>Joseph Cornell, 1962 December 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
<td>Frank Stella, 1963 February 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 7</td>
<td>Roy Lichtenstein, 1963 April 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
<td>Edward Moses, 1963 April 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
<td>Altoon, Bell, Bengston, Defoe, Irwin, Kauffman, Lobdell, Mason, Moses, Price, Ruben, Ruscha, 1963 June 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 10</td>
<td>Larry Bell, 1963 November 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 11</td>
<td>Kenneth Price, 1964 March 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
<td>Robert Irwin, 1964 April 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 13</td>
<td>Streeter Blair, 1964 May 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 14</td>
<td>Josef Albers, 1964 September 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 15</td>
<td>Philip Rich, 1965 January 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 16</td>
<td>Frank Stella, 1965 January 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 17</td>
<td>Larry Bell, 1965 October 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 18</td>
<td>Edward Ruscha, 1965 November 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 19</td>
<td>Richard Ruben, circa 1961</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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| Box 1, Folder 20 | Billy Al Bengston, circa 1961 |

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Series 2: Irving Blum Gallery Announcements, 1969-1972

12 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents:
Exhibition announcements for the Irving Blum Gallery arranged in chronological order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder</th>
<th>Exhibition Announcement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Donald Judd, 1969 September 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Kelly, Morris, Reinhardt, Stella, Warhol, 1969 December 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Don Bachardy, 1970 March 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Jasper Johns, 1970 April 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Michael Balog, 1970 November 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Thirties Style: Paintings, Sculpture, Decorative Images, 1970 December 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Richard Diebenkorn, 1971 January 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Frank Stella, 1971 November 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Kenneth Noland, 1971 November 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Tom Holste, 1972 January 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>John Duff, 1972 November 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Craig Kauffman, 1972 December 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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