



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Karen Karnes Papers, 1953-2016, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

2021 February 17

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	3
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Correspondence, 1998-2015.....	4
Series 2: Professional Activity Files, 1954-2015.....	5
Series 3: Administrative Files, 1981-2012.....	7
Series 4: Artist Files, 1999-2016.....	8
Series 5: Printed Material, 1953-2015.....	12
Series 6: Photographic Material, 1968-2009.....	13

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Karen Karnes papers
Date:	1953-2016
Identifier:	AAA.karnkare
Creator:	Karnes, Karen, 1925-2016
Extent:	3.5 Linear feet 4 Gigabytes
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Karen Karnes measure 3.5 linear feet and 4.00 GB and date from 1953 to 2016. The papers document Karnes' career as a ceramicist in Vermont through correspondence with family, friends, and art institutions; video productions on Karnes' life, exhibitions at museums and galleries, and other professional activities; participation lists, sales documents, correspondence, and other administrative materials; artist files for various participants at the annual Old Church Cultural Center pottery show in Demarest, New Jersey; clippings, announcements, catalogs, and other printed and digital material; personal photographs and photographs and slides of pottery.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 2018 by Ann Stannard, executor of Karnes' estate. A kiln fire in Karnes' studio and home in 1998 destroyed most of her papers.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art are two oral histories with Karen Karnes: one conducted by Paul Cumming, October 4, 1971, and one conducted by Matt Shapiro, August 9-10, 2005.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2021. Born-digital material was processed by Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner in 2021 with funding provided by Smithsonian Collection Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

Karen Karnes papers, 1953-2016. 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. Researchers interested in accessing

born-digital records or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the Smithsonian's Terms of Use for additional information.

Biographical / Historical

Karen Karnes (1925-2016) was a ceramicist in Morgan, Vermont. Karnes attended Brooklyn College where she studied design, and decided to concentrate on ceramics after a trip to Italy. In 1954, Karnes and her husband, David Weinrib, moved to Stony Point, New York, where they established the Gate Hill Cooperative. In 1967, while teaching at Penland School of Craft, Karnes began incorporating salt in her firings. It would become a signature of her work until a fire destroyed her studio in 1998. Karnes also organized and took part in the annual Old Church Cultural Center pottery show between 1980 and the 2010s in Demarest, New Jersey.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Karen Karnes measure 3.5 linear feet and 4.00 GB and date from 1953 to 2016. The papers document Karnes' career as a ceramicist in Vermont through correspondence with family, friends, and art institutions; video productions on Karnes' life, exhibitions at museums and galleries, and other professional activities; participation lists, sales documents, correspondence, and other administrative materials; artist files for various participants at the annual Old Church Cultural Center pottery show in Damarest, New Jersey; clippings, announcements, catalogs, and other printed and digital material; personal photographs and photographs and slides of pottery.

Correspondence includes letters from family, especially Karnes' grandchildren; letters from friends and colleagues in regards to the fire that destroyed her workshop and home; and correspondence with museums and galleries.

Professional activity material includes resumes, interview transcripts, some lecture notes, inventory lists, ceramic formulas and recipes, and documentation with museums and galleries in regards to exhibitions featuring her works. Also included are two VHS and one digital video recording on Karnes and her work.

Administrative files pertain primarily to Karnes' role organizing annual pottery shows for the Old Church Cultural Center in Demarest, New Jersey. Material includes correspondence, participation lists, and sales records.

Artist files are made up of material artists submitted for consideration for participation in annual Old Church Cultural Center pottery shows in Demarest, New Jersey. Files consist of resumes, photographs, slides, and some printed material. Some files include digital material containing documents and images of works.

Printed material consists of clippings, exhibition announcements, exhibition catalogs, and xeroxed copies of articles on Karnes.

Photographic material consists of personal photographs of Karnes, Karnes at work in studio, the landscape around her home, and photographs and slides of her pottery. Some photographs are in digital format.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into six series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1998-2015 (0.4 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Professional Activity Files, 1954-2015 (0.8 linear feet; Boxes 1-2, OV 5, ER01; 2.92 GB)
- Series 3: Administrative Files, 1981-2012 (0.2 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 4: Artist Files, 1999-2012 (0.5 linear feet; Box 2, ER02-ER19; 0.914 GB)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1953-2016 (0.4 linear feet; Boxes 2-3, OV 5)
- Series 6: Photographic Material, 1968-2009 (1.2 linear feet; Boxes 3-4, ER20-ER22; 0.168 GB)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

American studio craft movement
Women artists
Women ceramicists

Types of Materials:

Video recordings

Occupations:

Ceramicists -- Vermont

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1998-2015

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence includes letters from family, especially Karnes' grandchildren; letters from friends and colleagues in regards to fire that destroyed her workshop and home; and correspondence with museums and galleries.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1998-1999
Box 1, Folder 3-4	Correspondence, 2000-2015
Box 1, Folder 5-8	House Fire, 1998-1999
Box 1, Folder 9	Museum of Arts and Design, 2000-2009
Box 1, Folder 10	Grandchildren, 2002-2006
Box 1, Folder 11	Greeting Cards, 2002-2010
Box 1, Folder 12	80th Birthday, 2005

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Professional Activity Files, 1954-2015

*0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, OV 5)**2.92 Gigabytes (ER01)*

Scope and Contents: Professional activity material includes resumes, interview transcripts, some lecture notes, inventory lists, ceramic formulas and recipes, and documentation with museums and galleries in regards to exhibitions featuring her works. Some of the galleries include: Garth Clark Gallery, Ferrin Gallery, Blue Heron Gallery, and the LaCoste Gallery. Also included are two VHS and one digital video recording on Karnes and her work.

Box 1, Folder 13	Personal Documents, 1998-2011
Box 1, Folder 14	AKAR, 2002, 2007-2008
Box 1, Folder 15	Arizona State University Art Museum, 1998-2011
Box 1, Folder 16	Asheville Art Museum, 2004
Box 1, Folder 17	Bennington Museum, 2008-2010
Box 1, Folder 18	Besson Gallery, 2007-2011
Box 1, Folder 19	Blue Heron Gallery, 1996-2005
Box 1, Folder 20	Clay Place Benefit, 1998
Box 1, Folder 21	Clay Pottery Recipes, 1973-1999
Box 1, Folder 22	Clay Slip Formulas, undated
Box 1, Folder 23	Ceramic Supplies, 1998-2007
Box 1, Folder 24	Ceramic Supplies Invoices, 1998-2000
Box 1, Folder 25	Contemporary Artifacts Gallery, 2000-2001
Box 1, Folder 26	Currier Museum, 2011
Box 1, Folder 27	David Weinrib Narrative, 2008
Box 1, Folder 28-29	Ferrin Gallery, 2002-2010
Box 1, Folder 30	Ferrin Gallery Inventory Lists, 2005-2006
Box 1, Folder 31	"From the Inside: The Works of Karen Karnes" Film Material, 2000
Box 1, Folder 32	Fuller Craft Museum, 2004-2010

Box 1, Folder 33	Gallery Materia, 2000-2004
Box 1, Folder 34	Gallery WDO, 2001-2003
Box 1, Folder 35-37	Garth Clark Gallery, 1994-2004
Box 1, Folder 38	Huntington Museum of Art, 2011-2012
Box 1, Folder 39	Interview Transcripts, circa 1998
Box 1, Folder 40	Inventory, 1995, 2005
Box 1, Folder 41, Item 1	Karen Karnes, 1997 February 14 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 1, Folder 41, Item 2	Karen Karnes Pottery, 2000 October 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Folder ER01	Don't Know, We'll See: The Works of Karen Karnes, film by Lucy Massie Phenix (2008), Digital Video Recording, 2008 2.92 Gigabytes (Six computer files; Partial transfer only.)
Box 1, Folder 42	Karen Karnes Interview, undated
Box 1, Folder 43-44	LaCoste Gallery, 2009-2014
Box 1, Folder 45	Learsi Gallery, 1999-2001
Box 1, Folder 46	Lecture, undated
Box 1, Folder 47	Mint Museum, 2004
Box 2, Folder 1-2	Old Church Cultural Center Pottery Show, 2001-2011
Box 2, Folder 3	Resumes, 1954-2001
Box 2, Folder 4	Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art, 1999-2002
Box 2, Folder 5	"The Works of Karen Karnes" Film Material, 2001
Oversize 5, Item 1	Vermont Arts Council 1997 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, 1997 May 12
Box 2, Folder 6	Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1999-2004
Box 2, Folder 7-8	Miscellaneous, 1998-2015

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Administrative Files, 1981-2012

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Administrative files pertain primarily to Karnes' role organizing annual pottery shows for the Old Church Cultural Center in Demarest, New Jersey. Material includes correspondence, participation lists, and sales records.

Box 2, Folder 9	Correspondence, 2005-2010
Box 2, Folder 10	Old Church Cultural Center Pottery Show Participant Lists, 1981-1999
Box 2, Folder 11	Old Church Cultural Center Pottery Show Participant Lists, 2000-2003
Box 2, Folder 12	Old Church Cultural Center Pottery Show Participant Lists, 2004-2005
Box 2, Folder 13	Old Church Cultural Center Pottery Show Participant Lists, 2006-2007
Box 2, Folder 14	Old Church Cultural Center Pottery Show Participant Lists, 2008-2009
Box 2, Folder 15	Old Church Cultural Center Pottery Show Participant Lists, 2010-2012
Box 2, Folder 16	Old Church Cultural Center Pottery Show Sales, 2000, 2002
Box 2, Folder 17	Old Church Cultural Center Pottery Show Sales, 2004-2005
Box 2, Folder 18	Old Church Cultural Center Pottery Show Sales, 2006-2007
Box 2, Folder 19	Old Church Cultural Center Pottery Show Sales, 2008-2009
Box 2, Folder 20	Old Church Cultural Center Pottery Show Sales, 2010-2011
Box 2, Folder 21	Miscellaneous, circa 2009

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Artist Files, 1999-2016

*0.5 Linear feet (Box 2)**0.914 Gigabytes (ER02-ER19)*

Scope and Contents: Artist files are made up of material artists submitted for consideration for participation in annual Old Church Cultural Center pottery shows in Demarest, New Jersey. Files consist of resumes, photographs and digital photographs, slides, and some printed and digital material.

Box 2, Folder 22	Correspondence, 1999-2011
Box 2, Folder 23	Lynn Smiser Bowers, 1997-2000
Box 2, Folder 24	Victoria D. Christen, undated
Box 2, Folder 25	Autumn Cipala, 2009 Includes born-digital records, see ER02
Folder ER02	Autumn Cipala, Digital Presentation and Documents, 2009 0.008 Gigabytes (Three computer files)
Box 2, Folder 26	Susan Coates, 2006
Box 2, Folder 27	Michael Connelly, 2004
Box 2, Folder 28	Malcolm Davis, 2006-2007
Box 2, Folder 29	Sanam Emami, 2004
Box 2, Folder 30	Kathy Erteman, 2006 Includes born-digital records, see ER03
Folder ER03	Kathy Erteman, Digital Photographs, 2006 0.001 Gigabytes (Eight computer files)
Box 2, Folder 31	Marty Fielding, undated
Box 2, Folder 32	Kathryn Finnerty, 2007
Box 2, Folder 33	Ryan Greenheck, 2010 Includes born-digital records, see ER04
Folder ER04	Ryan Greenheck, Digital Photographs, 2003-2011 0.012 Gigabytes (Ten computer files)
Box 2, Folder 34	Sarah Heimann, circa 2001
Box 2, Folder 35	Robert Hessler, circa 2005

Includes born-digital records, see ER05

Folder ER05	Robert Hessler, Digital Photographs, 2005-2006 0.005 Gigabytes (16 computer files)
Box 2, Folder 36	Tom Homann, 2010
Box 2, Folder 38	Ayumi Horie, 2003
Box 2, Folder 39	Elizabeth Kendall, 2006
Folder ER06	Kristen Kieffer, Digital Photographs, 2007-2008 0.046 Gigabytes (14 computer files)
Box 2, Folder 41	Robbie Heidinger, 2007 Includes born-digital records, see ER07
Folder ER07	Robbie Heidinger, Digital Photographs, 2007 0.013 Gigabytes (16 computer files)
Box 2, Folder 42	Jeffrey Kleckner, undated
Box 2, Folder 43	Michael Kline, undated
Box 2, Folder 44	Leah Leitson, 2000
Box 2, Folder 45	Simon Levin, 2003, 2006
Box 2, Folder 46	Matt Long, 2001
Box 2, Folder 47	Kent McLaughlin, undated
Box 2, Folder 48	Jenny Mendes, Susan Dewsnap, Lorna Meaden Digital Images, undated Includes born-digital records, see ER08-ER10
Folder ER08	Susan Dewsnap, Digital Photographs, 2009 0.011 Gigabytes (22 computer files)
Folder ER09	Lorna Meaden, Digital Photographs and Document, 2006-2008 0.038 Gigabytes (33 computer files)
Folder ER10	Jenny Mendez, Digital Photographs, 2010 0.029 Gigabytes (13 computer files)
Box 2, Folder 49	Sequoia Miller, 2004
Box 2, Folder 50	Karen Orsillo, 2002
Box 2, Folder 51	Alison Palmer, 2010

Box 2, Folder 52	Liz Quakenbush, 2007 Includes born-digital records, see ER11
Folder ER11	Liz Quackenbush, Digital Photographs and Document, 2006-2007 0.013 Gigabytes (16 computer files)
Box 2, Folder 53	Kari Radasch, circa 2003
Box 2, Folder 54	Steven Roberts, 2002
Box 2, Folder 55	Ruchika Madan, 2008 Includes born-digital records, see ER12
Folder ER12	Ruchika Madan, Digital Photographs and Document, 2006-2008 0.027 Gigabytes (12 computer files)
Box 2, Folder 56	Brenda Quinn, 2011 Includes born-digital records, see ER13
Folder ER13	Brenda Quinn, Digital Photographs and Document, 2008-2011 0.03 Gigabytes (18 computer files)
Folder ER14	Deborah Schwartzkopf, Digital Photographs and Documents, 2007-2008 0.002 Gigabytes (17 computer files)
Box 2, Folder 58	Amy Smith, 2004
Box 2, Folder 59	Stacy A. Snyder, circa 2002 Includes born-digital records, see ER15
Folder ER15	Stacy Snyder, Digital Photographs, 2008-2009 0.032 Gigabytes (Ten computer files)
Box 2, Folder 60	Sam Taylor, undated
Box 2, Folder 61	ShokoTeruyama and Matt Kelleher, 2010 Includes born-digital records, see ER16-ER17
Folder ER16	Matt Kelleher, Digital Photographs and Documents, 2007-2009 0.021 Gigabytes (21 computer files)
Folder ER17	Shoko Teruyama, Digital Photographs and Documents, 2007-2009 0.037 Gigabytes (30 computer files)
Box 2, Folder 62	David Weinrib, 2016
Box 2, Folder 63	Catherine White, 2003
Box 2, Folder 64	Tom White, 2012

	Includes born-digital records, see ER18
Folder ER18	Tom White, Digital Photographs, 2011-2012 0.554 Gigabytes (87 computer files)
Box 2, Folder 65	Tara Wilson, 2002-2004
Box 2, Folder 66	Worcester Pottery Show, 2003
Box 2, Folder 67	Sheryl Zacharia, 2010 Includes born-digital records, see ER19
Folder ER19	Sheryl Zacharia, Digital Photographs, 2009-2010 0.037 Gigabytes (13 computer files)
Box 2, Folder 68	Miscellaneous Artist Resumes, undated
Box 2, Folder 69	Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1999-2007

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Printed Material, 1953-2015

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, OV 5)

Scope and Contents: Printed material consists of clippings, exhibition announcements, exhibition catalogs, one small scrapbook of clippings, and xeroxed copies of articles on Karnes.

Box 2, Folder 70	Clippings, 1978-2012
Box 2, Folder 71-73	Exhibition Announcements, 1981-2015
Box 3, Folder 1-2	Exhibition Catalogs, 1978-2014
Box 3, Folder 3	Illustrations of Karnes' Works, circa 2001
Box 3, Folder 4	Old Church Cultural Center Pottery Show Catalogs, 2000-2013
Box 3, Folder 5	Pottery Show Announcements, 2003-2009
Oversize 5, Item 2	Scrapbook, 1970
Box 3, Folder 6-7	Miscellaneous Xerox Articles and Clippings, circa 1953-1978
Box 3, Folder 8	Miscellaneous, 1990-2013

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Photographic Material, 1968-2009

1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)

0.168 Gigabytes (ER20-ER22)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material consists of personal photographs of Karnes, Karnes at work in studio, the landscape around her home, and photographs, digital photographs, and slides of her pottery and exhibition.

Folder ER20	Karen Karnes, Artwork, Digital Photographs, 2008 0.068 Gigabytes (41 computer files)
Folder ER21	Karen Karnes event, Arizona State University, Ceramics Research Center, Tempe, AZ (2008 December 17), Digital Photographs, 2008 0.039 Gigabytes (96 computer files)
Folder ER22	A Chosen Path: The Ceramic Art of Karen Karnes, Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ (2010), Digital Photographs and Document, 2009 0.06 Gigabytes (83 computer files)
Box 3, Folder 10-17	Personal, 1977-2005
Box 3, Folder 18	Canton Museum Exhibit, undated
Box 3, Folder 19	Ceramic Studio, circa 1995
Box 3, Folder 20	Karnes at Work, 1993
Box 3, Folder 21	Karnes' Home, circa 1985
Box 3, Folder 22	Old Church Cultural Center Pottery Show, 2000, 2005
Box 3, Folder 23	Rock Formations, undated
Box 3, Folder 24	Seashore, 1993
Box 3, Folder 25	Weinrib House Kitchen Floor Design, undated
Box 3, Folder 26-37	Pottery, 2000-2002
Box 4, Folder 1-3	Pottery, circa 1993
Box 4, Folder 4	Pottery, Jars, circa 1993
Box 4, Folder 5-6	Transparencies, Pottery, circa 1993-2001
Box 4, Folder 7	Slides, Old Church Cultural Center Pottery Show, 1999-2000

Box 4, Folder 8-11 Slides, Pottery, 1968-2002

[Return to Table of Contents](#)