



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Donald H. Karshan Papers Relating to Alexander Archipenko, 1920-1973, in the Archives of American Art

Catherine S. Gaines

January 2003

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/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical Note.....	2
Scope and Content Note.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Exhibition Files, 1960-1972.....	4
Series 2: General Correspondence, 1920-1973.....	8
Series 3: Writings by Donald H. Karshan, 1962-1971.....	9

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Donald H. Karshan papers relating to Alexander Archipenko
Identifier:	AAA.karsdona
Date:	1920-1973
Creator:	Karshan, Donald H.
Extent:	1.8 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	<p>The Donald H. Karshan papers relating to Alexander Archipenko measure 1.8 linear feet and date from 1920 to 1973, (bulk dates 1966-1970). Karshan, a print expert and collector, served as Curator of the Archipenko Collection and Director of the Archipenko Archive from circa 1966 until circa 1973. Exhibition files include records concerning University of California, Los Angeles's <i>Alexander Archipenko Memorial Exhibition, 1967-1969</i>, that traveled throughout the United States; an expanded version of the show was circulated in Europe by the Smithsonian Institution. The collection also contains general correspondence relating to the administration of the Archipenko Collection and Archipenko Archive, Leopold Survage, and writings on Archipenko's work and life by Karshan with related correspondence.</p>

Administrative Information

Provenance

Gift of Frances Archipenko Gray, widow of Alexander Archipenko, 1982. Karshan's files were among the Alexander Archipenko Papers, and have been separated and arranged as a distinct collection.

Processing Information

The collection was processed by Catherine S. Gaines in 2002.

Preferred Citation

The Donald H. Karshan papers relating to Alexander Archipenko, 1920-1973. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research. Use requires an appointment and is limited to the Washington, D.C. research facility.

Terms of 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 Note

Donald H. Karshan (b. 1929) is a print expert and collector who in 1964 established the Museum of Graphic Art, New York City. He was Curator of the Archipenko Collection and Director of the Archipenko Archive from circa 1966 until circa 1973. During this time, Karshan cataloged the estate collection and organized the archives. He was closely involved with the Archipenko memorial exhibition organized by UCLA in 1967 that traveled widely in the United States and an expanded version of the same show that was circulated Europe by the International Art Program of the Smithsonian Institution. Karshan wrote extensively on Archipenko and his oeuvre, including a catalogue raisonné of Archipenko's prints. His book, *Alexander Archipenko: International Visionary*, was published by the Smithsonian Institution to accompany the European tour of the memorial exhibition, 1969-1970.

Scope and Content Note

The Donald H. Karshan papers relating to Alexander Archipenko measure 1.8 linear feet and date from 1960 to 1973, (bulk dates 1966-1970). Exhibition files consist of records concerning UCLA's *Alexander Archipenko Memorial Exhibition, 1967-1969*, that traveled throughout the United States; an expanded version of the show that circulated in Europe by the Smithsonian Institution. The collection also contains general correspondence relating to the administration of the Archipenko Collection and Archipenko Archive, and writings on Archipenko's work and life by Karshan with related correspondence. Records pre-dating 1960 are printed matter and photocopies of Archipenko's correspondence with Leopold Survage gathered for reference purposes.

Exhibition files, 1960-1972, include correspondence, photographs, and printed matter relating to UCLA's *Alexander Archipenko Memorial Exhibition, 1967-1969* at its various venues in the United States and its European tour sponsored by International Art Program of the Smithsonian Institution. There are similar records for *Archipenko: The Parisian Years*, an exhibition organized by the Museum of Modern Art.

General Correspondence, 1966-1973, relates to the Archipenko Collection and the Archipenko Archive, administered by Karshan and includes loan and reference requests, publication permissions, and sales information. Of particular interest is a file on Leopold Survage compiled in 1969 and documenting an attempt to purchase a Survage painting for Mrs. Archipenko to donate to the Museum of Modern Art; included is reference material consisting of photocopies of Archipenko's letters to Survage and a letter from Theodore Doesburg, printed matter, and photographs.

Writings by Donald H. Karshan, 1966-1968, consist of research notes and correspondence concerning his catalogue raisonné of Archipenko prints (1974). Also included are manuscripts of published articles and correspondence with editors.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Exhibition Files, 1960-1972 (Boxes 1-2; 1.5 linear feet)
- Series 2: General Correspondence, 1920-1973 (Box 3; 0.25 linear feet)
- Series 3: Writings by Donald H. Karshan, 1966-1968 (Box 3; 0.25 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Cubism
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York

Names:

Archipenko, Alexander, 1887-1964
Survage, Leopold

Container Listing

Series 1: Exhibition Files, 1960-1972

(Boxes 1-2; 1.5 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: Records regarding *Alexander Archipenko: A Memorial Exhibition, 1967-1969* consist of general administrative records and correspondence concerning the exhibition organized by UCLA, Dickson Art Center Galleries and production of its accompanying catalog, and includes a manuscript and reviews of the catalog. The exhibition's 1967-1969 tour to nine other cities in the United State is documented with correspondence, printed matter, and photographs arranged by venue. In Washington, UCLA exhibition was shown at the Smithsonian Institution's National Collection of Fine Arts, which issued its own catalog, *Archipenko: International Visionary*. Of particular interest is a file titled "Terra Cottas" containing correspondence regarding an exhibition of Archipenko's terra cottas planned to supplement the UCLA retrospective at NCFA but not implemented; catalog text is included. In addition, there are sound recordings of interviews with Frances Archipenko at NCFA, July 11, 1968 (1 reel) and an interview broadcast by Voice of America, July 14, 1968 (1 reel); and an interview with Donald H. Karshan about the NCFA exhibition broadcast by Voice of America in two parts, July 20 and 21, 1968 (2 reels).

An expanded version of the UCLA memorial exhibition was circulated in Europe between 1969 and 1970 by the Smithsonian's International Art Program. General administrative records regard the production of Karshan's book and its translation, and correspondence concerning the exhibition and arrangements for its showing in five European countries, insurance records, and detailed condition reports. Files specifically relating to each venue include correspondence, photographs, and printed matter, and are arranged by country. French and German editions of *Archipenko: International Visionary* by Donald H. Karshan were issued to accompany the exhibition's tour of Europe. In Paris, the venue included Musée Rodin, Paris, des Beaux-Arts, Lyon, Rjennes, Nantes; in Brussels at the Palais des Beaux-Arts; in Germany at the Museum Folkwang, Essen; Neuen Staatsgalerie, Munich; Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn; Mannheimer Kunstverein, Mannheim; in Geneva at the Musée Rath; and in Ireland at the Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin.

Correspondence, printed matter, and photographs document *Archipenko: The Parisian Years* organized by the Museum of Modern Art. Loans to smaller exhibitions are documented in Series 2: General Correspondence.

Arrangement: This series is arranged into 2 subseries:

- 1.1: UCLA -- American Tour, *Alexander Archipenko: A Memorial Exhibition, 1967-1969, 1960-1968*
- 1.2: Smithsonian Institution, International Art Program -- European Tour of *Alexander Archipenko: A Memorial Exhibition, 1967-1969, 1969-1971*
- 1.3: Museum of Modern Art, *Archipenko: The Parisian Years, 1966-1972*

1.1: UCLA -- American Tour of *Alexander Archipenko, A Memorial Exhibition, 1967-1969, 1960-1971*

Box 1, Folder 1	Archipenko Bibliography, 1969, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Archipenko Biography, 1960-1969, undated

Box 1, Folder 3-6	Catalog, 1966-1967
Box 1, Folder 7-8	Correspondence, 1966-1968
Box 1, Folder 9	Crating and Transport, 1965-1968
Box 1, Folder 10	Insurance, 1966-1969
Box 1, Folder 11	Notes and Lists, 1966-1967, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Photographs, 1967
Box 1, Folder 13	Printed Matter, 1967
Box 1, Folder 14	Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Correspondence, 1966-1967
Box 1, Folder 15	Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Photographs, 1967
Box 1, Folder 16	Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Printed Matter, 1967
Box 1, Folder 17	Fine Arts Center of San Diego, Correspondence, 1967
Box 1, Folder 18	Fine Arts Center of San Diego, Minneapolis, Photographs, 1967
Box 1, Folder 19	Fine Arts Center of San Diego, Minneapolis, Printed Matter, 1967
Box 1, Folder 20	Phoenix Art Museum, Correspondence, 1967
Box 1, Folder 21	Phoenix Art Museum, Photographs, 1967
Box 1, Folder 22	Phoenix Art Museum, Printed Matter, 1966-1967
Box 1, Folder 23	Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Correspondence, 1967-1968
Box 1, Folder 24	Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Printed Matter, 1967
Box 1, Folder 25	Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Correspondence, 1968
Box 1, Folder 26	Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Photographs, 1968
Box 1, Folder 27	Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Printed Matter, 1968
Box 1, Folder 28	Washington University, Steinberg Gallery, St. Louis, Correspondence, 1968
Box 1, Folder 29	Washington University, Steinberg Gallery, St. Louis, Photographs, 1968
Box 1, Folder 30	Washington University, Steinberg Gallery, St. Louis, Printed Matter, 1968

Box 1, Folder 31	Cincinnati Art Museum, Correspondence, 1968
Box 1, Folder 32	Cincinnati Art Museum, Printed Matter, 1968
Box 1, Folder 33	Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Utica, N.Y., Correspondence, 1968
Box 1, Folder 34	Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Utica, N.Y., Photographs, 1968
Box 1, Folder 35	Smithsonian Institution, National Collection of Fine Arts, Correspondence, 1966-1969
Box 1, Folder 36	Smithsonian Institution, National Collection of Fine Arts, Photographs, 1968
Box 1, Folder 37	Smithsonian Institution, National Collection of Fine Arts, Printed Matter, 1968-1969
Box 1, Folder 38	Smithsonian Institution, National Collection of Fine Arts, Frances Archipenko interviews, 1968 (2 reels)
Box 1, Folder 39	Smithsonian Institution, National Collection of Fine Arts, Donald H. Karshan interviews, 1968 (2 reels)
Box 1, Folder 40	Terra Cottas, 1969-1971

1.2: Smithsonian Institution, International Art Program -- European Tour of *Alexander Archipenko, A Memorial Exhibition, 1967-1969, 1969-1971*

Box 1, Folder 41-43	Archipenko: International Visionary Exhibition Catalog, English Edition, circa 1968-1970
Box 1, Folder 44-45	Archipenko: International Visionary Exhibition Catalog, French Edition, 1968-1969
Box 1, Folder 46-47	Archipenko: International Visionary Exhibition Catalog, German Edition, 1968-1969
Box 1, Folder 48-50	General Correspondence, 1966-1970, undated
Box 1, Folder 51-52	General Insurance, 1968-1971
Box 1, Folder 53	General Travel Expense Receipts, 1969-1970
Box 2, Folder 1-2	France, Correspondence, 1969
Box 2, Folder 3-5	France, Photographs, 1969

Box 2, Folder 6-7	France, Printed Matter, 1960-1970
Box 2, Folder 8	Brussels, Correspondence, 1969-1970
Box 2, Folder 9	Brussels, Printed Matter, 1969
Box 2, Folder 10	Germany, Correspondence, 1969-1970
Box 2, Folder 11-13	Germany, Photographs, 1970
Box 2, Folder 14-17	Germany, Printed Matter, 1970
Box 2, Folder 18	Geneva, Photographs, 1970
Box 2, Folder 19	Geneva, Printed Matter, 1970
Box 2, Folder 20	Ireland, Printed Matter, 1970

1.3: Museum of Modern Art, *Archipenko: The Parisian Years, 1966-1972*

Box 2, Folder 21	Correspondence, 1966-1972
Box 2, Folder 22	Photographs, 1970
Box 2, Folder 23	Printed Matter, 1970-1971

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: General Correspondence, 1920-1973

(Box 3; 0.25 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: Although many of these letters are addressed to Frances Archipenko, they were answered by Donald Karshan who, in his capacity as Curator of the Archipenko Estate Collection and Director of the Archipenko Archive, handled all art-related business matters. Correspondence concerns loans to exhibitions and museums. "Sculpture Correspondence" consists of reference requests, general information and inquiries regarding exhibitions.

Of particular interest is a file about painter Leopold Survage containing photocopies of a letter from Theodore Doesburg and Archipenko's letters to Survage, printed matter, and photographs compiled by Karshan for reference purposes when attempting to purchase a Survage for Frances Archipenko to donate to the Museum of Modern Art in 1969. The Archives of American Art file which includes transcripts of unidentified lectures-possibly by Karshan-about Archipenko's work. Other correspondence of note is with the Whitney Museum of American Art consists of a telegram from Frances Archipenko objecting to *Floating Torso* being omitted from the museum's opening exhibition, and letters about the Whitney as a possible venue for the UCLA traveling exhibition; plans of the Ukrainian Institute of America, Inc. to open a memorial room to Archipenko and Dzus; Karshan's donation of *Queen of Sheba* by Archipenko to UCLA's Sculpture Co urt; and attempts to locate a copy of the Folkwang Museum's catalog of its 1912 Archipenko exhibition.

The files are arranged in alphabetical order according to name and/or subject.

Box 3, Folder 1	Archives of American Art, 1966
Box 3, Folder 2	Arts Council of Great Britain, 1973
Box 3, Folder 3	Folkwang Museum, 1966-1971
Box 3, Folder 4	Loans to Museums, A-Z, 1966-1968
Box 3, Folder 5	Publication Permissions, A-Z, 1966-1970
Box 3, Folder 6	Sales Pending, A-Z, 1967-1968
Box 3, Folder 7	Sculpture Correspondence, A-Z, 1966-1970
Box 3, Folder 8	Sculpture Court , 1967-1969
Box 3, Folder 9	Survage, Leopold, 1920-1969, undated
Box 3, Folder 10	Taylor, Dorothy, 1969-1970
Box 3, Folder 11	Ukrainian Institute of America, Inc., 1966
Box 3, Folder 12	Whitney Museum of American Art, 1966-1970

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Writings by Donald H. Karshan, 1962-1971

(Box 3; 0.25 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: Research notes and correspondence relating to Karshan's catalogue raisonné of Archipenko prints published in 1974. Also included are manuscripts of published articles and correspondence with editors; these folders also contain related correspondence, notes, and receipts.

Box 3, Folder 13	Catalogue Raisonné, Correspondence, A-Z, 1965-1971
Box 3, Folder 14	Catalogue Raisonné, Notes, 1962-1968, undated
Box 3, Folder 15	Catalogue Raisonné, Photo and Printing Orders, 1966, undated
Box 3, Folder 16	Catalogue Raisonné, Publicity, 1966
Box 3, Folder 17	Art In America, "Alexander Arhcipenko-In Retrospect," 1966-1967
Box 3, Folder 18	Artist's Proof, Footnotes for article on Archipenko's Graphics, 1967
Box 3, Folder 19	Arts Magazine, "Archipenko-A Modern Master Rediscovered," 1967-1968

[Return to Table of Contents](#)