



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the William E. Katzenbach Papers, circa 1840-1975, in the Archives of American Art

Allessandra Liberati

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1963-1971	4
Series 2: Exhibition Files, circa 1963-1971	5
Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1962-1970	7
Series 4: Printed Material , circa 1934-1975	8
Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1840-1970	9
Series 6: Artwork, circa 1945-1960	10

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	William E. Katzenbach papers
Date:	circa 1840-1975
Identifier:	AAA.katzwill
Creator:	Katzenbach, William
Extent:	4.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of William E. Katzenbach measure 4.2 linear feet and date from circa 1840-1975. They illustrate his career through correspondence, exhibition files, personal business records, printed and photographic material, and artwork.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Papers were donated in 1974 by William E. Katzenbach. Microfilmed material was donated 1983-1984 by Katzenbach's widow, Lois Katzenbach, and microfilmed in 1987.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection and material lent for microfilming are available on 35mm microfilm reels 3891 at the 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

This collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared, by Alessandra Liberati in 2023.

Preferred Citation

William E. Katzenbach papers, circa 1840-1975. 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 Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

William E. Katzenbach (1904-1975) was a designer and lecturer who worked mainly in New York.

Katzenbach was born in Union, New Jersey on August 30, and grew up in Summit, New Jersey. In 1939, he moved to New York City, and lived in Palisades, Rockland, New York in 1945. Katzenbach attended Princeton and Oxford Universities, and in 1928 he cofounded Katzenbach and Warren Incorporated, where he produced wallpaper. The company was the sole licensed manufacturer of Colonial Williamsburg representative wallpapers. He and his wife, Lois Carrell, also wrote two books together titled *The Practical Book of American Wallpaper* (1951) and *Cooking Plain and Fancy for Family and Friends* (1966). Katzenbach was also coordinator of the Decorative Arts Exhibition Program of the American Federation of Arts.

Katzenbach died on December 25, 1975 in Oak Bluffs, Dukes, Massachusetts at the age of seventy-one.

Scope and Contents

The William E. Katzenbach papers measure 4.2 linear feet and date from circa 1840-1975. Correspondence is with colleagues, family, and friends. Exhibition files includes materials related to two exhibitions by Katzenbach *Threads of History* and *Please Be Seated*. Included are correspondence with sponsors, craftsmen, the textile and furniture industries, and museums as well as forty photographs of the exhibits, business records, and printed materials. Personal business records include a set of biographical notes, meeting minutes for the Advisory Board of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Design, two scrapbooks of textile samples, and financial records for sales.

Printed material includes exhibition catalogs, copies of the monthly publication *Appalachia*, materials related to the Appalachia region, and material regarding the American Federation of Arts and The Decorative Arts Exhibition Program. Photographic material includes photographs of Worthington Whittredge and one of his wife, Euphemia Foote Whittredge, five photographs, including one color transparency, of William and Lois Katzenbach and their children and photographs of exhibitions. Artwork includes four silkscreened samples of wallpaper with artwork designed by Alexander Calder, Henri Matisse, Roberto Matta, and Joan Miro, as well as a roll of wallpaper samples by Katzenbach.

Arrangement

This collection consists of six series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1963-1971 (1 Linear foot: Box 1)
 - Series 2: Exhibition Files, circa 1963-1971 (.8 Linear feet: Box 2)
 - Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1962-1970 (.4 Linear feet: Box 2 and BV 6)
 - Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1934-1975 (1.3 Linear feet: Boxes 3-4)
 - Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1840-1970 (.1 Linear feet: Box 5)
 - Series 6: Artwork, circa 1945-1960 (.6 Linear feet: Box 5 and RD 7)
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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:

Decorative arts -- New York (State) -- New York -- Exhibitions
Design -- New York (State) -- New York
Wallpaper -- Design

Names:

Katzenbach, Lois

Occupations:

Architects -- New York (State) -- New York
Designers -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1963-1971

1 Linear foot (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is with colleagues, family, and friends.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, circa 1963
Box 1, Folder 2-3	Correspondence, circa 1964
Box 1, Folder 4-7	Correspondence, circa 1965
Box 1, Folder 8-9	Correspondence, circa 1966
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, circa 1967
Box 1, Folder 11-14	Correspondence, circa 1968
Box 1, Folder 15-16	Correspondence, circa 1969
Box 1, Folder 17	Correspondence, circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 18	Correspondence, circa 1971
Box 1, Folder 19	Undated Correspondence, circa 1963-1971

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Exhibition Files, circa 1963-1971

.8 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Exhibition files includes materials related to two exhibitions by Katzenbach *Threads of History* and *Please Be Seated*. Included are correspondence with sponsors, craftsmen, the textile and furniture industries, and museums as well as forty photographs of the exhibits, business records, and printed materials.

Threads of History (1965)	
Box 2, Folder 1-3	Business Records, circa 1963-1966
Box 2, Folder 4-5	Clippings , circa 1964
Box 2, Folder 6	Floor Plans, circa 1963-1964
Box 2, Folder 7	Notes, circa 1964
Box 2, Folder 8	Photographs, circa 1965-1966
Box 2, Folder 9	Photographic Negatives, circa 1965-1966
Box 2, Folder 10	Photographs from Seattle Exhibition, circa 1965
Box 2, Folder 11	Photographs From Sponsors, circa 1965-1966
Box 2, Folder 12	Press Releases, circa 1964
Box 2, Folder 13	Shipping Lists, circa 1964
Box 2, Folder 14	Writings, circa 1964
Box 2, Folder 15-16	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1964-1965

Please Be Seated (1968)	
Box 2, Folder 17	Business Material, circa 1968-1971
Box 2, Folder 18	Clippings, circa 1968-1970
Box 2, Folder 19	Drawings and Measurements, circa 1968
Box 2, Folder 20	Exhibit Artifact Description Sheets, circa 1968
Box 2, Folder 21	Exhibition Labels, circa 1968
Box 2, Folder 22	Itineraries, Guest and Sponsor Lists, Packing Lists, circa 1968

Box 2, Folder 23	Minutes, Lists, Floorplans, circa 1965-1969
Box 2, Folder 24	Notes, circa 1965-1969
Box 2, Folder 25	Press Releases, circa 1968

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1962-1970

.4 Linear feet (Box 2 and BV 6)

Scope and Contents: Personal business records include a set of biographical notes, meeting minutes for the Advisory Board of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Design, two scrapbooks of textile samples, and financial records for sales.

Box 2, Folder 26	Biographical Notes, circa 1966
Box 2, Folder 27	Advisory Board of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Design, Meeting Minutes, circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 28	Sponsor's Meeting, Records, circa 1966
Box 2, Folder 29	"Tape San Francisco Symposium", circa 1962 1 Sound tape reel (1/4" sound tape) Soundtape reel has vinegar syndrome.
Box 2, Folder 30	Textile Samples, Scrapbook, circa 1963
Volume 6	Textile Samples, Scrapbook, circa 1964
Box 2, Folder 31	Financial Records, 1964-1965

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Printed Material , circa 1934-1975

1.3 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes exhibition catalogs, copies of the monthly publication *Appalachia*, materials related to the Appalachia region, and material regarding the American Federation of Arts and The Decorative Arts Exhibition Program.

Box 3, Folder 1-3	Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1966-1969
Box 3, Folder 4	The American Federation of Arts, circa 1965-1968
Box 3, Folder 5	Appalachia, Monthly Issues, circa 1969-1970
Box 3, Folder 6	Appalachia, Monthly Issues, circa 1971
Box 3, Folder 7-10	Appalachia Region, circa 1967-1969
Box 3, Folder 11	Decorative Arts Exhibition Program, circa 1965-1969
Box 3, Folder 12	Advertisements, circa 1960-1975
Box 4	Clippings, Scrapbook, circa 1965
Box 3, Folder 13-15	Crafts and Crafting, circa 1934-1970
Box 3, Folder 16	Invitations and Announcements, circa 1965-1970
Box 3, Folder 17	Newsletters, circa 1968-1970
Box 3, Folder 18	Textiles, Images, circa 1964
Box 3, Folder 19-20	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1964-1970

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1840-1970

.1 Linear feet (Box 5)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material includes photographs of Worthington Whittredge and one of his wife, Euphemia Foote Whittredge, five photographs, including one color transparency, of William and Lois Katzenbach and their children and photographs of exhibitions.

Box 5, Folder 1	Katzenbachs, circa 1920-1959
Box 5, Folder 2	Worthington and Euphemia Whittredge, circa 1840-1900
Box 5, Folder 3	Exhibitions, circa 1963-1970

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Artwork, circa 1945-1960

.6 Linear feet (Box 5 and RD 7)

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes four silkscreened samples of wallpaper with artwork designed by Alexander Calder, Henri Matisse, Roberto Matta, and Joan Miro, as well as a roll of wallpaper samples by Katzenbach.

Roll 7	Wallpaper Samples by Katzenbach, circa 1945-1960
	Wallpaper Samples, Artwork By Others
Box 5, Folder 4	Alexander Calder, circa 1948
Box 5, Folder 5	Joan Miro, circa 1950
Box 5, Folder 6	Matisse, circa 1949
Box 5, Folder 7	Roberto Matta, circa 1950

[Return to Table of Contents](#)