



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Craig Kauffman Papers,
1946-1997, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Craig Kauffman papers
Identifier:	AAA.kaufcrai2
Date:	1946-1997
Extent:	4.6 Linear feet
Creator:	Kauffman, Craig, 1932-2010
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of artist and educator Craig Kauffman measure 4.6 linear feet and date from 1946 to 1997. The collection comprises biographical materials including address books, 10 day journals, identification documents, oral history transcripts, student records, and a few writings; correspondence with Lisa Adams, Billy Al Bengston, Alan Lynch, Ed Moses, and Babe Shapiro; and correspondence between Kauffman and his family. Also found are records documenting Kauffman's professional and business activities; printed materials featuring Kauffman, his exhibitions, and artwork; and photographic materials and moving images that include portraits and snapshots of Kauffman, personal photographs, photos of travel and works of art, and 3 unidentified film reels.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Craig Kauffman papers were donated 1997 by Craig Kauffman.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art are the Lisa Adams letters from Craig Kauffman, 1986-1991.

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Craig Kauffman papers, 1946-1997. 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

Craig Kauffman (1932-2010) was an artist and educator in Los Angeles, California.

Kauffman was born in Los Angeles to Judge Kurtz and Margaret Kauffman. He attended the University of Southern California School of Architecture in Los Angeles before transferring to the University of California in Los Angeles where he received both his bachelor's degree in 1955 and master's degree in 1956.

After several years working from a San Francisco studio and associating with the leading Bay Area artists, he returned to Southern California where he became an original member of the legendary Ferus Gallery group that included artists John Altoon, Ed Moses, Ed Kienholz, Billy Al Bengston, Robert Irwin, Larry Bell, and Ed Ruscha. The group was founded by Kienholz and Kauffman's high school friend Walter Hopps. Beginning as an abstract expressionist, Kauffman quickly became known as one of California's leading finish-fetish and, later, light and space artists because of his minimalist styled vacuum-formed wall sculptures using acrylic plastics.

Kauffman began teaching art at the University of California, Irvine in 1967 and retired in 1994. He was also an instructor at the School of Visual Art in New York. Throughout his career, Kauffman was an avid traveler and spent much of his retirement living in the Philippines while continuing to exhibit and create new works.

Kauffman died in Angeles, Philippines in 2010.

Scope and Contents

The papers of artist and educator Craig Kauffman measure 4.6 linear feet and date from 1946 to 1997. The collection comprises biographical materials including address books, 10 day journals, identification documents, oral history transcripts, student records, and a few writings; correspondence with Lisa Adams, Billy Al Bengston, Alan Lynch, Ed Moses, and Babe Shapiro; and correspondence between Kauffman and his family. Also found are records documenting Kauffman's professional and business activities; printed materials featuring Kauffman, his exhibitions, and artwork; and photographic materials and moving images that include portraits and snapshots of Kauffman, personal photographs, photos of travel and works of art, and 3 unidentified film reels.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as five series.

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa 1950-1990 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1956-1996 (0.8 linear feet; Boxes 1-2, 6)
- Series 3: Professional and Business Records, 1950-1996 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 2, 6)
- Series 4: Printed Materials, 1946-1997 (2.2 linear feet; Boxes 2-4, 6, OV 7)
- Series 5: Photographic Materials and Moving Images, circa 1940-circa 1980s (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 4-6)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Abstract expressionist

Types of Materials:

Diaries
Drawings
Motion pictures
Scrapbooks

Names:

Adams, Lisa, 1955-
Bengston, Billy Al
Ferus Gallery (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Moses, Ed, 1926-
Shapiro, Babe

Occupations:

Educators -- California
Painters -- California

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa 1950-1990

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1)

Biographical materials consist of 3 address books; artist statements; awards and certificates; curriculum vitae; and 10 day journals that include daily logs of activities, some comments about Kauffman's feelings and the status of his projects, and notes taken during travel in Europe, some of which appear to be written by an unidentified author. Also found in this series are identification documents, a few oral history transcripts, personal business records, student records, and a few writings.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Address Books, circa 1950s 3 books
Box 1, Folder 3	Astrological Reading, 1971
Box 1, Folder 4	Awards and Certificates, 1950-1979
Box 1, Folder 5-6	Curriculum Vitae, circa 1972-circa 1987
Box 1, Folder 7-16	Day Journals, 1972-1984, undated 10 journals
Box 1, Folder 17	Family Documents, circa 1988
Box 1, Folder 18	Identification Documents, 1932-1974
Box 1, Folder 19	Oral History Transcripts, 1977-1978
Box 1, Folder 20	Personal Business File, circa 1962-1990
Box 1, Folder 21	School Yearbook, 1950
Box 1, Folder 22	Student Records, circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 23	Writings, undated

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Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1956-1997

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, 6)

This series includes correspondence between Kauffman and his mother and other family members, discussing his travels in Europe with his wife Vivian. Professional correspondence is with artists, galleries, and colleagues including Lisa Adams, Billy Al Bengston, Alan Lynch, Ed Moses, and Babe Shapiro. Also found are personal letters of a romantic nature.

Box 1, Folder 24	A, 1987
Box 1, Folder 25	Adams, Lisa, 1986-1996
Box 1, Folder 26	B, 1987
Box 1, Folder 27	Bengston, Billy Al, 1958-1959
Box 1, Folder 28	Bungay, David, 1989-1991
Box 1, Folder 29	Cecil, Sandy, 1994
Box 1, Folder 30	Christensen, Dorte, 1967
Box 1, Folder 31	Conkey, G. Austin, 1979
Box 1, Folder 32	C.Z., 1988-1995
Box 1, Folder 33	D, 1982-1987
Box 1, Folder 34	Dilexi Gallery, 1961
Box 1, Folder 35	EMZ, 1959
Box 1, Folder 36	Family, To Family from Kauffman, circa 1956-1967
Box 1, Folder 37	Family, To Kauffman from Mother, 1982-1987
Box 1, Folder 38	First Name Only, circa 1960-1992
Box 1, Folder 39-40	First Names or Unidentified Sender Post Cards, circa 1968-circa 1986
Box 1, Folder 41	Fretter, William B., 1982
Box 1, Folder 42	Fujinami, Noriko, 1982-1989

Box 2, Folder 1	Gianakos, Steve, 1987-1989
Box 6, Folder 1	Gianakos, Steve, 1989
Box 2, Folder 2	Green, Susan, 1987
Box 2, Folder 3	H, 1987
Box 2, Folder 4	Hernandez, Sandra, 1986-1988
Box 2, Folder 5	J, 1991-1992
Box 2, Folder 6	K, 1960-1993
Box 2, Folder 7	Kauffman, Phyllis, 1956
Box 2, Folder 8	Kauffman, Vivian, circa 1977
Box 2, Folder 9	Kerr, Les, 1960
Box 2, Folder 10	L, 1972-1973
Box 2, Folder 11	Letters from Kauffman, 1986-1994
Box 2, Folder 12	Lloyd, Frank Scott, 1972-1994
Box 2, Folder 13	Lynch, Alan, 1959-1988
Box 2, Folder 14	McCurry, Michael, 1993
Box 2, Folder 15	Moses, Ed, 1960
Box 2, Folder 16	Park, Hyuna, circa 1990-1997
Box 2, Folder 17	Pasadena Art Alliance, 1988
Box 2, Folder 18	R, circa 1976-1986
Box 2, Folder 19	Saunders, Joan, 1977
Box 2, Folder 20	Sender Envelopes without Letters, circa 1956-circa 1980
Box 2, Folder 21	Shapiro, Babe, 1982-1987

Box 2, Folder 22	Lo Spazio Gallery, 1979
Box 2, Folder 23	Speyer, Darthea, circa 1977
Box 2, Folder 24	Sueoka, Lavra, 1983
Box 2, Folder 25	Thompson, Rebecca, 1991
Box 2, Folder 26	Tosh, circa 1960
Box 2, Folder 27	Unidentified, circa 1960s
Box 2, Folder 28	Vasquez, Leah, 1984
Box 2, Folder 29	W, 1988-1989

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Series 3: Professional and Business Records, 1950-1996

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 2, 6)

The series contains material relating to Kauffman's activities as an educator and professional artist. Included is an art journal that includes artwork lists, exhibition plans, and notes; consignment and shipping records; studio supply lists; gallery files consisting of agreements, correspondence, receipts, and other records; drawings with notations for unidentified projects; letters of recommendation for Kauffman's Regents' Fellowship application; student evaluations of Kauffman; and travel itineraries.

Box 2, Folder 30	Artist Statement, circa 1981
Box 2, Folder 31	Artwork Journal, 1957-1973
Box 2, Folder 32	Consignment Records, 1981-1985
Box 2, Folder 33	Correspondence Regarding Artwork Loans, 1974-1996
Box 2, Folder 34	Correspondence Regarding "Blue-Green 1964" Damages, 1982
Box 2, Folder 35	Exhibition Schedules, 1992
Box 2, Folder 36-39	Gallery Files, 1950-1991
Box 2, Folder 40	Project Plans, circa 1967
Box 6, Folder 1	Project Plans, 1974-1976
Box 2, Folder 41	Regents' Fellowship Letters of Recommendation, 1976
Box 2, Folder 42	Shipping Receipts, 1982-1987
Box 2, Folder 43	Student Evaluations, circa 1981
Box 2, Folder 44	Studio Supply Lists, 1987-1988
Box 2, Folder 45	Travel Itinerary, circa 1985

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Series 4: Printed Materials, 1946-1997

2.2 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4, 6, OV 7)

A large portion of the collection consists of printed materials that document Kauffman's career through clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, newsletters, posters, a scrapbook containing similar material relating to Kauffman's professional achievements, and publicity material that includes more clippings and other printed material labeled in numerical order possibly for an evaluation or application.

Box 2, Folder 46	Aerograms, undated
Box 2, Folder 47	Art Reproductions, circa 1984
Box 2, Folder 48	Book, <i>Art in America</i> , 1964
Box 2, Folder 49	Brochures, circa 1955-1996
Box 2, Folder 50	Business Cards, undated
Box 2, Folder 51-53	Clippings, 1964-1995
Box 6, Folder 2	Clippings, 1968-1978
Box 2, Folder 54-59	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1946-1995
Box 3, Folder 1-20	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1957-1996
Box 4, Folder 1-6	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1979-1997
Box 4, Folder 7	Flyers, circa 1970-1991
Box 4, Folder 8-12	Magazines, 1966-1996
Box 4, Folder 13	Newsletters, 1988-1996
Box 6, Folder 2	Newsletters, 1978-1979
Box 4, Folder 14	Post Cards, circa 1970s
Box 4, Folder 15	Posters, 1962-1988
Oversize 7	Posters, 1979-1991
Box 4, Folder 16-25	Publicity Materials, 1976-1981

Box 6, Folder 3 Scrapbook, 1970s

Box 4, Folder 26 Travel Ephemera, 1956

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Series 5: Photographic Materials and Moving Images, circa 1940-circa 1980s

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 4-6)

The series consists of photographs, negatives, slides, transparencies, and film reels. Photographic material includes portraits and candid snapshots of Kauffman; personal photographs of Kauffman's family, friends, events, and colleagues; slides of Kauffman's travel in Japan; works of art; and unidentified content on 3 film reels.

Box 4, Folder 27	Kauffman, circa 1940-circa 1970
Box 6, Folder 4	Kauffman, circa 1970
Box 4, Folder 28-32	Personal, 1950-1984
Box 6, Folder 4	Personal, circa 1970s Includes an eight photograph collage adhered to a picture frame backing that was removed from the front glass.
Box 4, Folder 33	Travel, Japan, 1977
Box 4, Folder 34	Works of Art, circa 1970-circa 1980s
Box 5, Folder 1-3	Unidentified Motion Pictures, circa 1969 <i>3 Film reels</i>

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