



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Robert Kipniss papers circa 1932-2023, in the Archives of American Art

Allessandra Liberati

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.

2024 January 11

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1979-2021	4
Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1989-2017	5
Series 3: Writings, circa 1954-2017	6
Series 4: Printed Materials, circa 1952-2023	7
Series 5: Photographic Materials, circa 1932-2007	9

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Robert Kipniss papers
Date:	circa 1932-2023
Identifier:	AAA.kipnrobe
Creator:	Kipniss, Robert
Extent:	3.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter and printmaker Robert Kipniss measure 3.2 linear feet and date from circa 1932-2023. They illustrate his career through biographical material, correspondence, writings, and printed and photographic material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Papers donated in 2013 by Robert Kipniss and in 2024 by Laurie Lisle, Kipniss' spouse.

Processing Information

This collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared, by Alessandra Liberati in 2024.

Preferred Citation

Robert Kipniss papers, circa 1932-2023 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

Robert Kipniss (1931-) is a painter and printmaker who works mainly in New York.

Kipniss was born in Brooklyn, New York. During his childhood he attended New York's Art Students League when he was sixteen on Saturdays and he began college in 1948, attending Wittenberg College in Springfield, Ohio for two years before transferring to the University of Iowa. After graduating with a B.A. in English Kipniss stayed at the university and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in 1954. After gaining this degree he, and his former wife Jean, moved to Manhattan and Kipniss was drafted into the United States Army in 1956 where he used his talent to create training aids.

Kipniss has written poetry, published books, and illustrated two volumes of poetry. He is known for his paintings, lithographs, and mezzotints. His early work was with paintings focusing on abstracts, biomorphic forms, landscapes, still lifes, and figures. The lithographs he later created followed this style. Kipniss did not fully focus on mezzotints until 1990 and had his first solo mezzotint show in 1992.

Since 1965 Kipniss has had more than twenty-two museum exhibitions around the world and his work is held by more than eighty-eight museums and institutions.

Kipniss currently maintains a studio on the Hudson River in Westchester County, New York and is married to his second wife Laurie Lisle.

Scope and Contents

The Robert Kipniss papers measure 3.2 linear feet and date from circa 1932-2023. Biographical materials consist of Kipniss' CV, awards and honorary degrees, and an interview with WWNO New Orleans in digital format. Correspondence is personal and professional and is to and from Kipniss. Writings include the manuscript of *Shine* (2017) and Kipniss' thesis, as well as Kipniss' poetry. Printed materials consist of exhibition catalogs, news clippings, and materials about two exhibitions in digital format. Photographic materials consist of photographs of Kipniss, his exhibitions, and his artwork.

Arrangement

This collection consists of five series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1979-2021 (.1 Linear feet: Box 1)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1989-2017 (.2 Linear feet: Box 1)
 - Series 3: Writings, circa 1954-2017 (.2 Linear feet: Box 1)
 - Series 4: Printed Materials, circa 1952-2023 (1.9 Linear feet: Boxes 1, 2, 4, and 5)
 - Series 5: Photographic Materials, circa 1932-2007 (.8 Linear feet: Boxes 3, 5, and 6)
-

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Occupations:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Printmakers -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1979-2021

.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes a CV, an interview of Kipniss for WWNO New Orleans which is on four CDs, an artist profile, and various awards and honorary degrees.

Box 1, Folder 1 CV, circa 2013

Box 1, Folder 2 "Robert Kipniss Radio Interview With WWNO 3-13-2006, New Orleans", circa 2006
4 Electronic discs (CD)

Box 1, Folder 3 Artist Profile, circa 2006

Box 1, Folder 4 Blackton Family tree, circa 2000

Box 1, Folder 5 Awards, circa 1995-2021

Box 1, Folder 6 Honorary Degrees , circa 1979-1989

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1989-2017

.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is professional and personal in nature and is with The British Museum, Robin Magowan, William Kinnison, and others.

Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence (1980s), circa 1989
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence (1990s), circa 1993-1999
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence (2000s), circa 2000-2008
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence (2000s), circa 2010-2017
Box 1, Folder 11	Undated Correspondence, circa 1989-2017
Box 1, Folder 12	The British Museum, circa 1994-2012
Box 1, Folder 13	Kendy Genovese, circa 2009-2013
Box 1, Folder 14	Leslie Van Breen, circa 2012-2013
Box 1, Folder 15	Myrna Hayutin, circa 2001
Box 1, Folder 16	Pam Wurzer, circa 2007
Box 1, Folder 17	Robin Magowan, circa 2010-2013
Box 1, Folder 18	William Kinnison, circa 2011-2012
Box 1, Folder 19	Cards, circa 1990-2016

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Writings, circa 1954-2017

.2 *Linear feet (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Writings include poems and personal writings by Kipniss as well as the manuscript for *Shine* (2017), a novella by Kipniss.

Box 1, Folder 20	"German Symbolist Painters of the Nineteenth Century", Thesis, circa 1954
Box 1, Folder 21	Shine (2017) by Robert Kipniss, Manuscript, circa 2017
Box 1, Folder 22	Artist Statements, circa 1999-2013
Box 1, Folder 23	Personal Writings, circa 2000-2002

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Printed Materials, circa 1952-2023

1.9 Linear feet (Boxes 1, 2, 4, and 5)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes exhibition catalogs and announcements, scrapbooks, a DVD for the exhibition *Whispering Light FWMIA Exhibition* (2016) and a CD for the exhibition *Seen In Solitude: Robert Kipniss Prints From The James F. White Collection* (2006). Also included are news clippings and various art publications.

Box 1, Folder 24	Exhibition Announcements (1970s), circa 1975-1979
Box 1, Folder 25	Exhibition Announcements (1980s), circa 1980-1989
Box 1, Folder 26	Exhibition Announcements (1990s), circa 1990-1999
Box 1, Folder 27	Exhibition Announcements (2000s), circa 2000-2012
Box 1, Folder 28	Exhibition Announcements (2000s), circa 2013-2023
Box 1, Folder 29	Undated Exhibition Announcements, circa 1975-2023
Box 1, Folder 30	Exhibition Catalogs (1950s), circa 1952-1954
Box 1, Folder 31	Exhibition Catalogs (1960s), circa 1968
Box 1, Folder 32	Exhibition Catalogs (1970s), circa 1971-1979
Box 1, Folder 33	Exhibition Catalogs (1980s), circa 1980-1989
Box 1, Folder 34	Exhibition Catalogs (1990s), circa 1991-1998
Box 1, Folder 35	Exhibition Catalogs (1990s), circa 1999
Box 1, Folder 36-37	Exhibition Catalogs (2000s), circa 2000-2005
Box 2, Folder 1	Exhibition Catalogs (2000s), circa 2006-2008
Box 2, Folder 2	Exhibition Catalogs (2000s), circa 2010-2012
Box 2, Folder 3	Exhibition Catalogs (2000s), circa 2015-2016
Box 2, Folder 4	Undated Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1952-2016
Box 2, Folder 5	Chase Gallery, Clippings Scrapbook, circa 1976-1983
Box 2, Folder 6	New Orleans Museum of Art, circa 2006

Box 2, Folder 7	"Seen In Solitude: Robert Kipniss Prints From The James F. White Collection", circa 2006 1 Electronic discs (CD)
Box 2, Folder 8	South Africa, Clippings and Exhibition Materials, circa 1975
Box 2, Folder 9	"Whispering Light FWmia Exhibition PSA DVD", circa 2016 1 Electronic discs (DVD)
Art Publications	
Box 2, Folder 10	Art Magazines, circa 1958-2023
Box 2, Folder 11-12	Art Publications, circa 1958-2023
Box 2, Folder 13-14	Monthly Art Journals, circa 1972-2016
Box 2, Folder 15	Artwork Reviews, circa 1975-2011
Box 2, Folder 16	Magazine Clippings, circa 1966-2012
Box 2, Folder 17-19	News Clippings, circa 1952-2023
Box 4, Folder 1	News Clippings, circa 1952-2003
Box 4, Folder 2	News Clippings, Scrapbook, circa 1952-1999
Box 2, Folder 20	Letterhead, circa 2010
Box 5, Folder 1	Scrapbook, circa 1973-1977
Box 2, Folder 21	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1987-2003

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Photographic Materials, circa 1932-2007

.8 Linear feet (Boxes 3, 5, and 6)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material includes photographs of Kipniss, of his artwork, and of his exhibitions.

Box 3, Folder 1	Robert Kipniss, circa 1932-2001
Box 3, Folder 2	Century Club, circa 1998
Box 3, Folder 3	Drawings For Show At Tyler Museum, Tyler, TX, circa 1960-1961
Box 3, Folder 4	Exhibition At The Century Association In The President's Room, Negatives, circa 1986
Box 3, Folder 5	Exhibition At The Wichita Falls Museum Of Art, circa 1992
Box 3, Folder 6	Pencil Drawings, Photographs, circa 1998-2000
Box 3, Folder 7	Exhibition at ACME, circa 1990
Box 3, Folder 8	Exhibition, Butler Institute of American Art, Negatives, circa 1985
Box 3, Folder 9	Society of American Graphic Artists (SAGA) Award Dinner, circa 2007
Box 3, Folder 10	60's Days, circa 1965
Box 5, Folder 2	Photograph Album, circa 1989
Box 3, Folder 11	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1960s-1990s
Box 3, Folder 12	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1960s-1990s
Box 3, Folder 13	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1960s-1990s
Box 3, Folder 14	Photographs of Artwork, 1958-1999
Box 3, Folder 15	Photographs of Artwork, Duplicates, circa 1960s-1990s
Box 6, Folder 1	Photographs of Artwork, 1951-1962
Box 6, Folder 2	Photographs of Artwork, 1963-1980
Box 6, Folder 3	Photographs of Artwork, Transparencies, circa 1960s-circa 1990s

Box 6, Folder 4

Photographs of Exhibitions and Kipniss's Studio, 1975-2005

[Return to Table of Contents](#)