



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Ronald A. Kleemann  
Papers, circa 1942-2008 bulk 1961-2006,  
in the Archives of American Art

Rachel Salzmann

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Archives of American Art  
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Victor Building, Suite 2200  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Ronald A. Kleemann papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.kleerona
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1942-2008
<b>Extent:</b>	2 linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Kleemann, Ronald A., 1937-
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of photorealist painter Ronald A. Kleemann papers date from circa 1942-2008 and measure 2.0 linear feet. The papers include chronological files that contain a wide variety of documents, projects files relating to his race car paintings, biographical materials, writings and lectures, printed material, original drawings, and photographs.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated by Ronald Kleemann, November 11, 2009.

### Related Material

The Archives of American Art also holds an oral history interview with Ronald A. Kleemann, 2009 Oct. 11-12, conducted by Judith Richards.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed by Rachel Salzman in 2011.

### Preferred Citation

Ronald A. Kleemann papers, circa 1942-2008. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

### Ownership and Literary Rights

The Ronald A. Kleemann papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

## Biographical Note

The Photorealist painter Ronald A. Kleemann (b. 1937), who is well known for his renderings of automobiles, currently works and resides in Valatie, New York. Born in Bay City, Michigan, he moved to New York City to pursue art after graduating from the University of Michigan College of Architecture and Design in 1961. Kleemann is represented by the Louis K. Meisel Gallery, New York, NY.

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## Scope and Content Note

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1971-2008 (Box 1; 0.1 linear ft.)
  - Series 2: Chronological Files, 1950s-2008 (Boxes 1-2; 0.8 linear ft.)
  - Series 3: Writings and Lectures, 2006 (Box 2; 0.1 linear ft.)
  - Series 4: Project Files, 1985- 2007 (Box 2; 0.4 linear ft.)
  - Series 5: Printed Material, 1971-2004 (Box 2; 0.2 linear ft.)
  - Series 6: Artwork, circa 1942, 1960s and 1970s (Box 2; 0.3 linear ft.)
  - Series 7: Photographs, 1980s-2002 (Box 2; 0.1 linear ft.)
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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:

Painters -- New York (State)  
Photo-realism

Types of Materials:

Drawings  
Photographs

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1971-2008

*0.1 linear feet (Box 1)*

This series include resumes, press and racing pit passes, and an embroidered CART (Conceptual Art Racing Team) badge.

Materials are arranged chronologically within each folder.

Box 1, Folder 1	Resumes, 1971-2005
Box 1, Folder 2	Miscellaneous, 1972-2002
Box 1, Folder 3	Entrance Documentation to Car Races and the Super Bowl, 1971-2008

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## Series 2: Chronological Files, 1950s-2008

*0.8 linear feet (Boxes 1-2)*

Each annual file includes a variety of documentation such as drawings, sketches, school report cards, handwritten letters, correspondence, flyers, photographs, press releases, periodical clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs. The content varies from year to year.

Of particular interest are photos of the artist at exhibitions, 1968 and 1971; a description of Kleemann's art van (Conceptual Art Racing Team "CART") at the 1977 Indianapolis 500; draft of a profile about the artist, 1979-1980; dissertation on photorealism, 1988; interview questions and dissertation on photorealism, 2000-2001; clipping and minutes from a project meeting to raise funds for COARC (Columbia County Association for Retarded Children) and art donations for auction, 2001-2002.

Original order has been maintained. The years 1960, 1965 and 1995 are lacking.

Box 1, Folder 4	Chronological Files, 1950s
Box 1, Folder 5-6	Chronological Files, 1961 <i>2 folders</i>
Box 1, Folder 7-9	Chronological Files, 1962-1964 <i>3 folders</i>
Box 1, Folder 10-20	Chronological Files, 1966-1976 <i>11 folders</i>
Box 1, Folder 21-22	Chronological Files, 1977 <i>2 folders</i>
Box 1, Folder 23-39	Chronological Files, 1978-1994 <i>17 folders</i>
Box 1, Folder 40-43	Chronological Files, 1996-1999 <i>4 folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 1-7	Chronological Files, 2000-2006 <i>7 folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 8	Chronological Files, 2007-2008

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## Series 3: Writings and Lectures, 2006

*0.1 linear feet (Box 2)*

Among the lectures and addresses is the text of Kleemann's 2006 presentation to the Hudson Fortnightly Club.

Box 2, Folder 9	Writings, undated
Box 2, Folder 10	Lectures and Addresses, 2006 <i>0.1 linear feet (Box 2)</i>
Box 2, Folder 11	Random Artist's Notes, undated

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## Series 4: Project Files, 1985-2007

*0.4 linear feet (Box 2)*

Project files relate mostly to paintings of cars.

This series is arranged alphabetically by project title.

Box 2, Folder 12	Corvette Painting Studies, 1985
Box 2, Folder 13	Jack Gordon Car Studies, 2002 or later
Box 2, Folder 14	Kodak Car Studies, 2002 or later
Box 2, Folder 15	M and M Car Studies, 2002
Box 2, Folder 16	Navy Painting Studies, undated
Box 2, Folder 17	Target Car Studies, undated
Box 2, Folder 18	Tony the Tiger Car Studies, 2002 or later
Box 2, Folder 19	Viagra Painting Studies, 2002 or later
Box 2, Folder 20-21	Zurich Painting Studies, 2007 <i>2 folders</i>

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## Series 5: Printed Material, 1971-2004

*0.2 linear feet (Box 2)*

Printed materials include exhibition catalogs, NASCAR programs, and clippings.

This series is organized by record type and material within each folder is filed chronologically.

Box 2, Folder 22	Group Exhibition Catalogs, 1971-1973
Box 2, Folder 23	NASCAR Official Program Guides, 1977-1979
Box 2, Folder 24-25	Periodical Clippings, 1972-1992 <i>2 folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 26	Advertisements, 1971-2004

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## Series 6: Artwork, circa 1942, 1960s and 1970s

*0.3 linear feet (Box 2)*

All artwork is by Kleemann. The earliest drawings were made around the age of five.

Original order has been maintained.

Box 2, Folder 27	Earliest Drawings, circa 1942
Box 2, Folder 28	Random Studies, 1960s and 1970s
Box 2, Folder 29-30	Abstract Studies, 1960s and 1970s <i>2 folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 31	Miscellaneous Drawings, 1960s and 1970s

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## Series 7: Photographs, circa 1980s-2002

*0.1 linear feet (Box 2)*

These photographs most likely served as source materials for paintings.

Box 2, Folder 32

Photographs, circa 1980s-2002

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