



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Frank Kleinholz Papers, 1910s-1980, bulk 1940-1980, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Frank Kleinholz papers
Date:	1910s-1980 (bulk 1940s-1980)
Identifier:	AAA.kleifran
Creator:	Frank Kleinholz, 1901-1987
Extent:	7.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter Frank Kleinholz measure 6.3 linear feet and date from 1910s to 1980, with the bulk of the records dating from 1940s to 1980. The records document his career through correspondence, writing, exhibition and gallery records, financial files, audiovisual material, printed material, photographs, and artwork.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Frank Kleinholz from 1961-1982.

Available Formats

28 sound discs (lacquer) were digitized for research access and are available in the Archives of American Art offices.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Christopher DeMairo in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Frank Kleinholz papers, 1910s-1980. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The 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 audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Frank Kleinholz (1901-1987) was an painter and art educator in New York. Kleinholz was born in Brooklyn, New York. He received a bachelor's degree from Colby College in Maine, and in 1923, he graduated from Fordham University Law School and passed the New York State Bar examination. He then married Leah Schwartz in 1928; they had no children. Until the late 1930s, Frank Kleinholz was a lawyer in New York who, occasionally, submitted poems to newspapers for publication.

In 1939, Kleinholz was awarded a scholarship to study for one year at the American Artists School in New York, and the following summer he studied and painted in Mexico. After Mexico, his art career took off, establishing notoriety for his modernist paintings of the people and scenes in the world around him. By 1945, his work had been selected for exhibitions held by the Carnegie Institute, Phillips Memorial Gallery in Washington, D.C., and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. In an unfortunate turn of events, Leah died of cancer in November of 1945. Frank then married Lidia Brestovan in 1946. They had two girls, Lisa and Anna, and one boy, Marco.

Kleinholz held one-man exhibitions at the Associated American Artists Gallery in New York, Park Gallery in Detroit, ACA Gallery in New York and Rome, and had retrospectives at Nassau Community College, Colby College, and the Lowe Art Museum at the University of Miami. He participated in group exhibitions at the Chicago Art Institute, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Brooklyn Museum. He wrote the books *Frank Kleinholz: A Self Portrait* in 1964 and *Ile de Brehat, The Flowering Rock* in 1971; and books written about him include *Frank Kleinholz: The Outsider*, by August L. Freundlich in 1969, and *Kleinholz Graphics: Catalogue Raisonne, 1940-1975* by Sylvan Cole, Jr. and Ralph G. Martin in 1976. In addition to those mentioned above, his work is found in the permanent collections of the Moscow Museum of Fine Art, Newark Museum, University of Oklahoma, Marquette University, Akron Art Institute, and private collectors. Although most widely known for his paintings, Kleinholz worked with lithography, etching, and prints as well.

Contemporaneous with his career as an artist, Kleinholz was an art educator and talk-show contributor. He started the "Art in New York" interview program on radio station WNYC, New York City, circa 1940s, and was an art commentator for radio station WIOD, Miami, Florida in the 1960s. Kleinholz was an instructor at Hofstra University, Uniondale, New York, and lectured on contemporary art and art history at Smith College, Brandeis University, and the Park Synagogue in Akron, Ohio.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter Frank Kleinholz measure 6.3 linear feet and date from 1910s to 1980, with the bulk of the records dating from 1940s to 1980. The records document his career through correspondence, writing, exhibition and gallery records, financial files, audiovisual material, printed material, photographs, and artwork. Files pertain to exhibitions, books and other writings, the sale of artwork, collection inventories, and recorded interviews. Correspondents include family, friends and colleagues, galleries, and collectors. The collection also contains books, catalogs, clippings, announcements, and other ephemera; several paintings and illustrations, most of which were given to family members or kept private; and photographs of Kleinholz, his artwork, family and friends, and other artists.

Also included are 26 phonograph records of interviews, 1944-1945, which Kleinholz conducted for the "Art in New York" program, Station WNYC. Persons interviewed include Philip Evergood, Philip Reisman, Ralph Mayer, Elizabeth McCausland, Lily Harmon, Abraham Walkowitz, John Groth, and Ladislav Segy; and 2 7" tapes (untranscribed) of interviews, one containing a brief interview with Holger Cahill and a more lengthy interview with McCausland discussing Picasso and the 1944-1945 art season; the other an interview with Evergood.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series.

- Series 1: Professional Files, 1940-1979, undated (Box 1, 9-11; 1.9 linear foot)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, 1920s, bulk 1940s-1980 (Box 2; 10 folders)
 - Series 3: Writings, 1920s, bulk 1940s-1970s (Box 2-3; .5 linear feet)
 - Series 4: Printed Material, 1940s-1980s (Box 3-4, OV 8; 1.5 linear feet)
 - Series 5: Artwork, 1940s-1970s, undated (Box 4; 5 folders)
 - Series 6: Photographs, 1910s, 1930s, bulk 1940s-1970s (Box 4-6, OV 8; 2 linear feet)
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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:

Art, Mexican
Modernism (Art)

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Interviews
Sound recordings
Video recordings

Names:

McCausland, Elizabeth, 1899-1965

Occupations:

Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Professional Files, 1940-1979, undated

1.9 Linear feet (Box 1; Box 9-11)

Scope and Contents: Biographical and bibliographical information; correspondence, pricelists, and other papers related to galleries, exhibitions, and financial matters; recordings of Kleinholz from home, with his artwork, interviews, and a forum. Also included in this series are phonographic recordings from Kleinholz's program, "Art in New York," aired on WNYC radio.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical and Bibliographical Information, 1960s-1970s
Box 1, Folder 2	Chronology, 1940-1950, 1950, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Awards and Gifts, 1961-1973
Box 1, Folder 4	Lists and Inventories from Exhibitions and Collections, circa 1950s-1970s
Box 1, Folder 5	Gallery Files, circa 1965-1966
Box 1, Folder 6	ACA Gallery, 1962-1972
Box 1, Folder 7	Association of American Artists Exhibition, 1975
Box 1, Folder 8	C.W. Post Exhibition, Printed Material Mock-Up, circa 1979
Box 1, Folder 9	Artists Equity Association, 1960
Box 1, Folder 10	University of Maine; Colby College, 1964-1975
Box 1, Folder 11	Business Notebook, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Financial Papers, 1960s-1970s
Box 1, Folder 13	Frank Kleinholz Interviews Elisabeth McCausland; Holger Cahill, 1945 1 Sound tape reel (7 inch)
Box 1, Folder 14	Frank Kleinholz with Oscar Bano, undated 1 Sound tape reel (5 inch)
Box 1, Folder 15	The Artist at Home, undated 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 1, Folder 16	Frank Kleinholz with New Titles and Audio Dub, undated

	2 Videocassettes
Box 1, Folder 17	Frank Kleinholz with New Titles and Audio Dub, undated 2 Videocassettes (U-matic)
Box 1, Folder 18	Sarasota Forum, undated 1 Videocassettes (Betacam)
	WNYC, Art in New York
Box 9, Item 1	Abraham Walkowitz, 1944 March 22 1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 9, Item 2	Lily Harmon, "Youth in Art", 1944 April 19 1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 9, Item 3	Philip Reisman, 1944 April 26 1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 9, Item 4	Hudson Walker and Able Dobkin, 1944 June 14 1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 9, Item 5	Philip Evergood, 1944 October 4 1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 9, Item 6	Subject Unidentified, 1944 October 4 1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 10, Item 1	Nahum Tschacbasov, 1944 October 11 1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 10, Item 2	Ladislav Segy, 1944 October 25 1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 10, Item 3	Ralph Mayer, 1945 January 31 1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 10, Item 4	Elisabeth McCausland, 1945 February 7 1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 10, Item 5	Subject Unidentified, 1945 February 28 1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 10, Item 6	Lily Harmon, 1945 April 5 1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 11, Item 1	Elisabeth McCausland, 1945 June 13

	1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 11, Item 2	Copl. Walter J. Wynn, 1945 June 20 1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 11, Item 3	Kleinholz on the Year in Art, 1945 June 27 1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 11, Item 4	John Groth, 1945 June 27 1 Sound discs (lacquer)

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1920s, bulk 1940s-1980

10 Folders (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Correspondents include artists, mentors, family, and friends, as well as representatives from galleries, museums, synagogues, and collectors. Letters discuss the distribution and loan of Kleinholz's artwork, training, family, and finances.

Box 2, Folder 1	Evergood, Phil, 1961-1968
Box 2, Folder 2	Refregier, Anton, 1964-1970
Box 2, Folder 3	Strand, Paul, 1949-1954
Box 2, Folder 4	Family, circa 1953-1980
Box 2, Folder 5	General, circa 1920s
Box 2, Folder 6-10	General, 1939-1980, undated

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Series 3: Writings, 1920s, bulk 1940s-1970s

.5 Linear feet (Box 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Files include newspaper clippings and drafts of poems written by Franklin King, Kleinholz's pseudonym in the 1920s; autobiographical writings; drafts, correspondence, notes, and notebooks related to books, lectures, and travels; and a calendar that belonged to his eldest daughter, Lisa, who used it throughout 1966. Books represented in this series include *Frank Kleinholz: A Self Portrait* (1964) and *Ile de Brehat: The Flowering Rock* (1971) written by Kleinholz, *Frank Kleinholz: The Outsider* (1969) by August L. Freundlich, and *Kleinholz Graphics: Catalogue Raisonne, 1940-1975* (1976), by Sylvan Cole Jr. and Ralph G. Martin.

Box 2, Folder 11	Poems, Franklin King (Kleinholz), circa 1920s
Box 2, Folder 12	Kleinholz, Biographical and Reflective Writings, circa 1940s-1970s
Box 2, Folder 13	Kleinholz Writings on Anton Refregier, undated
Box 2, Folder 14	Lecture Notes, Radio WIOD; Service 610, undated
Box 2, Folder 15	Notebooks, Notes, and Papers, circa 1940s-1970s
Box 2, Folder 16	Travel Notebook, Port Washington to Pacific Palisades, circa 1955
Box 2, Folder 17	Frank Kleinholz: A Self Portrait (1964), Draft, undated
Box 2, Folder 18	Frank Kleinholz: The Outsider (1969) by August L. Freundlich, Manuscript, circa 1969
Box 2, Folder 19	Frank Kleinholz: The Outsider (1969) by August L. Freundlich, Correspondence; Names and Addresses to Receive Book, 1968-1980
Box 2, Folder 20	Frank Kleinholz, Elizabeth McCausland, 1969
Box 2, Folder 21	Ile de Brehat: The Flowering Rock (1971), Manuscript, 1970
Box 2, Folder 22	Ile de Brehat: The Flowering Rock (1971), Draft, circa 1971
Box 2, Folder 23	Printed Material from Ile de Brehat, France, circa 1960s-1970
Box 2, Folder 24	Kleinholz Graphics: Catalogue Raisonne, 1940-1975 (1976), by Sylvan Cole Jr. and Ralph G. Martin, Papers; Exhibition List, circa 1974
Box 2, Folder 25	Writings About Kleinholz, circa 1940s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 26	Frank Kleinholz by Philip Evergood, undated
Box 2, Folder 27	Lisa Kleinholz, Calendar, 1966

Box 2, Folder 28

Address on Art and Society by Kenneth Clark, 1959

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1940s-1980s

1.5 Linear feet (Box 3-4; OV 8)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes clippings of articles, book reviews, and exhibition announcements; exhibition and event invitations; exhibition and collection catalogs; books that are written by, about, or mention Kleinholz; and some items from Kleinholz's bibliography.

Box 3, Folder 1-6	Clippings, 1940s-1980s, undated
Oversize 8	Clippings, 1965
Box 3, Folder 7-8	Clippings, Bibliographic, 1950s-1970s, undated
Box 3, Folder 9-14	Exhibition and Event, Announcements, 1940s-1980s, undated
Box 3, Folder 15-18	Exhibition and Collection Catalogs, 1940s-1981, undated
Box 3, Folder 19	Exhibition and Collection Catalogs, 1970s-1981
Box 3, Folder 20	Newsletters and Press Releases, 1960s-1970s
Box 3, Folder 21	There are Flowers in my Garden, Greeting Card, undated
Box 3, Folder 22	Kleinholz Products, Flyers, circa 1960
Box 3, Folder 23	Frank Kleinholz: A Self Portrait, 1964
Box 3, Folder 24	Frank Kleinholz: The Outsider (1969) by August L. Freundlich, 1969
Box 4, Folder 1	Ile de Brehat: The Flowering Rock (1971), 1971
Box 4, Folder 2	Kleinholz Graphics: Catalogue Raisonne, 1940-1975 (1976), by Sylvan Cole Jr. and Ralph G. Martin, 1975
Oversize 8	United Hostess, Twenty-fifth Anniversary Ball, 1967
Box 4, Folder 3	100 American Jewish Artists, 1947
Box 4, Folder 4	Natural Figure Drawing: A New and Easy Method, by Anton Refregier, 1948
Box 4, Folder 5	"Improvisations": Artists Equity Masquerade Ball, 1952
Box 4, Folder 6-7	Book Clippings, Announcements, Reviews, Etc., 1960s-1970s

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Series 5: Artwork, 1940s-1970s, undated

5 Folders (Box 4)

Scope and Contents: The artwork series includes paintings and illustrations, one of which Kleinholz made on the inside cover of an *Encyclopedia Britannica* for his wife, Lydia; copies made from a Kleinholz sketchbook; and a sketch of Kleinholz done by Geo Johnson from 1973.

Box 4, Folder 8	Paintings and Illustrations, 1950-1972, undated
Box 4, Folder 9	Encyclopedia Britannica (1945); Artwork for Lydia, undated
Box 4, Folder 10	Book Cover Art, A History of Florida by Charlton W. Tebeau, circa 1971
Box 4, Folder 11	Sketchbook Copies, undated
Box 4, Folder 12	Sketch by Geo Johnson, 1973

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Series 6: Photographs, 1910s, 1930s, bulk 1940s-1970s

2 Linear feet (Box 4-6; OV 8)

Scope and Contents: Photographs include images of Kleinholz, his family, friends, and other artists taken in homes, at gallery events, social gatherings, and on trips. Photographs of his artwork are found loose in folders, and some are labeled by title and year. Others are found in albums, assembled by his wife Lidia, to commemorate his exhibition at C. W. Post in 1979, and for reasons unidentified. Also included are photographs of artists who were close with Kleinholz at one time including Philip Evergood, Anton Refregier, and Natcho Iguerro.

Box 4, Folder 13	Frank Kleinholz, circa 1910s, 1940s-1970s
Oversize 8	Frank Kleinholz, 1960s
Box 4, Folder 14	Family and Friends, circa 1930s-1970s
Oversize 8	Family and Friends, 1950s
Box 4, Folder 15	Lydia Kleinholz; Teaching Certificate and Degree Notification, circa 1942, 1952
Box 4, Folder 16	Galleries and Events, circa 1950s-1970s
Box 4, Folder 17-19	Artwork with Titles, A-F, circa 1940s-1970s
Box 5, Folder 1-4	Artwork with Titles, G-V, circa 1940s-1970s
Box 5, Folder 5-10	Artwork, Miscellaneous, circa 1940s-1970s
Box 6, Folder 1-5	Artwork, Miscellaneous, circa 1940s-1970s
Box 6, Folder 6	Album, Post Exhibition, 1979
Box 6, Folder 7	Album, For Lydia, undated
Box 6, Folder 8	Album, Nudes for Lydia, undated
Box 6, Folder 9	Album, Earlier Paintings and Illustrations, undated
Box 6, Folder 10	Album, Paintings and Illustrations, undated
Box 7, Folder 1	Album, Paintings and Illustrations, undated
Box 7, Folder 2	Burliuk, David, 1964
Box 7, Folder 3	Evergood, Phil, 1952
Box 7, Folder 4	Iguerro, Natcho; Mexico City, 1954

Box 7, Folder 5	Refregier, Anton; Murals, 1955-1956
Box 7, Folder 6	Soyer, Moses, 1960s
Box 7, Folder 7	Strand, Paul, 1949
Oversize 8	Unidentified Children, undated

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