



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Freda Koblick Papers,
1934-2011, in the Archives of American Art

Erin Kinhart

2013 April 12

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Freda Koblick papers
Identifier:	AAA.koblfred
Date:	1934-2011
Extent:	5.8 Linear feet
Creator:	Koblick, Freda
Language:	English
Summary:	The papers of sculptor Freda Koblick measure 5.8 linear feet and date from 1934 to 2011. The collection documents her career through scattered biographical material, correspondence with family and friends, personal business records, writings, printed material, artwork, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated in 2012 by Freda Koblick via Julia Fremon, Freda Koblick Living Trust.

Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Erin Kinhart in 2013. The collection has been minimally rearranged and retains the existing/original folder titles when possible. All materials have been rehoused in archival folders and boxes for long-term stability, but often staples and other fasteners have not been removed. Materials within folders have not been rearranged.

Preferred Citation

Freda Koblick papers, 1934-2011. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

The Freda Koblick 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 / Historical

Freda Koblick (1920-2011) was a sculptor in San Francisco, California. Koblick attended San Francisco City College and San Francisco State College. She then moved to Los Angeles and received a certificate as a plastics engineer in 1943 from the Plastics Industries Technical Institute. She worked only in plastics as a medium for sculpture, with an emphasis on cast acrylic. At the start of her career she focused on designing and producing functional cast plastic objects such as doors, lighting, doorknobs, and fountains often in collaboration with architects.

By the 1960s Koblick was exhibiting her sculptures and was regularly teaching, lecturing, and offering workshops on plastics sculpture. From 1965 to 1967 she was a Senior Research Fellow at the Royal College of Art, London, where she set up the Experimental Plastics Unit and taught plastics theory and application. During the 1970s she received several large scale commissions, most notably a sculpture for the North Terminal of the San Francisco International Airport. In 1980 she moved into a former synagogue in the Mission District of San Francisco where she had a large studio and living space. She continued producing new artwork until she was in her mid-80s, at which point her health limited her ability to work.

Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor Freda Koblick measure 5.8 linear feet and date from 1934 to 2011. The collection documents her career through scattered biographical material, correspondence with family and friends, personal business records, writings, printed material, artwork, and photographs.

Scattered biographical material includes resumes and awards. Family correspondence includes many letters from her brothers David and Daniel. General correspondence is primarily personal correspondence with friends. Personal business records consist of Koblick's files on commissions, exhibitions, travels, grants, sales, and publicity. Writings include 11 notebooks and loose notes. Printed material includes news clippings and exhibition announcements as well as printed material of interest to Koblick, but not directly documenting her career. Artwork consists of a small grouping of pencil sketches, possibly depicting her sculpture designs. Photographs depict Koblick, her family, friends, and artwork.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1942-2011 (5 folders; Boxes 1, 6)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1934-2007 (1.5 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1950s-2009 (1.7 linear feet; Boxes 2-4, OV 7)
- Series 4: Writings, circa 1962-1998 (0.2 linear feet; Box 4)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1943-1990 (0.3 linear feet; Boxes 4, 6)
- Series 6: Artwork, circa 1950s-1980s (1 folder; Box 4)
- Series 7: Photographs, circa 1930s-2007 (1 linear foot; Boxes 4-6)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women artists -- California

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Sketches

Names:

Koblick, Daniel

Koblick, David

Occupations:

Sculptors -- California -- San Francisco

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1942-2011

5 Folders (Boxes 1, 6)

Found here are biographical documents regarding Freda Koblick, including her obituary and a selection resumes, award certificates, and identification and membership cards. Also found are a few documents belonging to other Koblick family members.

Box 1, Folder 1	Identification and Membership Cards, circa 1990s-2010
Box 1, Folder 2	Koblick Family Documents, 1946-1959
Box 1, Folder 3	Obituary , 2011
Box 1, Folder 4	Resumes, 1970s, 1985
Box 6, Folder 1	Award Certificates, 1942, 1962

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1934-2007

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Correspondence is arranged into two subseries: Family Correspondence and General Correspondence. Family correspondence is primarily from the 1940s and 1950s. Included are many letters sent by Daniel and David Koblick, Freda's brothers, to family while they were serving in World War II. Also included are letters from Freda to her family and letters to her from her brothers and father, Morris. A small number of letters to Morris and his wife Rae from others are also found here.

General correspondence is mostly of a personal nature, including letters to Freda from friends. A small amount of professional correspondence is also found here. Additional professional correspondence is included within Series 3: Personal Business Records.

This series is arranged as 2 subseries:

- 2.1: Family Correspondence, 1934-1996
- 2.2: General Correspondence, 1938-2007

2.1: Family Correspondence, 1934-1996

Box 1, Folder 5-7	Daniel Koblick Letters to Family, 1955-1959, 1945-1946, 1943
Box 1, Folder 8-13	David Koblick Letters to Family , 1936, 1955, circa 1961, 1934, 1943-1947
Box 1, Folder 14-16	Freda Koblick Letters to Family, 1952-1954, 1941-1942
Box 1, Folder 17	Daniel Koblick Letters to Freda Koblick, 1959-1989
Box 1, Folder 18-20	David Koblick Letters to Freda Koblick, 1961-1996
Box 1, Folder 21	Morris A. Koblick Letters to Freda Koblick, 1963-1970
Box 1, Folder 22	Correspondence between Morris A. and Rae Koblick, 1952
Box 1, Folder 23-25	Morris A. and Rae Koblick Correspondence with Others, 1951-1961
Box 1, Folder 26	Holiday Cards, circa 1950s-1970s

2.2: General Correspondence, 1938-2007

Box 1, Folder 27	American Craftmen's Council, 1960, 1965
Box 1, Folder 28	American Institute of Architects, 1966-1967
Box 1, Folder 29	Arnautoff, Victor M., 1963-1964
Box 1, Folder 30	A, Miscellaneous, 1965-2005

Box 1, Folder 31	Bendien, Just, 1968-1971
Box 1, Folder 32	Braun, Murray, 1969
Box 1, Folder 33	Breskin, Charles, 1969-1970
Box 1, Folder 34	B, Miscellaneous, 1963, circa 1970-1995
Box 1, Folder 35	Cancogni, Franca, 1973-1989
Box 1, Folder 36	Cummings, John and Kaye, 1968-1987
Box 1, Folder 37	C, Miscellaneous, 1964-1998
Box 1, Folder 38	Davis, Jane, circa 1949-1980
Box 1, Folder 39	DeVillar, Liv, circa 1974-1978
Box 1, Folder 40	D, Miscellaneous, circa 1973-1984
Box 1, Folder 41	E, Miscellaneous, 1963-1986
Box 1, Folder 42-43	Froud, Nina, circa 1955-1978, 1986
Box 1, Folder 44	F, Miscellaneous, 1957-1995
Box 1, Folder 45	Galerie Bouma, 1978-1980
Box 1, Folder 46	G, Miscellaneous, 1961-1980
Box 1, Folder 47-56	Harris, Henrietta, 1951, 1955-1976, 1995
Box 1, Folder 57	H, Miscellaneous, 1964-1987
Box 1, Folder 58	I-J, Miscellaneous, 1966-1984
Box 1, Folder 59	Karasik, Bereni, 1963-1970
Box 2, Folder 1	K, Miscellaneous, circa 1963-1983
Box 2, Folder 2	Long, Trevor, circa 1964-1969

Box 2, Folder 3	L, Miscellaneous, 1968-1986
Box 2, Folder 4	Musgrave, Thea, circa 1967-1974
Box 2, Folder 5	M, Miscellaneous, 1955-1986
Box 2, Folder 6	Narmour, Kathryn, 1994
Box 2, Folder 7	N-O, Miscellaneous, 1964, circa 1979-1986
Box 2, Folder 8	P-Q, Miscellaneous, 1964, 1974-1987
Box 2, Folder 9	Rider, J., 1965-1969
Box 2, Folder 10	Rukeyser, Muriel, 1948-1978
Box 2, Folder 11	R, Miscellaneous, 1965-1984
Box 2, Folder 12	Samson, Frederic, 1964-1986
Box 2, Folder 13	Stanley, Peter, 1968-1984
Box 2, Folder 14	Steffens, Pete, circa 2000
Box 2, Folder 15	St. Armand, 1968-1987
Box 2, Folder 16	S, Miscellaneous, circa 1968-2007
Box 2, Folder 17	T-V, Miscellaneous, 1970-1997
Box 2, Folder 18	Watterston, Henning, circa 1968-1990
Box 2, Folder 19	Weldon, Estela d'A., 1967-1982
Box 2, Folder 20	West, Marie Welch, 1938, 1951-1975
Box 2, Folder 21	West, Mariquita, 1987, 1964-1976
Box 2, Folder 22	Winfield, Armand, 1963-1969
Box 2, Folder 23	Wollitz, Ken, circa 1963-1968
Box 2, Folder 24	W-Y, Miscellaneous, circa 1964-1986

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| Box 2, Folder 25-32 | First Names Only, A-Z, 1958-2003 |
| Box 2, Folder 33-34 | Unidentified and Illegible Names, circa 1950-1980 |

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Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1950s-2009

1.7 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4, OV 7)

Koblick's personal business records document her work as a sculptor. Included are her files regarding commissions, exhibitions, travels, grants, artwork sales, and publicity. Of note are extensive commission files for her sculpture at the San Francisco airport, including contracts, photographs, fabrication plans, and legal records. Also of note is an interview transcript and related correspondence for an article about Koblick in *Craft Horizons*.

Box 2, Folder 35	Addresses and Mailing Lists, circa 1980s
Box 2, Folder 36	Architectural Commissions, 1964
Box 2, Folder 37	Business Cards, circa 1950s-1980s
Box 2, Folder 38	California Arts Council Maestro-Apprentice Program, 1981-1982
Box 2, Folder 39-40	Check Stubs, 1981-1983
Box 2, Folder 41	Commission Lists, circa 1962
Box 2, Folder 42	Commission, Pennsylvania Ballet, 1977-1980
Box 2, Folder 43-45	Commission, Rohm and Haas Company, 1963-1965
Box 3, Folder 1-12	Commission, San Francisco Airport, 1977-1983
Box 3, Folder 13	Commission, San Francisco General Hospital, 1977-1978
Box 3, Folder 14	Craft Horizons Article, 1963-1964
Box 3, Folder 15-16	Exhibits through 1962, 1960-1962
Box 3, Folder 17	Exhibitions, 1970-1971
Box 3, Folder 18	Exhibition, Philadelphia Art Alliance, 1978-1979
Box 3, Folder 19	Exhibition, "Living Treasures of California", 1984-1985
Box 3, Folder 20	Exhibitions, Current and Pending, 1986-1994
Box 3, Folder 21-22	Europe, 1963, circa 1977
Box 3, Folder 23	Fairfax Property, 1959-1984

Box 3, Folder 24	Grant Applications, 1963-1969
Box 3, Folder 25	Guggenheim Fellowship, 1969-1971
Box 3, Folder 26	Hereward Lester Cooke Foundation, 1984-1985
Box 3, Folder 27	Insurance Documents, 2009
Box 3, Folder 28-29	Lectures and Workshops, 1963-1966
Box 3, Folder 30	Lee Nordness Galleries, 1968-1969
Box 3, Folder 31	Ministry of Labour Permit, 1965
Box 3, Folder 32-33	New York Trip, 1962
Box 3, Folder 34	Plans for Convention Foyer, Inn on the Park, circa 1962 Oversized material housed in OV 7.
Box 3, Folder 35	Proposals and Contracts for Work on Property, 1998-1999
Box 3, Folder 36-39	Sales Records, circa 1950s-1980s
Box 3, Folder 40	San Francisco Art Commission, 1992-1993
Box 3, Folder 41	Shop Log Book, 1962-1963
Box 3, Folder 42	Sold Pieces, 1977-1980
Box 3, Folder 43	Studio Sale, 1963
Box 3, Folder 44	Tiffany Grant, 1968-1969
Box 3, Folder 45	Travel, 1964-1965
Box 4, Folder 1	<i>Woman's Day</i> Article, 1957-1958
Box OV 7	Oversize Plans for Convention Foyer, Inn on the Park, circa 1962 Oversized material from Box 3, Folder 34.

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Series 4: Writings, circa 1962-1998

0.2 Linear feet (Box 4)

Writings consist of eleven notebooks and notes on scraps of paper. Some notebooks only contain entries on a few pages while others include to-do lists, contacts, project notes, and small design sketches.

Box 4, Folder 2	Notebook, 1962-1963
Box 4, Folder 3	Notebook, circa 1970
Box 4, Folder 4	Notebook, circa 1979
Box 4, Folder 5	Notebook, circa 1980
Box 4, Folder 6	Notebook, 1986-1987
Box 4, Folder 7	Notebook, 1987
Box 4, Folder 8	Notebook, circa 1998
Box 4, Folder 9-12	Notebooks, undated
Box 4, Folder 13	Notes, circa 1960s-1990s

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1943-1990

0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 4, 6)

The small amount of printed material in this collection includes exhibition announcements and news clippings documenting Koblick's career and the work of other artists. Additional programs, brochures, cards, and miscellaneous printed items were collected by Koblick but do not directly document her career as a sculptor.

Box 4, Folder 14	Booklets on Woodworking Materials, 1947, 1962
Box 4, Folder 15	Cards from Antiquarian Book Fair, 1969
Box 4, Folder 16	Event Programs and Announcements, 1946-1990 Oversized material housed in Box 6, Folder 2.
Box 4, Folder 17	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1951-1986
Box 4, Folder 18-21	News Clippings, circa 1946-1971, 1980
Box 4, Folder 22	Travel Brochures, circa 1960s
Box 4, Folder 23	Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1943-1988
Box 6, Folder 2	Oversize Event Programs and Announcements, circa 1950s-1960s Oversized material from Box 4, Folder 16.

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Series 6: Artwork, circa 1950s-1980s

1 Folder (Box 4)

Found here is one folder of unidentified pencil sketches which may be preliminary designs for sculptures.

Box 4, Folder 24

Sketches, circa 1950s-1980s

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Series 7: Photographs, circa 1930s-2007

1 Linear foot (Boxes 4-6)

Included are photograph portraits of Freda Koblick, as well as photographs of her with family, friends, at a few events and in her studio. The bulk of the photographs depict her artwork either during fabrication or after installation. Slides mostly depict artwork but also include a few images of Koblick. Additional photographs are included within the commission files in Series 3: Personal Business Records.

Box 4, Folder 25-27	Freda Koblick, circa 1940s-1990s Oversized material housed in Box 6, Folder 3.
Box 4, Folder 28-29	Freda Koblick with Others, circa 1930s-2007
Box 4, Folder 30-31	Photographs of Others, circa 1940s-1980s
Box 4, Folder 32	Exhibition at Magnes Museum, 1980
Box 4, Folder 33	Miscellaneous Personal Photographs, circa 1960s
Box 4, Folder 34	Miscellaneous Studio Shots, circa 1970s-1992
Box 4, Folder 35	Sculpture Fabrication, circa 1970s
Box 4, Folder 36	Technique Samples, circa 1960s
Box 4, Folder 37	Artwork - Bank of California, circa 1961
Box 4, Folder 38	Artwork - David's Restaurant, undated
Box 4, Folder 39	Artwork - Early Functional Small Pieces, 1950s
Box 4, Folder 40	Artwork - Fountain for Vallejo Marina Vista, circa 1966-1967
Box 5, Folder 1	Artwork - Hardware, circa 1960s
Box 5, Folder 2	Artwork - International Building, San Francisco, circa 1960-1961
Box 5, Folder 3	Artwork - Morton Salt Building, undated
Box 5, Folder 4	Artwork - "Sea Totem", circa 1990s
Box 5, Folder 5	Artwork - Studio Wall, circa 1960s
Box 5, Folder 6-10	Artwork - Miscellaneous, circa 1960s-1980s

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| Box 5, Folder 11-14 | Slides, circa 1960s-1980s |
| Box 6, Folder 3 | Oversize Photographs of Freda Koblick, circa 1940s-1970s
Oversized material from Box 4, Folders 25-27. |
| Box 6, Folder 4 | Photograph Album of Artwork, circa 1960s-1980s |

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