



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Helen L. Kohen Papers,
1978-1996, in the Archives of American Art

Rosa M. Fernández

2001

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Helen L. Kohen papers
Identifier:	AAA.kohehele
Date:	1978-1996
Extent:	1 Linear foot
Creator:	Kohen, Helen L.
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Miami art critic Helen Kohen date from 1978 through 1996 and contain letters, postcards, exhibition announcements and invitations, and seventy-four untranscribed interviews of artists, dealers, and collectors in the Miami area.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Helen L. Kohen donated her papers to the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution in 1997.

Processing Information

Processing of the collection was completed by Rosa M. Fernández in 1997. The finding aid was written in 2001. This collection, along with numerous other Latino collections, was acquired through the Archives of American Art's 1996 "Latino Art Documentation Project" in South Florida with funding from the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Latino Initiatives.

Preferred Citation

Helen L. Kohen papers, 1978-1996. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research. Use requires an appointment and is limited to the Washington, D.C. research facility.

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Accruals

Helen L. Kohen intends to deposit additional letters from artists in the future.

Biographical Note

Art historian and critic Helen L. Kohen has authored numerous articles on contemporary art focusing on the formation of the art culture in Miami since the early 1980s. Helen L. Kohen is art critic emeritus for the The Miami Herald newspaper in Miami, Florida.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of art historian and critic Helen L. Kohen measure one linear foot and date from 1976 through 1996. They consist primarily of letters, postcards, exhibition announcements and invitations from artists in the Miami area. Also found are eighty-two mini cassette tapes of seventy-four interviews Kohen conducted with art dealers, collectors, contemporary artists, and others in the Miami area as research and background for her newspaper column and other articles

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into five series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1954, 1984-1993, undated (Box 1, 10 folders)
 - Series 2: Printed Material, 1979-1996, undated (Box 1, 3 folders)
 - Series 3: Photographs, 1969, 1974, 1980-1994 (Box 1, 1 folder)
 - Series 4: Miscellany, 1983-1992, undated (Box 1, 1 folder)
 - Series 5: Taped Interviews, 1986-1996, undated (Box 1, 1 folder and 82 micro-cassettes)
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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 -- Florida -- Miami
Artists -- Florida -- Miami
Artists -- Florida -- Miami -- Interviews
Artists -- Haiti
Cuban American artists
Cuban American artists -- Florida -- Miami
Cuban American artists -- Interviews
Latino and Latin American artists
Women art critics -- Florida -- Miami

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Alexander, Jane
Alfonzo, Carlos, 1950-1991
Algaze, Mario Arturo, 1947-
Anthony, Carol
Bedia, José, 1959-
Blaine, Michael
Blazer, Wendy
Brito, Maria, 1947-
Cano, Margarita, 1932-
Cano, Pablo
Carulla, Ramón, 1938-
Castagliola, Maria E., 1946-
Corone, Matthew
Couper, James M., 1937-
Cubiles, Miguel
De Monte, Claudia, 1947-
Delehanty, Suzanne, 1944-
Demi, 1955-
Duval-Carrié, Edouard, 1954-
Eisenstaedt, Alfred
Fernández, Agustin, 1928-
Frohnmayr, John
García, Fernando A., 1945-
Gelfman, Lynn Golub
Gillman, Barbara Seitlin, 1937-
González, Juan, 1942-1993
Gottlieb-Roberts, Marilyn Patricia, 1939-
Gutierrez, M. (Marta)
Henderson, Shirley
Jones, Pat
Juarez, Roberto, 1952-
Kardin, Janet
Kuitca, Guillermo, 1961-
Lanza, Bianca
Leibovitz, Annie, 1949-
Marisol, 1930-2016
Morgan, Andrew Wesley, 1922-
Muñoz, Celia Alvarez, 1937-
Orr-Cahall, Christina, 1947-
Paik, Nam June, 1932-
Paparelli, Janet
Pellon, Gina
Riverón, Enrique
Riverón, Noella
Rodríguez, Vivian
Rodríguez, Arturo, 1956-
Rojo, Damian
Rubell, Jason

Rubio, Lydia, 1946-
Salinas, Baruj
Sanchez, Emilio, 1921-1999
Schaaf, William
Scharf, Kenny
Scull, Haydée
Scull, Sahara
Shapiro, Joel
Slobodkina, Esphyr, 1908-2002
Spitzer, David D.
Strasser, Barbara
Sullivan, G. L.
Trasobares, César
Valdez-Fauli, Dora

Occupations:

Art critics -- Florida -- Miami

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1954, 1984-1993, undated

(box 1, 10 folders)

This series houses one file of correspondence with American abstract artists and author, Esphyr Slobodkina, 1954, 1984-1993 and undated, and nine folders of letters received (1978-1996) from artists concerning exhibitions, art openings, and Kohen's reviews. Letters are from artist Carol Anthony, Miguel Cubiles, performance artist Marilyn Gottlieb-Roberts, Arturo Rodriguez, Emilio Sanchez, Bill Schaaf, and others. Three of the nine folders include general letters received from other artists and art institutions. Attachments include postcards, birthday and anniversary cards and exhibition announcements.

Box 1, Folder 1	Esphyr Slobodkina, 1954, 1984-1993, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Carol Anthony, 1980-1991, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Miguel Cubiles, 1986, 1988
Box 1, Folder 4	Marilyn Gottlieb-Roberts, 1983-1991
Box 1, Folder 5	Arturo Rodriguez, 1993, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Emilio Sanchez, 1985, 1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Bill Schaaf, 1984-1989, undated
Box 1, Folder 8-10	General, 1978-1996, undated

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Series 2: Printed Material, 1979-1996, undated

(box 1, 3 folders)

Printed Material, 1979-1996, includes exhibition announcements, invitations and catalogs Kohen gathered about artists during the course of her career as art critic for the newspaper The Miami Herald. Photographs, 1969, 1974, and 1980-1994, are of artwork by several artists. Also found are color photocopies of the same.

Box 1, Folder 11 Exhibition catalogs, 1980-1994, undated

Box 1, Folder 12-13 Exhibition invitations, 1979-1996, undated

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Series 3: Photographs, 1969, 1974, 1980-1994

(box 1, 1 folder)

Box 1, Folder 14

Photographs of artists' work, 1969, 1974, 1980-1994

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Series 4: Miscellany, 1983-1992, undated

(box 1, 1 folder)

This series contains a 1983 gallery guide, a copy of art journal *Artifacts*, information on the death of Renate Hofmann, widow of abstract expressionist artist Hans Hofmann, and other material.

Box 1, Folder 15 Miscellaneous material, 1983-1992, undated

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Series 5: Taped Interviews, 1986-1996, undated

(box 1, 1 folder and 82 micro-cassettes)

This series includes seventy-four untranscribed interviews (on eighty-two mini cassettes) with artists, arts administrators, art dealers, collectors and others. Interviews are with Jane Alexander, Carlos Alfonso, Mario Algaze, José Bedia, Margarita Cano, Matthew Corone, Wendy Blazer, Maria Brito, Eduoard Duval Carrie, Ramon Carulla, Dora Valdez-Fauli, Agustin Fernández, Lynn Golob Gelfman, Barbara Gillman, Marta Gutierrez, Pat Jones, Roberto Juarez, Guillermo Kuitca, Bianca Lanza, Annie Leibovitz, Marisol, Celia Muñoz, Nam June Paik, Janet Paparelli, Gina Pellon, Demi and Arturo Rodriguez, Vivian Rodriguez, Lydia Rubio, Jason Rubell, Baruj Salinas, Kenny Scharf, the Scull sisters, Joel Shapiro, David Spitzer, Barbara Strasser, and others.

All interviews in slide box 4 are recorded on the same audio cassette.

Box 1, Folder 16	List of interviews, undated
Box 1	Abel, artist, 1994
Box 1	Jane Alexander, 1994
Box 1	Carlos Alfonso, Cuban artist, 1988 <i>(two tapes)</i>
Box 1	Mario Algaze, photographer, 1991
Box 1	Greg Amenoff, Palm Beach, 1993
Box 1	Karel Appel, Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale (in large cassette box), 1986
Box 1	José Bedia, Cuban artist, 1994
Box 1	Dorothy Blau, art dealer, 1992
Box 1	Wendy Blazer, Art and Culture Center, 1994
Box 1	Maria Brito, Cuban artist, 1991
Box 1	Steven Brooke, Bass Museum of Art, 1994
Box 1	Margarita Cano at the Gallery of the Eccentric, 1994
Box 1	Ramon Carulla at the Barbara Scott Gallery, 1992
Box 1	Bonnie Clearwater, Center for Contemporary Art, 1994

Box 1	Lou Ann Colodeny, Center of Contemporary Art, 1994
Box 1	Matthew Corone, art dealer, 1992
Box 1	James Couper, professor at Florida International University, 1993
Box 1	Suzanne Delehanty, Center for the Fine Arts, 1994 (3 tapes)
Box 1	Eduoard Duval Carité, Haitian artist, 1993
Box 1	Alfred Eisenstaedt, Life photographer, 1992
Box 2 (slide box)	Agustin Fernández, Cuban artist, 1996
Box 2 (slide box)	John Frohnmeyer, National Endowment for the Arts, 1992
Box 2 (slide box)	Lynn Golob Gelfman, collector and artist, 1993, 1994 (2 tapes)
Box 2 (slide box)	Barbara Gillman, art dealer, 1992
Box 2 (slide box)	Lynn Golob Gelfman, artist and collector, 1994
Box 2 (slide box)	Juan Gonzalez, Cuban artist, 1988 (2 tapes in large cassette box)
Box 2 (slide box)	Louis Grachos, Center for the Fine Arts, 1994
Box 2 (slide box)	Jean Greer, undated
Box 2 (slide box)	Allen Harowitz, 1994
Box 2 (slide box)	Ann Jaffe, 1992
Box 2 (slide box)	Pat Jones, South Florida Art Center, 1992-1994 (3 tapes)
Box 2 (slide box)	Roberto Juárez, at the Center for the Fine Arts, 1995
Box 2 (slide box)	Janet Kardin, Craft Museum, 1990
Box 2 (slide box)	Clive King, artist and chair of Florida International University, 1994

Box 2 (slide box)	Guillermo Kuitca, Argentinian artist, 1995
Box 2 (slide box)	Bianca Lanza, art dealer, 1993
Box 2 (slide box)	Annie Liebovitz, photographer, 1992 (3 tapes)
Box 2 (slide box)	Gloria Luria, art dealer, 1992
Box 2 (slide box)	Marisol, Venezuelan artist, 1988
Box 3 (slide box)	Tomás Messer, 1990
Box 3 (slide box)	Virginia Miller, art dealer, 1992
Box 3 (slide box)	Joy Moos, art dealer, 1992
Box 3 (slide box)	Celia Muñoz, 1992
Box 3 (slide box)	Cristina Orr-Cahall, director of the Norton Gallery, 1990, 1992 (2 tapes)
Box 3 (slide box)	Paddock Family, collectors, 1994
Box 3 (slide box)	Nam June Paik, video artist, 1990 (2 tapes)
Box 3 (slide box)	Janet Paparelli, artist, 1994
Box 3 (slide box)	Demi and Arturo Rodriguez, Cuban artists, 1991
Box 3 (slide box)	Arturo Rodriguez, Cuban artist, 1993
Box 3 (slide box)	Vivian Rodriguez, Art in Public Places, 1993-1994 (2 tapes)
Box 3 (slide box)	Jason Rubell, collector, 1992
Box 3 (slide box)	Baruj Salinas, Cuban artist, 1993
Box 3 (slide box)	Fr. Jorge Sardinias, Catholic priest and artist, 1993
Box 3 (slide box)	Kenny Scharf, 1995

Box 3 (slide box)	Scull Sisters, Cuban artists, 1992
Box 3 (slide box)	Joel Shapiro, Center for Fine Arts, 1991
Box 3 (slide box)	Michael Spring, director, Dade Cultural Affairs Council, 1994
Box 3 (slide box)	Barbara Strasser, Inter-American Art Gallery, 1992
Box 3 (slide box)	Dora Valdez-Fauli, art dealer, 1992
Box 4 (slide box)	Estelle and Paul Berg, collectors, 1994
Box 4 (slide box)	Louis Grachos, director Center for the Fine Arts, and Phillip Taffe, artist, 1993
Box 4 (slide box)	Louise Fisherman and Bianca Lanza, 1994
Box 4 (slide box)	Gina Pellon and David Spitzer, artists, 1989-1990
Box 4 (slide box)	Barbara Neijna and Ned Smyth, Art in Public Places, 1994
Box 4 (slide box)	Carol Clever and Selden Rodman, Haitian art collectors, 1993
Box 4 (slide box)	Pablo Cano, Marta Gutiérrez, and Lydia Rúbio, 1993
Box 4 (slide box)	Suzanne Martinson, José Rodriguez, and Rafael Salazar, artist and collectors, 1995
Box 4 (slide box)	Mel Edwards and Lowry Sims, 1994
Box 4 (slide box)	South Florida Art Center, 1994

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