



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Ida Kohlmeyer Papers, circa
1890-circa 1990s, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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Women's History Initiative and the National Collections Program

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Ida Kohlmeyer papers
Identifier:	AAA.kohlida
Date:	circa 1890-circa 1990s
Extent:	13.7 Linear feet
Creator:	Kohlmeyer, Ida, 1912-1997
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of sculptor, painter, and educator Ida Kohlmeyer date from circa 1890 to circa 1990s and measure 13.7 linear feet. The papers document Kohlmeyer's many exhibitions and commissioned works, and her teaching career. Found are biographical material, correspondence, writings and notes, personal business records, professional files, printed material, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 1998 by Jane K. Lowentritt, Kohlmeyer's daughter and former studio manager, except for material on reels 5280-5281 which Lowentritt lent for microfilming.

Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds material lent for microfilming on reels 5280-5281. Included are miscellaneous scattered letters from Hans Hofmann, Mark Rothko, and James Johnson Sweeney, 1956-1959 and undated; letters from Lynda Benglis, 1976-1983; draft writings and lectures by Kohlmeyer, undated; and an extensive card catalog of works of art by Kohlmeyer which includes information on the title, dimensions, media, date, name and address of the owner, and sale price. Many cards have thumbnail sketches. The catalog is arranged alphabetically by title. There is also one miscellaneous card file. Loaned materials were returned to the donor and are not described in the collection container inventory.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds an oral history interview of Ida Kohlmeyer conducted 1989 May 17-20, by Avis Berman.

Available Formats

Material lent for microfilming is available on 35mm microfilm reels 5280-5281 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2021.

Preferred Citation

Ida Kohlmeyer papers, circa 1890-circa 1990s. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Ida Kohlmeyer (1912-1997) was a painter, sculptor, and educator active in Louisiana. She was known for her brightly colored abstract expressionist paintings and sculpture.

Born Ida Rittenberg, to Polish immigrants, Ida spent her childhood in New Orleans, Louisiana. She was educated at Newcomb College, Tulane University, where she initially studied English, and returned in her mid-30s to study art. Inspired by the Abstract Expressionist movement, Kohlmeyer went on to study with Hans Hoffman and became acquainted with Mark Rothko and other notable New York City artists. She exhibited her works around Louisiana and elsewhere in the United States. A large retrospective of Kohlmeyer's work was held at the Mint Museum in Charlotte, North Carolina in the mid-1980s.

Ida married Hugh Kohlmeyer and they had two daughters. She died in 1997 in Metairie, Louisiana.

Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor, painter, and educator Ida Kohlmeyer date from circa 1890 to circa 1990s and measure 13.7 linear feet. The papers document Kohlmeyer's many exhibitions and commissioned works, and her teaching career. Found are biographical material, correspondence, writings and notes, personal business records, professional files, printed material, and photographs.

Biographical materials include the items taken from Kohlmeyer's memorial wall in her studio which consist of mementos, printed material and photographs. Writings and notes are by Kohlmeyer on art as well as lectures and talks. Writings on Kohlmeyer by others include writings by Jan Butterfield, Whitney Engeran, and Ellen Tibbets. There is also a copy of Hugh Kohlmeyer's memoirs.

Professional files contain letters, printed material, photographs, financial records, and other scattered items relating to Kohlmeyer's career as a painter, sculptor, and educator. Files may be found for specific exhibitions, galleries, and commissions, and may also document Kohlmeyer's professional relationships with art consultants and others.

Photographs depict Ida Kohlmeyer, her family, friends, artworks, and personal art collection. Also found are photos documenting the original placement of items on the memorial wall.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1927-circa 1990s (1.2 linear feet; Box 1, 14)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1950s-1980s (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1940-1987 (0.9 linear feet; Boxes 2-3)
- Series 4: Personal Business Records, 1946-circa 1990s (0.6 linear feet; Box 3)
- Series 5: Professional Files, 1956-1995 (4.0 linear feet; Boxes 4-7)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1932-1990s (5.3 linear feet; Boxes 8-12, 15-16)
- Series 7: Photographs, circa 1890-1997 (1.2 linear feet; Boxes 12-13)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women painters
Women sculptors

Names:

Newcomb College. Art Dept

Occupations:

Educators -- Louisiana
Painters -- Louisiana
Sculptors -- Louisiana

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1927-circa 1990s

1.2 Linear feet (Box 1, 14)

Series includes general records kept by Kohlmeyer such as an autograph book, a day book, awards, pet records, and a painted sketch that is unsigned. Also found are resumes, a copy of her will, school records including exams and notes, and meeting minutes taken by Kohlmeyer as the secretary of the Orleans Gallery. Of note are items that were taken down from Ida Kohlmeyer's studio wall as a memorial to her. These items may include mementos, children's artwork, photographs, and printed material.

Box 1, Folder 1	Autograph Book, circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 2	Awards, 1989
Box 1, Folder 3	Day Book, 1974
Box 1, Folder 4	Gallery Labels, circa 1990
Box 1, Folder 5-13	Ida Kohlmeyer Memorial Wall, Memorabilia, circa 1990s
Box 14	Ida Kohlmeyer Memorial Wall, Memorabilia, Oversized, circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 14	Meeting Minutes, Orleans Gallery, 1961
Box 1, Folder 15	Pet Records, 1967
Box 1, Folder 16	Resumes, 1997
Box 1, Folder 17-18	School Records, Notes and Exams, 1954
Box 1, Folder 19	Sketch, Painted, circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 20	Will, 1982
Box 1, Folder 21	Yearbook, Camp Songo, Maine, 1927

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1950s-1980s

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Correspondence is scattered and consists of general inquiries regarding Kohlmeyer's artwork and career and letters from family and friends. Travel letters are from Ida Kohlmeyer to her family while in Europe in the 1960s, and from Hugh Kohlmeyer to his family while stationed in Spain in the 1960s. Also found are greeting cards, holiday cards, and postcards from Kohlmeyer's many friends and family, many of which are signed with first names only.

Researchers should note that additional correspondence may be found in Series 5.

Box 1, Folder 22 Travel Letters, to and from Ida Kohlmeyer, 1961-1964

Box 2, Folder 1-4 General Correspondence, 1960s-1980s

Box 2, Folder 5-9 Greeting Cards and Postcards, 1950s-1980s

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Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1940-1987

0.9 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Writings by Ida Kohlmeyer are on art and include lectures and talks. Writings by others are by Jan Butterfield, Whitney Engeran, Ellen Tibbets and others. There is also a draft of memoirs by Hugh Kohlmeyer.

Box 2, Folder 10-13	by Ida Kohlmeyer, on Art, 1950s-1970s
Box 2, Folder 14-19	Lectures and Talks, 1964-1984
Box 2, Folder 20	Notebook, circa 1940
Box 2, Folder 21-22	Notes, Lists, circa 1940-circa 1980
Box 3, Folder 1-6	Writings by Others, on Ida Kohlmeyer, 1977-1985
Box 3, Folder 7	Writings by Others, Memoirs by Hugh Kohlmeyer, circa 1985
Box 3, Folder 8	Writings by Others, Poetry, 1987

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Series 4: Personal Business Records, 1946-circa 1990s

0.6 Linear feet (Box 3)

General business records include claims for items damaged in the mail, and records of donations, expenses, and sales. Inventory cards may include titles and prices from a gift shop in the 1940s.

Box 3, Folder 9	Claims, USPS Damage, 1984
Box 3, Folder 10	Corporate Sales Records, 1970-1980s
Box 3, Folder 11-13	Donations, 1981-1989
Box 3, Folder 14-16	Expenses, 1980-1991
Box 3, Folder 17-18	Inventory Cards, Gift Shop, 1946-1947
Box 3, Folder 19	Resale of Kohlmeyer Works of Art, 1989
Box 3, Folder 20	Rose Gardening, 1974
Box 3, Folder 21-24	Sales , 1970-circa 1990s

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Series 5: Professional Files, 1956-1995

4 Linear feet (Boxes 4-7)

Professional files contain records relating to Kohlmeyer's many commissions, works of art, and affiliations with galleries and museums around Louisiana and the Southern United States. Files may include correspondence, financial records, photographs, printed material, sketches, and writings. Of note are files on galleries with which Kohlmeyer had longstanding professional relationships such as the Arthur Roger Gallery, Findlay Gallery, Henri Gallery, and the Mint Art Museum. Also found is a file for *Aquatic Colonnade* and other commissions.

Folder titles have been transcribed from the original; sometimes they have been edited for clarity.

Box 4, Folder 1	A Gallery, 1988-1991
Box 4, Folder 2	ABS, 1978
Box 4, Folder 3	A. I. , 1980-1984
Box 4, Folder 4	Academy Gallery, 1982
Box 4, Folder 5	Ackerman, Martin, 1980-1986
Box 4, Folder 6	Addison Gallery of American Art, 1963-1966
Box 4, Folder 7	Adele M. Fine Art, 1979
Box 4, Folder 8	Alice Bingham Gallery, 1985-1986
Box 4, Folder 9	Alexandria Museum Visual Art Center, 1982-1986
Box 4, Folder 10	Allene Lapidés Gallery, 1990
Box 4, Folder 11	The American Institute of Architects Foundation, 1976-1977
Box 4, Folder 12	Anthony Gallery, 1984-1986
Box 4, Folder 13	<i>Aquatic Colonnade</i> , 1990
Box 4, Folder 14	Architectural Arts, 1984
Box 4, Folder 15	Art Accents of Boca Raton, Inc., 1982-1984
Box 4, Folder 16	Art Contemporary, 1988
Box 4, Folder 17	Art Museum of Southeast Texas, 1990

Box 4, Folder 18	Art Resources Jane Katz/Jane Lowentritt, 1982
Box 4, Folder 19	Art Today, 1976-1988
Box 4, Folder 20-21	Arthur Roger Gallery, 1982-1989
Box 4, Folder 22	Arts Council of New Orleans Public Art Program, 1987-1989
Box 4, Folder 23	Atlanta Airport, 1995
Box 4, Folder 24-25	Award Files, 1960s
Box 4, Folder 26	Betty Moody Gallery, 1979-1985
Box 4, Folder 27	Birmingham Museum of Art, 1975-1988
Box 4, Folder 28	Blount, Inc., 1981-1986
Box 4, Folder 29	Bo-Tree Productions, 1981-1987
Box 4, Folder 30	The Book, 1980s
Box 4, Folder 31	Bresler Galleries, Inc., 1959-1962
Box 4, Folder 32	Brevard Art Center and Museum, 1988
Box 4, Folder 33	Carol Shapiro Gallery, 1984
Box 4, Folder 34	Cheekwood Fine Arts Center, 1983-1984
Box 4, Folder 35	Cobb Lane Gallery, 1961-1962
Box 4, Folder 52	The Cogdell Group, Inc., 1988
Box 4, Folder 36	Collectors Showroom, 1979-1983
Box 4, Folder 37	Columbus College, 1985-1990
Box 4, Folder 38	Columbus Museum of Arts and Crafts, Inc., 1957-1963
Box 4, Folder 39-48	Commissions, 1982-1995

Box 4, Folder 49	<i>Contemporary American Women Sculptors, 1983-1986</i>
Box 4, Folder 50	Contemporary Art, 1978
Box 4, Folder 51	Contemporary Art Center, 1983-1987
Box 5, Folder 1-2	Dick Jemison Art Studio, 1975-1983
Box 5, Folder 3	DuBose Gallery, 1967-1978
Box 5, Folder 4	Elaine Horwitch Gallery, 1977-1986
Box 5, Folder 5	Fernandez, Hortensia, 1983-1985
Box 5, Folder 6-8	Findlay Gallery, 1970s-1980s
Box 5, Folder 9	Fine Arts Museum of the South, 1990
Box 5, Folder 10	Fort Wayne Museum of Art, 1968-1984
Box 5, Folder 11	<i>The Four Seasons: American Landscape Paintings, 1983</i>
Box 5, Folder 12	Freeman, June, 1976
Box 5, Folder 13	Galerie Simonne Stern, 1969-1983
Box 5, Folder 14	Gallant, Marc, circa 1983
Box 5, Folder 15	Gallery 31, 1960-1971
Box 5, Folder 16	Gallery 4, 1965-1968
Box 5, Folder 17	Gallery of American Art, 1971-1972
Box 5, Folder 18-23	General, 1970s-1990s
Box 6, Folder 1-2	General, 1970s-1990s
Box 6, Folder 3	Gibbs Art Gallery, 1977-1978
Box 6, Folder 4	Gilman Galleries, 1969-1975
Box 6, Folder 5	Gimpel and Weitzenhoffer, 1983-1986

Box 6, Folder 6	Greenville Museum of Art, 1964-1975
Box 6, Folder 7	Herbert Palmer Gallery, 1983-1985
Box 6, Folder 8	Hally-Caponigno Fine Art Advisors, 1985
Box 6, Folder 9	Hames, Carl Martin, 1980s
Box 6, Folder 10	Heath Gallery, Inc., 1978-1985
Box 6, Folder 11	Helix Project, 1987
Box 6, Folder 12-13	Henri Gallery, 1959-1963
Box 6, Folder 14	The High Museum of Art, 1967-1987
Box 6, Folder 15	Historic New Orleans Collection, 1983
Box 6, Folder 18	Imperial Calcasieu Museum, 1985-1987
Box 6, Folder 16	Indiana State University, 1971-1972
Box 6, Folder 17	Intercontinental Commission, 1984
Box 6, Folder 19	Isaac Delgado Museum of Art, 1957-1958
Box 6, Folder 20	Isadore Newman School, 1983-1986
Box 6, Folder 21	J. Schofield Manuel, Ltd., 1982
Box 6, Folder 22	Jan Weiner Gallery, 1988
Box 6, Folder 23	Jewish Welfare Fund, 1992
Box 6, Folder 24	John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art, 1976
Box 6, Folder 25-27	Juries, Lectures, and Workshops, 1980s-1990s
Box 6, Folder 28	Kathryn Fleck Gallery, 1992
Box 6, Folder 29	Korea, 1991

Box 6, Folder 30	Lafayette Art Association, 1991
Box 6, Folder 31	Lauren Rogers Library and Museum of Art, 1978
Box 6, Folder 32	Lipp, Robert, 1982-1983
Box 6, Folder 33	Louisiana Council for Music and Performing Arts, Inc., 1974
Box 6, Folder 34	Louisiana Geriatric Education Center, 1991
Box 7, Folder 1	Lynda Ireland Fine Arts, 1985
Box 7, Folder 2	Manufab, Inc., 1983-1989
Box 7, Folder 3	Massell, Eleanor, 1982
Box 7, Folder 4	McAllen International Museum, 1985
Box 7, Folder 5	McIntosh/Drysdale Gallery, 1980-1982
Box 7, Folder 6	McNay Art Institute, 1975-1976
Box 7, Folder 7	Mead, 1965-1973
Box 7, Folder 8-10	Mint Museum, 1980-1983
Box 7, Folder 11	Mobile Art Gallery, 1966-1969
Box 7, Folder 12	<i>Monograph</i> , 1965
Box 7, Folder 13	Montgomery Museum of Art, 1992
Box 7, Folder 14-15	Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, 1963-1986
Box 7, Folder 16	Museum for African Art, 1993
Box 7, Folder 17	Museum of East Texas, 1986
Box 7, Folder 18	Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1967
Box 7, Folder 19	Napier, Jan, 1963
Box 7, Folder 20-21	New Orleans Museum of Art, 1993

Box 7, Folder 22	New Orleans Women's Caucus for Art, 1984
Box 7, Folder 23	Newcomb Art School, 1984-1988
Box 7, Folder 24	Newcomb Retrospective, 1984-1985
Box 7, Folder 25	Nimbus Gallery, 1980s
Box 7, Folder 26	Nina Freudenheim Gallery, 1977-1979
Box 7, Folder 27	North Light Studio and Gallery, 1972
Box 7, Folder 28	North Truro Art Center, 1962-1966
Box 7, Folder 29	Oklahoma Art Center, 1969-1986
Box 7, Folder 30	Orleans Gallery, 1957-1959
Box 7, Folder 31	Pensacola Museum of Art, 1983-1985
Box 7, Folder 32	Peter M. David Galley, 1980-1981
Box 7, Folder 33	Pittsburgh International , 1960-1961
Box 7, Folder 34	Poydras, 1984
Box 7, Folder 35	S. Tart Gallery, 1976
Box 7, Folder 36	San Francisco Museum of Art, 1978
Box 7, Folder 37	Sandra K. Bertsch Fine Arts/Gallery, 1984
Box 7, Folder 38	Scott Hanson Gallery, 1988-1989
Box 7, Folder 39	Slidell Art Competition and Regional Arts Council, 1990-1992
Box 7, Folder 40	Smithsonian Institution, 1968-1973
Box 7, Folder 41	Snyder, Alice R., 1990-1991
Box 7, Folder 42	Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, 1978-1982

Box 7, Folder 43	Space One Eleven, S-O-E-2, 1991-1992
Box 7, Folder 44	Stan Topol and Associates, Inc., 1993-1995
Box 7, Folder 45	State of Louisiana, Division of Arts, circa 1980s
Box 7, Folder 46	Teaching Records, Tulane, 1956
Box 7, Folder 47	tomorrow today, 1985
Box 7, Folder 48	Townscape Institute, Inc., 1985-1987
Box 7, Folder 49	Transportation for Art, 1980s
Box 7, Folder 50	Tuscon Museum of Art, 1985-1986
Box 7, Folder 51	University of California Los Angeles, 1986
Box 7, Folder 52	University of Nebrasks, 1966-1968
Box 7, Folder 53	W. C. Bradley Co., 1983-1986
Box 7, Folder 54	Wichita State University, College of Fine Arts, 1980-1981
Box 7, Folder 55	Wilson, James C. Jr., 1984-1985
Box 7, Folder 56	Who's Who of American Women, 1968

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Series 6: Printed Material, 1932-1990s

5.3 Linear feet (Boxes 8-12, 15-16)

Printed materials include an artist file kept by Findlay Gallery on Kohlmeyer, and clippings, exhibition material, and blank postcards. Many of the postcards are of works of art in various museums around the world and may have been used as teaching material.

Box 8, Folder 1-5	Artist File, Findlay Gallery, 1970s-1990s
Box 8, Folder 6-16	Clippings, 1932-1996
Box 9, Folder 1-17	Clippings, 1932-1996
Box 10, Folder 1-2	Clippings, 1932-1996
Box 15	Clippings, Oversized, 1932-1996
Box 10, Folder 3-16	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1950s-1990s
Box 11, Folder 1-9	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1950s-1990s
Box 11, Folder 10-16	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Others, 1950s-1990s
Box 12, Folder 1-4	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Others, 1950s-1990s
Oversize 16	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Oversized, 1950s-1990s
Box 12, Folder 5-10	Postcards, 1940s-1990s

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Series 7: Photographs, circa 1890-1997

1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 12-13)

Photographs depict Kohlmeyer, her family and friends, exhibitions, works of art, pets, and travel. Also found are negatives and slides. Photos of events and gallery openings are largely unlabeled.

Box 12, Folder 11-15	Portraits and Snapshots of Ida Kohlmeyer, with Family and Others, circa 1890-1990s
Box 12, Folder 16-17	Events and Gallery Openings, 1970s-1990s
Box 13, Folder 1-2	Events and Gallery Openings, 1970s-1990s
Box 13, Folder 3	Gardens, circa 1974
Box 13, Folder 4	Memorial Gallery Wall, circa 1999
Box 13, Folder 5	Pets, 1993
Box 13, Folder 6-9	Travel, 1967-1980
Box 13, Folder 10	Works of Art, In Situ, 1993
Box 13, Folder 11	Works of Art, Kohlmeyer Collection, 1980s
Box 13, Folder 12-13	Works of Art, General, 1960s-1980s
Box 13, Folder 14	Negatives, 1960s-1990s
Box 13, Folder 15-17	Slides, 1960s-1970s

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