A Finding Aid to the Max Kozloff Papers, circa 1950-2015, in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: Max Kozloff papers
Identifier: AAA.kozlmax
Date: circa 1950-2015
Extent: 1.4 Linear feet
Creator: Kozloff, Max
Language: English
Collection is in English

Summary: The papers of art critic and photographer Max Kozloff measure 1.4 linear feet and date from circa 1950-2015. The collection provides a glimpse into the work life of a prolific twentieth century American art critic through biographical material, correspondence with artists and critics, interviews, many unpublished writings, and printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Max Kozloff donated his papers to the Archives of American Art in 2016.

Related Materials
Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Max Kozloff conducted by Annette Leddy in 2014.

Processing Information
The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Hilary Price in 2016.

Preferred Citation

Restrictions
Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.
Conditions Governing Use

The Max Kozloff 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


Scope and Contents

The papers of art critic and photographer Max Kozloff measure 1.4 linear feet and date from circa 1950-2015. The collection provides a glimpse into the work life of a prolific twentieth century American art critic through biographical material, correspondence with artists and critics, interviews, many unpublished writings, and printed material.

Notable correspondents include David Antin, Allan Kaprow, Phil Leider, Dore Ashton, Jasper Johns, Robert Motherwell, Susan Sontag, Linda Nochlin, Miriam Schapiro, and others.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as five series

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1950-1970 (2 folders; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1961-2014 (0.6 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: Interviews, 1993-2014 (4 folders; Box 1)
- Series 4: Writings, circa 1950s-2015 (0.6 linear feet; Box 1-2)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1965-2015 (8 folders; Box 2)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Art criticism -- New York (State) -- New York
- Art critics -- New York (State) -- New York
- Photographers -- New York (State) -- New York
Types of Materials:
Interviews

Names:
Antin, David
Ashton, Dore
Johns, Jasper, 1930-
Kaprow, Allan
Leider, Philip, 1929-
Motherwell, Robert
Nochlin, Linda
Schapiro, Miriam, 1923-2015
Sontag, Susan, 1933-2004
Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1955-1970

2 Folders (Box 1)
Biographical material dates from circa 1955-1970 and is awards and a few photographs of Max Kozloff.

Box 1, Folder 1  Awards, 1965-1969
Box 1, Folder 2  Photographs, circa 1955-1970
Series 2: Correspondence, 1961-2014

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1)

Correspondence dates from 1961-2014 and is predominately professional in nature, relating to Kozloff's work as an art critic, author, and photographer. The series is mostly letters written to Kozloff, many in response to articles and reviews he wrote for The Nation and Artforum, however there are a few back and forth exchanges. Kozloff maintained a letter writing relationship with the photographer David Strick, exchanging ideas about art and politics. Appreciation letters are from Marcia Tucker, Leo Steinberg, Francesca Woodman, and others. Thank you notes are from Jasper Johns, Lucas Samaras, Robert Motherwell, Leo Steinberg, Robert Irwin, Fairfield Porter, and others. Outgoing letters are to The Nation, New York Times, Peter Plagens, Amy Goldin, Lucy Lippard, Joyce and Nikolas Kozloff, Willa Samors Lawall (former classmate at University of Chicago), and others.

Box 1, Folder 3  Antin, David, 2008
Box 1, Folder 4  Ashton, Dore, 1968 May 8
Box 1, Folder 5  Brach, Peter, 1974 June 10
Box 1, Folder 6  John Canaday, 1961 February 28
Box 1, Folder 7  Crockett, John, 1974 September 12
Box 1, Folder 8  Davis, Ron and Others, circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 9  DeCarava, Roy (regarding photography), 2001 January 13
Box 1, Folder 10 Denman, John, 1965 June 26
Box 1, Folder 11 Flusser, Vilém, 1987
Includes unpublished lecture by Flusser, "Immaterialism"
Box 1, Folder 12 Frankenstein, Alfred, 1969
Box 1, Folder 13 Freedman, Betty, 1964
Box 1, Folder 14 Fuller, Peter, 1977 January 19
Box 1, Folder 15 Greenberg, Clement, 1962
Box 1, Folder 16 Hare, Chauncey, 1979-1980
Box 1, Folder 17 Hatch, Robert (concerning publication of Renderings), 1969 April 14
Box 1, Folder 18 Hatch, Robert to the Ingram Merrill Foundation, 1964 November 6
| Box 1, Folder 19 | Herbert, Robert, 1975 |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Heron, Patrick, 1963 July 25 |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | Hess, Thomas B., 1970-1971 |
| Box 1, Folder 22 | Hills, Patricia, 1974 October 17 |
| Box 1, Folder 23 | Hoelterhoff, Manuela to Charles Cowles, 1976 January 13 |
| Box 1, Folder 24 | Hopps, Shirley, 1965 November 15 |
| Box 1, Folder 25 | Incao, Philip F., 1962 April 20 |
| Box 1, Folder 26 | Jeffrey, Ian, 1987-2010 |
| Box 1, Folder 27 | Jeffrey, Ian (regarding photography), 2009, 1987 |
| Box 1, Folder 28 | Johns, Jasper, 1965 |
| Box 1, Folder 29 | Kaprow, Allan, 1967 July 15 |
| Box 1, Folder 30 | Klein, William (regarding National Arts Club Gold Medal for Photography), 2004 May 3 |
| Box 1, Folder 31 | Kunzle, David, 1979 March 4 |
| Box 1, Folder 32 | Leider, Phil, 1967, 1970 |
| Box 1, Folder 33 | Lopes-Rey, Jose, 1964 October 12 |
| Box 1, Folder 34 | Mansfield, Robert, 1975 |
| Box 1, Folder 35 | Meyer, Pedro, circa 2000, 1982-1987 |
| Box 1, Folder 36 | Meyer, Pedro (regarding photography), 1984 January 23 |
| Box 1, Folder 37 | Meyers, John, 1965 March 18 |
| Box 1, Folder 38 | Miller, Edwin, 1969 April 25 |
| Box 1, Folder 39 | Motherwell, Robert, 1969 March 27 |
Box 1, Folder 40  Newman, Barnet to Carey McWilliams, Editor at The Nation, 1966 June 8
Box 1, Folder 41  Nochlin, Linda, 1973 April 23
Box 1, Folder 42  Pincus-Witten, Robert, 1965 January 18
Box 1, Folder 43  Proweller, William, 1974 March 4
Box 1, Folder 44  Reff, Ted, 1971 December 18
Box 1, Folder 45  Rivers, Larry, 1965
Box 1, Folder 46  Rubin, Arnold, 1977, 1976
Box 1, Folder 47  Schapiro, Miriam, 1979 March 25
Box 1, Folder 48  Slavin, Neal, 1974
Box 1, Folder 49  Sontag, Susan, 1976 March 27
Box 1, Folder 50  Steinberg, Leo, 1967, 1965
Box 1, Folder 51-52  Strick, David, 1999-2014
Box 1, Folder 53  Taylor, Joshua, 1963 September 9
Box 1, Folder 54  Varnedoe, Kirk, 1978 September 2
Box 1, Folder 55  Walch, Peter to the New York Times, 1975 December 23
Box 1, Folder 56  Appreciation Letters, 1962-1991
Box 1, Folder 57  Thank You Letters, 1962-2002
Box 1, Folder 58  Letters Regarding Kozloff's Resignation from Artforum, 1977
Box 1, Folder 59  Outgoing Letters, 1961-2006
Box 1, Folder 60  Outgoing Letters, Complaints, 1970-1996
Box 1, Folder 61  Outgoing Letter, Artforum Editor's Reply to Hilton Kramer's Criticism of Policy, 1977
Series 3: Interviews, 1993-2014

4 Folders (Box 1)


Box 1, Folder 62  Max Kozloff Interview by Amy Newman, Transcript, 1993 June 22
Box 1, Folder 63  Max Kozloff Interview by Elaine O'Brien, Transcript, 1993
Box 1, Folder 64  Conversation Between Max Kozloff and Bill Beckley, Transcript, 2004
Box 1, Folder 65  Max Kozloff Interview by Annette Leddy, Transcripts, 2014

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Series 4: Writings, circa 1950-2015

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Writings date from circa 1950-2015 and include published and unpublished works by Kozloff and a few writings by others. Found here are artist statements, book chapters and proposals including a memoir about art criticism in the 1960s, essays, lectures, and other writings. Artist statements were written for Kozloff's photography exhibitions and include slides of his work and printed material. Some early essays are from his time as a student.

Box 1, Folder 66 Artist Statements, 1978-2015

Box 1 Books

Box 1, Folder 67 The Theatre of the Face, 2007

Box 1, Folder 68 Proposal, "Paris/New York", circa 2000

Box 1, Folder 69 Proposal, "A Study of Color Photography", 2009

Box 1, Folder 70 Prospectus, "New York, Capital of Photography", 1999

Box 1 Essays

Box 1, Folder 71 "Argument for a Political Strike" (unpublished), 1969

Box 1, Folder 72 "As Luck Would Have It: The Element of Chance in Photography" (unpublished), 2010-2013

Box 1, Folder 73 "British Painting in 1963", 1963

Box 1, Folder 74 [Claude Cahun], 2008

Box 1, Folder 75 [Color in Art], circa 1960

Box 1, Folder 76 [Courbet's L'Atelier], 1964

Box 1, Folder 77 "Critical Reflections", 1997

Box 1, Folder 78 "The Digital Worm in the Photograph of the Apple", circa 1993

Box 1, Folder 79 "Genre Slippage in Portrait Photography", 2008

Box 1, Folder 80 "The Grandeurs and Miseries of the College Art Association" (unpublished), 1973
Box 1, Folder 81  
[George Inness], circa 1956

Box 1, Folder 82  
"Informal Study of Late Monet", 1950s

Box 1, Folder 83  
"La Dolce Vita and L’Avventura as Works of Art" (unpublished), 1961

Box 1, Folder 84  
"Liberalism and the Avant-Garde" (unpublished), circa 1960

Box 1, Folder 85  
[On a Group Portrait by Malick Sidibé], 2000s

Box 1, Folder 86  

Box 1, Folder 87  
"Two Vignettes of the New York Art Strike" (unpublished), 1970

Box 1 Lectures

Box 1, Folder 88  
"The Alarming Thing About Surrealist Painting," Stony Brook, circa 1978

Box 1, Folder 89  
"American Art Criticism in the 60s: A Memoir," University of Virginia, Richmond, and Virginia Museum of Fine Art, 1990s

Box 1, Folder 90  

Box 1, Folder 91  
"Art in Chicago, the 1950s," Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 1991

Box 1, Folder 92  
"Art Criticism in the 70s," Stony Brook, 1979

Box 1, Folder 93  
"Ben Shahn and New York Street Photography" (incomplete), 2000s

Box 1, Folder 94  

Box 1, Folder 95  
"Diego Rivera," Grand Palais, Paris, circa 1976

Box 1, Folder 96  

Box 2, Folder 1  
"The Further Adventures of Color Photography," The Getty, 1990s

Box 2, Folder 2  

Box 2, Folder 3  
"The Interrogation of Photography by Art," Israel, 1991
| Box 2, Folder 4 | "The Ironies of Conservatism" (possibly given at the Philadelphia Museum of Art), 1970s |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | "Lisette Model and Photography in New York City," Jeu de Paume, Paris, 2010 |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | "Lou Faurer's New York," Chicago Art Institute, 2002 |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | "The Medusa Syndrome," Columbia University, 1992 |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | "On the Appetite for Color," Pratt Institute, 1985 |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | "On Street Photography," Photographic Resource Center, Boston, 1995 |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | "On Trust and Belief in Photography," University of New Mexico, 1978 |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | "Photography and Comedy," Photographic Resource Center, Boston, 1970s |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | "Photography of Human Duress," Centre D'Hautes Etudes, Vevey, Switzerland, 1998 |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | "Problems of Photographic Perception," Australia, 1978 |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | "Remarks on Style in Portraiture," Gulbenkian Foundation, 1988 |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | "The Space of Photojournalism," Brown University, 1992 |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | "The Tension Between Aesthetics and Morality," Yivo Institute of Jewish Record, 1970s |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | "Weegee and Arbus: Chutzpah in Two Movements," West End Synagogue, 2010 |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | "When Words Fail," International Center for Photography Symposium, 1980s |
| Box 2 | Other Writings |
| Box 2, Folder 19 | "Argument Between Two Critics About the 'Offensive' of Art", 1993 |
| Box 2, Folder 20 | Articles about Art in Cuba, Published in the *Village Voice*, 1977 |
| Box 2, Folder 22 | Complaint About a Panel on Greenberg at College Art Association Conference, 1995 |
| Box 2, Folder 23 | Contribution to a Panel on Art Criticism for the Brooklyn Rail, Edited by Irving Sandler, 2000s |
| Box 2, Folder 24 | Proposed Course at the School of Visual Arts, "Visual Perception", 1980s |
| Box 2, Folder 25 | Prospectus for a Course at the School of Visual Arts, "Documentary Tradition", 1990s |
| Box 2, Folder 26 | Proposed Course for Masters Program in Photography at the School of Visual Arts, "Thinking Vision", 1993 |
| Box 2, Folder 27 | Excised Section on Bill Beckley from "Through the Narrative Portal," published in *Artforum*, 1986 |
| Box 2, Folder 28 | In Memoria, John Coplans, 2004 |
| Box 2, Folder 29 | Notes on Editorial Options of *Artforum*, 1974 |
| Box 2, Folder 30 | Notes for a Series of Lectures, "The Relation Between Truth and Fiction in Photographic Culture", 2000s |
| Box 2, Folder 31 | Notes on Jewish Sensibility in New York Photography for Panel at the Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam, 2003 |
| Box 2, Folder 32 | Précis of a Talk at College Art Association Conference, "Photojournalism and Truth", 1990s |
| Box 2, Folder 33 | Recommendations, 1970s-1990s |
| Box 2, Folder 34 | Reflections on Motivations of the Murders, September 11, 2001 |
| Box 2, Folder 36 | Statement of Ad Hoc Group for Israeli Newspapers after Shatila Massacre, circa 1982 |
| Box 2, Folder 37 | Writing by Ian Jeffrey, Reader's Report for *Theatre of the Face*, 2006 |
| Box 2, Folder 38 | Writing by Philip Lopate about Kozloff, 2015 |

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1965-2015

8 Folders (Box 2)

Printed material dates from 1965-2015 and includes announcements, clippings, press releases, price lists, and a few folders that are related by subject. Announcements include flyers, posters, and brochures, and advertise for lectures, symposia, exhibitions, and other events that Kozloff participated in. Clippings are from newspapers and magazines and are reviews, interviews, and articles relating to Kozloff and his work. Printed material by subject, predominantly clippings, relates to art and politics, protests during the Vietnam War, the controversy over the December 1975 issue of *Artforum*, and two of Kozloff's books.

| Box 2, Folder 39 | Announcements, 1969-2015 |
| Box 2, Folder 40 | Clippings, 1965-2008 |
| Box 2, Folder 41 | Press Releases and Price List, 1968-1993 |

Box 2

By Subject

| Box 2, Folder 42 | Art and Politics, 1970-1984 |
| Box 2, Folder 43 | Artists Protest Against Vietnam War, 1970, 1967 |
| Box 2, Folder 44 | Controversy Over *Artforum*'s Issue on Art and Politics, 1975 |
| Box 2, Folder 45 | *Jasper Johns*, 1969 |
| Box 2, Folder 46 | *Renderings*, 1969 |

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