



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

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

Hilary Price

2016 May 9

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1955-1970.....	4
Series 2: Correspondence, 1961-2014.....	5
Series 3: Interviews, 1993-2014.....	9
Series 4: Writings, circa 1950-2015.....	10
Series 5: Printed Material, 1965-2015.....	14

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:	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century American art critic through biographical material, correspondence with artists and critics, interviews, many unpublished writings, and printed material.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

Max Kozloff papers, circa 1950-2015. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

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.

Terms of Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations

concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the [Smithsonian's Terms of Use](#) for additional information.

Biographical / Historical

Max Kozloff (1933-) is an art critic and photographer in New York City. He received his BA in Art History from the University of Chicago in 1953 and studied at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, from 1959-1963. Kozloff wrote the art column for *The Nation* from 1961-1968, was associate and contributing editor to *Artforum* from 1963-1974 and executive editor from 1974-1976. Kozloff has published numerous essays and books, among them, *Renderings* (1969), *Jasper Johns* (1972), *The Privileged Eye* (1987), *New York: Capital of Photography* (2002), and *The Theatre of the Face* (2007). As a photographer, he has held exhibitions both in New York and internationally. Kozloff is the recipient of various awards and prizes including two NEA grants and a Guggenheim fellowship.

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
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

Occupations:

Art critics -- New York (State) -- New York

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

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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 <i>Renderings</i>), 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 <i>The Nation</i> , 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 <i>New York Times</i> , 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 <i>Artforum</i> , 1977
Box 1, Folder 59	Outgoing Letters, 1961-2006
Box 1, Folder 60	Outgoing Letters, Complaints, 1970-1996
Box 1, Folder 61	Outgoing Letter, <i>Artforum</i> Editor's Reply to Hilton Kramer's Criticism of Policy, 1977

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Interviews, 1993-2014

4 Folders (Box 1)

Interviews date from 1993, 2004, and 2014. Two interview transcripts are from 1993, including an interview by Amy Newman regarding "American Painting and the Cold War" and an interview by Elaine O'Brien regarding Harold Rosenberg. The 2014 interview by Annette Leddy was conducted for the Archives of American Art Oral History Program. One transcript is an unpublished conversation between Kozloff and Bill Beckley from 2004.

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

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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	<i>The Theatre of the Face</i> , 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 <i>L'Atelier</i>], 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 [The Problem of Blur in Photography] (unpublished), 1989
- 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 "American Happiness Poses of the 1950s," Tampa Society of Photographic Education, circa 1990
- 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 "Chutzpah in Three Movements: The Photography of Weegee, William Klein, and Frederic Brenner," University of South Carolina, 2005
- Box 1, Folder 95 "Diego Rivera," Grand Palais, Paris, circa 1976
- Box 1, Folder 96 "A Few Wrinkles in Portrait Photography," The Photographers Gallery, London, 2009
- Box 2, Folder 1 "The Further Adventures of Color Photography," The Getty, 1990s
- Box 2, Folder 2 "Genre Shifts in Photography," Art Gallery of Ontario, 1974
- 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 21 Book Review, *Bloomington's, Diana Vreeland, and the New Aristocracy of Taste in Reagan's America*, by Debora Silverman, 1970s

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 <i>Artforum</i> , 1986
Box 2, Folder 28	In Memoria, John Coplans, 2004
Box 2, Folder 29	Notes on Editorial Options of <i>Artforum</i> , 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 35	Rejected Review of Museum of Modern Art Exhibition, "American Politicians Photographs from 1843-1993", circa 1994
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 <i>Theatre of the Face</i> , 2006
Box 2, Folder 38	Writing by Philip Lopate about Kozloff, 2015

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Printed Material, 1965-2015

8 Folders (Box 2)

Printed material dates from 1965-2015 and is 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 <i>Artforum's</i> Issue on Art and Politics, 1975
Box 2, Folder 45	<i>Jasper Johns</i> , 1969
Box 2, Folder 46	<i>Renderings</i> , 1969

[Return to Table of Contents](#)