



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Mary Kretsinger papers,
1951-1981, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

2022/03/02

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Mary Kretsinger papers |
| Date: | 1951-1985 |
| Identifier: | AAA.kretmary |
| Creator: | Kretsinger, Mary, 1915- |
| Extent: | 1.1 Linear feet |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | The papers of metal-worker Mary Kretsinger measure 1.1 linear feet and date from 1951 to 1985. The collection comprises professional files documenting Kretsinger's activities with various exhibitions, commissions, and galleries and museums, and photographic materials of Kretsinger and her artwork that include a binder and photograph album. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Mary Kretsinger papers were donated in 1996 by Mary Kretsinger.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2022.

Preferred Citation

Mary Kretsinger papers, 1951-1985. 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

Mary Kretsinger (1915-2001) was a metal-worker in Emporia, Kansas, who excelled in liturgical objects and was also known for her formed and constructed containers and cloisonné boxes.

Kretsinger began painting and drawing while attending Emporia High School, and then attended the University of Kansas graduating in 1937. Kretsinger went on to receive a Master of Arts degree in 1941 from the University of Iowa. Early in her career she studied with prominent metal-workers such as Rudolf Brom in Kansas and with Adda Husted-Andersen at the Craft Students League in New York.

Kretsinger taught at Emporia State Teachers College from 1950 to 1964, and opened her own workshop in 1957. Kretsinger left her teaching position in 1964 to focus on her art full time.

Scope and Contents

The papers of metal-worker Mary Kretsinger measure 1.1 linear feet and date from 1951 to 1985. The collection comprises professional files documenting Kretsinger's activities with various exhibitions, commissions, and galleries and museums including the Brookfield Craft Center, Philadelphia Art Alliance, Museum of Contemporary Crafts, and others; and photographic materials of Kretsinger and works of art that include a binder and photograph album.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 2 series.

- Series 1: Professional Files, 1951-1985 (0.9 linear feet; Box 1, OV 2)
 - Series 2: Photographic Materials, 1960s (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
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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:

Women artists
Women educators

Names:

American Crafts Council. Museum of Contemporary Crafts
Philadelphia Art Alliance

Occupations:

Educators -- Kansas
Metal-workers -- Kansas

Container Listing

Series 1: Professional Files, 1951-1985

0.9 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 2)

Scope and Contents: The series contains project plans with drawings, contracts, invoices and payment receipts, correspondence, price and artwork lists, and other business records. The files relate to various museums, galleries, commissions, exhibitions, and other organizations including the Brookfield Craft Center, the Philadelphia Art Alliance, Museum of Contemporary Crafts, and others, and exhibitions such as the *Fiber, Clay, Metal* shows and the Kansas Designer Craftsman Show.

Also included are a couple of folders containing exhibition catalogs and announcements, and other printed materials relating to Kretsinger's exhibitions and career.

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|---------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Architect Willoughby Marshall, 1965-1972 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Beech Aircraft Corporation / Olive Ann Beech, 1967-1969 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Botolph Group Inc., 1963-1968 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Brookfield Craft Center, 1958-1974 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Craft Guild of San Antonio, 1960 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, 1963-1973 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Denver Art Museum, 1951-1954 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Design Gallery, 1968-1972 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Fiber, Clay, Metal Shows, 1959-1962 |
| Box 1, Folder 10-11 | General, 1954-1977 |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Holy Rood Guild, 1964-1966 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Joslyn Museum, 1951-1962 |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 1963 |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | Kansas Designer Craftsman Show, 1958-1963 |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | The Market, 1974-1985 |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | Martha Jackson Gallery, 1960-1963 |

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| Box 1, Folder 18 | Museum of Contemporary Crafts, 1964-1969 |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | National Religious Art Exhibition, 1962 |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Norman T. Brunelli and Associates, 1967-1970 |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | O'Bryant, Mrs. Arch, 1966-1967 |
| Box 1, Folder 22 | P and C Allied Architects and Designs, 1966-1973 |
| Oversize 2 | P and C Allied Architects and Designs, 1971 |
| Box 1, Folder 23 | Philadelphia Art Alliance, 1959-1964 |
| Box 1, Folder 24-25 | Printed Materials, circa 1960s-1970s |
| Box 1, Folder 26 | Rhode Island School of Design, 1961-1962 |
| Box 1, Folder 27 | Rochester Memorial Art Gallery, 1956-1958 |
| Box 1, Folder 28 | Schoellkopt, Peggy, 1965-1966 |
| Box 1, Folder 29 | St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Emporia, 1973-1974 |
| Box 1, Folder 30 | Summer Workshops, 1964-1965 |
| Box 1, Folder 31 | Wichita Art Association, 1951-1968 |
| Box 1, Folder 32 | Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths of the City of London, 1961-1962 |

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Series 2: Photographic Materials, 1960s

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The series consists of photographs and slides of Kretsinger, Kretsinger and John Szymak, and works of art. Also included is a binder with images of the artist's work grouped by project or decade and a photograph album of jewelry.

Box 1, Folder 33 [Photographs of Kretsinger, 1960-1964](#)

Box 1, Folder 34 Works of Art, Photograph, circa 1965

Box 1, Folder 35-36 Works of Art, Binder of Slides and Photographs, circa 1960s
Notes: Material in folders was removed from binder but original order was maintained. Also, a photograph of Kretsinger working is included.

Box 1, Folder 37 Works of Art, Photograph Album, 1960s

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