



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

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

Sarah Mundy

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Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Mary Kretsinger papers
<b>Date:</b>	1951-1985
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.kretmary
<b>Creator:</b>	Kretsinger, Mary, 1915-
<b>Extent:</b>	1.1 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	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.

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## 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.

### Conditions Governing Use

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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.

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## 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.

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## 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

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## 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.

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
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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