



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Bernard Langlais Papers, circa 1925-2010, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

2020 October 9

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Bernard Langlais papers
Date:	circa 1925-2010
Identifier:	AAA.langbern
Creator:	Langlais, Bernard, 1921-1977
Extent:	13.3 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Bernard Langlais measure 13.3 linear feet and date from circa 1925 to 2010. The papers document Langlais' career as a painter and sculptor through correspondence with friends, colleagues, and art institutions and organizations; writings; exhibition records, video recordings about Langlais, resumes, and other professional activity files; appraisals, invoices, inventories, and other personal business records; newspaper and magazine clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and press releases; as well as scrapbooks, drawings, sketchbooks, and photographic material of Langlais and his artwork.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The bulk of the collection was donated 2015 by Colby College Museum of Art via Paige Doore, Curricular Registrar, who received the papers as a bequest from Helen Langlais. Papers on reels 859-860 were lent for microfilming in 1974 by Langlais and subsequently donated in 1997 with additional papers by Helen Friend Langlais, Langlais' widow. One video recording, "Noon Exercise: Bernard Langlais" was donated in 1981 by WCBB-TV, Lewiston, ME via Harriet Passerman, Cultural Affairs Director.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Bernard Langlais conducted by Robert Brown on February 21, 1973.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels 859-860 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Bernard Langlais papers, circa 1925-2010. 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. Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

Video recording "Noon Exercise: Bernard Langlais" is publication restricted. Authorization to quote or reproduce for purposes of publication requires written permission from WCBB-TV, Lewiston, Maine. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Bernard Langlais (1921-1977) was a sculptor and painter in Cushing, Maine. Langlais was born in Old Town, Maine. He attended the Corcoran School of Art, moved to New York, and became a close friend of many of the rising New York artists. Tiring of the New York competitive art scene, he returned to Maine, abandoned abstract painting, and achieved considerable success with monumental wooden outdoor sculpture.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Bernard Langlais measure 13.3 linear feet and date from circa 1925 to 2010. The papers document Langlais' career as a painter and sculptor through correspondence with friends, colleagues, and art institutions and organizations; writings; exhibition records, video recordings about Langlais, resumes, and other professional activity files; appraisals, invoices, inventories, and other personal business records; newspaper and magazine clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and press releases; as well as scrapbooks, drawings, sketchbooks, and photographic material of Langlais and his artwork.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into eight series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1940-2005 (1.4 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 2: Writings, circa 1959-1979 (0.1 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 3: Professional Activity Files, 1948-2010 (2.7 linear feet; Boxes 2-4, FC 23-24)
- Series 4: Personal Business Records, 1962-2004 (2.2 linear feet; Boxes 5-7)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1941-2008 (1.9 linear feet; Boxes 7-9, 15)
- Series 6: Scrapbooks, 1935-1979 (0.7 linear feet; Box 9, 15-16)
- Series 7: Artwork, circa 1937 (2.1 linear feet; Box 9, 12-14, OV 17-22)
- Series 8: Photographic Material, 1936-2001 (2.2 linear feet; Boxes 10-11, 14-15)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

- Drawings
- Video recordings

Occupations:

- Painters -- Maine
- Sculptors -- Maine

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1940-2005

1.4 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence includes letters to friends, colleagues, and art institutions. Also included are sympathy letters to Helen Langlais following the death of Bernard in 1977, and correspondence between Helen and art organizations in the years after her husband's death concerning exhibiting his works.

Box 1, Folder 1-5	Correspondence, undated
Box 1, Folder 6-10	Correspondence, 1940-1950
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1951
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1955
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1957-1958
Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence, 1960
Box 1, Folder 15-16	Correspondence, 1961-1963
Box 1, Folder 17	Correspondence, 1964
Box 1, Folder 18-22	Correspondence, 1965-1967
Box 1, Folder 23-29	Correspondence, 1968-1971
Box 1, Folder 30-33	Correspondence, 1972-1973
Box 1, Folder 34-35	Correspondence, 1974
Box 1, Folder 36-37	Correspondence, 1975
Box 1, Folder 38-41	Correspondence, 1976-1978
Box 1, Folder 42	Correspondence, 1979
Box 1, Folder 43	Correspondence, 1982
Box 1, Folder 44	Correspondence, 1983
Box 1, Folder 45	Correspondence, 1984

Box 1, Folder 46	Correspondence, 1985
Box 1, Folder 47	Correspondence, 1986
Box 1, Folder 48	Correspondence, 1987
Box 1, Folder 49	Correspondence, 1990-1992
Box 1, Folder 50	Correspondence, 1993
Box 1, Folder 51	Correspondence, 1994-1995
Box 1, Folder 52	Correspondence, 1996-1997
Box 1, Folder 53	Correspondence, 1998
Box 2, Folder 1	Correspondence, 2000-2001
Box 2, Folder 2	Correspondence, 2002
Box 2, Folder 3	Correspondence, 2003
Box 2, Folder 4	Correspondence, 2004
Box 2, Folder 5	Correspondence, 2005
Box 2, Folder 6	Roland Weber, 1978-1986
Box 2, Folder 7	Greeting Cards, 1964
Box 2, Folder 8	Reflection by Helen Langlais, Floral Arrangement Sympathy Cards, 1977-1978
Box 2, Folder 9-15	Sympathy Cards, 1977-1978

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Series 2: Writings, circa 1959-1979

0.1 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Writings include a short autobiography by Langlais, poems written by both Langlais and other artists, writings about Langlais, and miscellaneous notes.

Box 2, Folder 16	Artist Statements, undated
Box 2, Folder 17	Autobiography, undated
Box 2, Folder 18-19	Notes, 1979
Box 2, Folder 20	"October at Scott's", undated
Box 2, Folder 21	On Langlais, undated
Box 2, Folder 22	Poems, circa 1975
Box 2, Folder 23	Poems by Others, undated
Box 2, Folder 24	Reviews by Others, circa 1959
Box 2, Folder 25	Miscellaneous, undated

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Series 3: Professional Activity Files, 1948-2010

2.7 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4, FC 23-24)

Scope and Contents: Professional material includes records of exhibitions that Langlais participated in and exhibitions organized by his wife in the years after his death. Also included are materials related to some of his commissioned sculptures. There are also a few film and video recordings about Langlais and his sculptures.

Box 2, Folder 26	Anne Weber Gallery, 1984
Box 2, Folder 27	Architectural Digest, 1985-1987
Box 2, Folder 28	Archives of American Art, 1978-2001
Box 2, Folder 29	Art Fellows Gallery, 1987
Box 2, Folder 30	Artists for Jim Tierney, 1986
Box 2, Folder 31	Awards and Certificates, 1948-2010
Box 2, Folder 32	Barridoff Galleries, 1992-2000
Box 2, Folder 33	Bernard Langlais Memorial Scholarship, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, 1978-1985
Item FC 23	Bernard Langlais Sculptures, 1977, 1979 1 Motion picture film Notes: Film reel was originally 3 film reels that were merged into one reel. Footage is of Langlais's home, garden, studio, and outdoor sculptures on his farm.
Item FC 24	Blackie's Garden, 1979 1 Motion picture film Notes: Footage of wooden sculptures of animals and people on Langlais's farm. Note on box: Blackie's Garden Aug. 1979 Reel 4 200ft. Note inside box: Edward MacNeil
Box 2, Folder 34	Brott Gallery, 1983
Box 2, Folder 35	Cape Split Place Inc., 1978-1985
Box 2, Folder 36-37	Center for Maine Contemporary Art, 1984-2002
Box 2, Folder 38	Cherry Stone Gallery, 1985-1989
Box 2, Folder 39	City of Rockland Sculpture Competition, 1986

Box 2, Folder 40	Clown Gallery, 2004
Box 2, Folder 41	Colby College, 1984-1989
Box 2, Folder 42	Colby College Museum of Art, 1983-2008
Box 2, Folder 43	Congress for Safe Energy Project, 1980-1981
Box 2, Folder 44-45	Farnsworth Art Museum, 1978-1999
Box 2, Folder 46	Frick Gallery, 1993-1995
Box 3, Folder 1	Frost Gully Gallery, 1978-1996
Box 3, Folder 2	Film Proposal, undated
Box 3, Folder 3	Gallery at Greenville, 1983-1984
Box 3, Folder 4	Geo Ann, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Folder 5	Greenwich Library, 1977-1978
Box 3, Folder 6	The Grossmans Companies, Inc., 1979-1983
Box 3, Folder 7	Hobe Sound Galleries North, 1984-1986
Box 3, Folder 8	Hobe Sound Galleries North, 1987-1989
Box 3, Folder 9	Hobe Sound Galleries North, 1990-1991
Box 3, Folder 10	Hobe Sound Galleries North, 1992-1993
Box 3, Folder 11-13	Hobe Sound Galleries, 1977-1996
Box 3, Folder 14	James E. Tierney, 1988
Box 3, Folder 15	June Fitzpatrick Gallery, 2002-2005
Box 3, Folder 16	June LaCombe, 1998
Box 3, Folder 17	Katonah Museum of Art, 2000
Box 3, Folder 18	Langlais-HP, 1981 July 2 1 Videocassettes (U-matic)
Box 3, Folder 19	Lee Ault & Company, Inc., 1978-1980

Box 3, Folder 20	Le Va-tout B & B Gallery and Gardens, 1994
Box 3, Folder 21	Makler Gallery, 1984
Box 3, Folder 22	Maine Coast Artists Contracts, 1968-1975
Box 3, Folder 23	Maine Festival, 1985
Box 3, Folder 24	Maine State Commission of the Arts and Humanities, 1972
Box 3, Folder 25	Midtown Galleries, 1985-1986
Box 3, Folder 26	Midtown Galleries, 1987
Box 3, Folder 27	Midtown Galleries, 1988-1992
Box 3, Folder 28	Morrison Footage, undated 1 Videocassettes (U-matic)
Box 4, Folder 1	Noon Exercise, 1981 January 14 2 Videocassettes (U-matic)
Box 4, Folder 2	New York Exhibition, 1980-1986
Box 4, Folder 3-4	Ogunquit Museum of American Art, 1976-2004
Box 4, Folder 5-6	Old Town Museum, 1979-1997
Box 4, Folder 7	Payson Weisberg Gallery, 1981-1984
Box 4, Folder 8	Peter Rose Gallery, 1983-1986
Box 4, Folder 9	Philadelphia Zoological Gardens, 1979-1982
Box 4, Folder 10	Photo List For Children's Book, 1983, 1985
Box 4, Folder 11-15	Portland Museum of Art, 1983-2004
Box 4, Folder 16	Provincetown Art Association and Museum, 1981
Box 4, Folder 17-18	Resumes, 1962-1977
Box 4, Folder 19	Sandpoint, Idaho Federal Building Contract, 1977-1978
Box 4, Folder 20	Skowhegan Indian Statue, 1968-1984
Box 4, Folder 21	Talent Tree Art Gallery, 1980-1981

Box 4, Folder 22	Threshold Learning, Inc., undated
Box 4, Folder 23-24	University of Maine, 1979-1990
Box 4, Folder 25	University of Maine, Augusta, 1981-2004
Box 4, Folder 26-27	Wingspread Gallery, 1978-1984
Box 4, Folder 28-30	Miscellaneous, 1950-1985

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Series 4: Personal Business Records, 1962-2004

2.2 Linear feet (Boxes 5-7)

Scope and Contents: Personal business records includes appraisals, invoices and inventory lists. Also included are shoeboxes of inventory, collection cards and files of photographs of artwork that were at one point attached to the collection cards.

Box 5, Folder 1	Appraiser Information, 1999
Box 5, Folder 2	Artwork Conservation, 2002
Box 5, Folder 3	Colby College, 1991-2005
Box 5, Folder 4	David Shaw, 2002-2003
Box 5, Folder 5	Farm Purchase and Repair, 1965-1966
Box 5, Folder 6	Index of Works, 1977
Box 5, Folder 7	Inventory Lists, 1983, 1985
Box 5, Folder 8-9	Inventory, undated
Box 5, Folder 10	Inventory for Appraisal, 1978
Box 5, Folder 11	Inventory for Appraisal, 1978
Box 5, Folder 12	Inventory and Appraisal, undated
Box 5, Folder 13	Inventory Slide List, undated
Box 5, Folder 14	Invoices, 1962-1977
Box 5, Folder 15	Lumber Sales, 1981-1984
Box 5, Folder 16	Price Lists, 1963-1964
Box 5, Folder 17	Proposals, 1972
Box 5, Folder 18	Receipts From Frost Gully Gallery, 1970-1975
Box 5, Folder 19	Shipping Receipts, 1968-1970
Box 5, Folder 20	Inventory Index Cards, undated
Box 5, Folder 21-22	Inventory Index Cards, undated

Box 6, Folder 1-3	Inventory Index Cards, undated
Box 7, Folder 1-3	Inventory Index Card Photos, undated Notes: Photographs of Langlais's collection that were adhered to the Index Inventory Cards, but have fallen off over time. Some of the cards still have the photographs attached to them.
Box 7, Folder 4	Miscellaneous, 1962-1970

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1941-2008

1.9 Linear feet (Boxes 7-9)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes newspaper and magazine clippings related to Langlais works, exhibition catalogs and announcements, press releases, and some newsletters.

Box 7, Folder 5	Alnats Magazines, 1946-1948
Box 7, Folder 6	"Animals in India", circa 1954
Box 7, Folder 7	"America's Indian Statues", 1966
Box 7, Folder 8	Artwork, undated
Box 15, Folder 1	Artwork Reproduction, undated
Box 7, Folder 9	Clippings, 1964-1979
Box 7, Folder 10	Clippings, 1969-1974
Box 7, Folder 11	Clippings, 1940-2005
Box 7, Folder 12	Clippings, 1971
Box 7, Folder 13	Clippings, January-June, 1972
Box 7, Folder 14	Clippings, July-December, 1972
Box 7, Folder 15	Clippings, 1973
Box 7, Folder 16	Clippings, January-July, 1974
Box 7, Folder 17	Clippings, August-December, 1974
Box 7, Folder 18	Clippings, 1975
Box 7, Folder 19	Clippings, 1976
Box 7, Folder 20	Clippings, 1977
Box 7, Folder 21	Clippings, 1959-1974
Box 7, Folder 22	Clippings, 1940-1945
Box 7, Folder 23	Clippings, 2000-2005

Box 7, Folder 24	Clippings, 1968-1984
Box 7, Folder 25	Clippings, circa 1975-1978
Box 7, Folder 26	Clippings, 1970-1979
Box 7, Folder 27	Clippings, 1979
Box 7, Folder 28	Clippings, 1968-1969
Box 7, Folder 29	Clippings, 1970-1979
Box 7, Folder 30	Clippings, 1944-1947
Box 8, Folder 1-8	Clippings, 1950-1989
Box 8, Folder 9-17	Exhibition Announcements, 1961-2005
Box 8, Folder 18	Exhibition Catalogs, 1964-1981
Box 8, Folder 19	Exhibition Catalogs, 1965-1997
Box 8, Folder 20	Exhibition Catalogs, 1962-1981
Box 8, Folder 21	Exhibition Catalogs, 1970-2003
Box 8, Folder 22	Exhibition Catalogs, 1961-2001
Box 8, Folder 23	Exhibition Catalogs, 1964-1981
Box 8, Folder 24	Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1973-1990
Box 8, Folder 25-31	Magazine Clippings, 1941-2008
Box 8, Folder 32	"Maine: A Legacy in Painting, 1830 to the Present", 2005
Box 8, Folder 33	NAS Honolulu Photo Album, 1945
Box 8, Folder 34	Newsletters, 1973-1977
Box 8, Folder 35-36	Press Releases, 1962-1976
Box 15, Folder 2	"War Atlas For Americans, 1944
Box 8, Folder 37	Miscellaneous, 1969-1975

Box 9, Folder 1-4

Miscellaneous, 1943-2002

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Series 6: Scrapbooks, 1935-1979

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 9, 15-16)

Scope and Contents: Scrapbooks are mixed media containing handwritten notes, sketches, and printed material such as clippings and exhibition announcements.

Box 9, Folder 5	Scrapbook 1, 1979
Box 9, Folder 6	Scrapbook 2, 1971-1977
Box 9, Folder 7	Scrapbook 3, circa 1935
Box 9, Folder 8	Scrapbook 4, circa 1976
Box 15, Folder 4	Scrapbook 5, 1943-1972
Box 16, Item 1	Scrapbook 6, 1945-1946
Box 16, Item 2	Scrapbook 7, 1942

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Series 7: Artwork, circa 1937

2.1 Linear feet (Boxes 9, 12-14, OV 17-22)

Scope and Contents: Artwork consists of drawings, sketches, a couple of sketchbooks, and some oversized paintings and sketches.

Box 9, Folder 9-12	Drawings, undated
Box 9, Folder 13	Painting, undated
Box 12	Paintings, undated
Oversize 17	Paintings, undated
Oversize 18	Paintings, undated
Oversize 19	Paintings, undated
Oversize 22	Painting and Stencils, undated
Box 13, Folder 1-5	Sketches and Paintings, undated
Box 9, Folder 14-18	Sketches, 1937-1939, undated
Box 14, Folder 4	Sketches, undated
Oversize 20	Sketches, undated
Oversize 21	Sketches, undated
Box 9, Folder 19-23	Sketchbooks, circa 1959
Box 12	Sketchbook, undated
Box 13	Sketchbook, undated Notes: Sketchbook is a scrapbook used as a sketchbook instead, and is labeled "Scrapbook."
Box 14, Folder 1	Sketchbooks, undated
Box 14, Folder 3	Student Artwork, undated

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Series 8: Photographic Material, circa 1925-2001

2.2 Linear feet (Boxes 10-11, 14-15)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material consists of photographs of Langlais during his time in the Navy, photographs of his paintings and sculptures, and photographs and transparencies of exhibitions that his works were featured in.

Box 10, Folder 1	Bernard Langlais, circa 1963-1979
Box 10, Folder 2	Bernard Langlais, 1964-1975
Box 10, Folder 3	Personal, circa 1925-1977
Box 10, Folder 4	Personal, 1944-1990
Box 10, Folder 5	Personal, circa 1921-1963
Box 10, Folder 6	Personal, 1954-1978
Box 10, Folder 7	Personal, circa 1925-1950
Box 10, Folder 8	Personal, circa 1950-1977
Box 10, Folder 9	Personal, 1935-1977
Box 10, Folder 10	Personal, 1952-1958
Box 10, Folder 11	Personal, 1958-1975
Box 10, Folder 12	Personal, circa 1968-1972
Box 10, Folder 13	Personal, circa 1921-1977
Box 10, Folder 14	Personal, circa 1946
Box 10, Folder 15	Personal, circa 1945
Box 10, Folder 16	Personal, circa 1948
Box 10, Folder 17	Personal, circa 1945
Box 10, Folder 18	Personal, 1974
Box 15, Folder 3	Personal, undated
Box 10, Folder 19	Navy Portraits, 1942-1943

Box 10, Folder 20-24	Navy, 1943-1947
Box 10, Folder 25	Artwork, 1961-1981
Box 10, Folder 26	Artwork, circa 1945-1991
Box 10, Folder 27	Artwork, 1970-1987
Box 10, Folder 28	Artwork, 1975-1988
Box 10, Folder 29	Artwork, circa 1945-1991
Box 10, Folder 30	Artwork, circa 1945-1991
Box 10, Folder 31	Artwork, circa 1966-1991
Box 10, Folder 32	Artwork, circa 1945-1991
Box 10, Folder 33	Artwork, 1968-1978
Box 10, Folder 34	Artwork, 1990
Box 10, Folder 35	Artwork, circa 1970
Box 10, Folder 36	Artwork, 1982-1984
Box 10, Folder 37	Artwork, circa 1945
Box 14, Folder 2	Artwork, undated
Box 11, Folder 1-2	Paintings, circa 1957
Box 11, Folder 3	Works on Paper, undated
Box 11, Folder 4-10	Sculptures, 1965-1972
Box 11, Folder 11	Animal Sculpture, undated
Box 11, Folder 12	Outdoor Sculpture, 1981-1986
Box 11, Folder 13	Outdoor Sculpture, 1976-1987
Box 11, Folder 14	Outdoor Sculpture, 1996
Box 11, Folder 15	Outdoor Sculpture, 2000
Box 11, Folder 16	Animal Murals, undated

Box 11, Folder 17-18	Abstract Wood Reliefs, 1962
Box 11, Folder 19-22	Wood Reliefs, 1970-1977
Box 11, Folder 23	Animals, circa 1976
Box 11, Folder 24	Football, 1969-1979
Box 11, Folder 25	Horse, 1966
Box 11, Folder 26	Noah's Ark, 1969
Box 11, Folder 27	Quarterback, 1979-1984
Box 11, Folder 28	Sheep, undated
Box 11, Folder 29	Shrine, 1970, 1993
Box 11, Folder 30	Skowhegan Indian, 1967-1969
Box 11, Folder 31	Art Studio, undated
Box 11, Folder 32	Gallery Photos, 1958-1961
Box 11, Folder 33	Leo Castelli Exhibition, 1961
Box 11, Folder 34	Opening of "Bernard Langlais: Abstract Wood Reliefs" Exhibition, 2001 July 23
Box 11, Folder 35	Contact Sheets, circa 1942
Box 11, Folder 36	Negatives, Solo Exhibition, 1959
Box 11, Folder 37	Negatives, Langlais at Work, undated
Box 11, Folder 38-39	Transparencies, undated

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