



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Neil Juhl Larsen Research
Material on Charles Biederman, circa
1927-2011, in the Archives of American Art

Erin Kinhart

2014 August 21

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.....	3
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Charles Biederman Papers, circa 1927-2004.....	4
Series 2: Research Files, circa 1941-2011.....	9

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Neil Juhl Larsen research material on Charles Biederman
Identifier:	AAA.larsneil
Date:	circa 1927-2011
Extent:	9.4 Linear feet
Creator:	Larsen, Neil Juhl
Language:	Collection is in English.
Summary:	<p>The Neil Juhl Larsen research material on Charles Biederman measures 9.4 linear feet and dates from circa 1927-2011. The material was compiled primarily by Neil Juhl Larsen in preparation for his biography, <i>Charles Biederman</i> (Hudson Hills Press, 2011). Also included is a small amount of material compiled by art historian Susan Larsen (no relation to Neil), who completed the book after Neil Larsen's death in 2006. The bulk of the research material consists of original papers belonging to Charles Biederman, including biographical material, correspondence, writings, personal business records, printed material, and photographs. These papers were given to Neil Juhl Larsen by Biederman and his daughter Anna Biederman Brown.</p>

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2012 by Susan M. Fridley, Neil Juhl Larsen's widow. Original material came directly from Charles Biederman and his daughter Anna Biederman Brown for the purposes of completing Biederman's biography and was compiled by Neil Larsen, and after his death, by Susan Larsen.

Location of Originals

Originals of document photocopies and photographs of artwork found in this collection are located at the Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota.

Related Materials

Also in the Archives of American Art are 23 reels of microfilm (reels 1446-1450 and 1662-1679) of the Charles Biederman papers, loaned for microfilming in 1978-1979. The Biederman papers are now located at the Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota. Additionally, the Archives of American Art holds the microfilm of the David Barr papers relating to Charles Biederman (reel 1294), and an oral history interview with Charles Biederman, conducted 1976 May 6, by Paul Cummings.

Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Erin Kinhart in 2014. The collection was minimally rearranged and retained the existing/original folder titles when possible. All materials have been rehoused in archival folders and boxes for long-term stability, but not all staples and other fasteners were removed. Items within folders have not been rearranged.

Preferred Citation

Neil Juhl Larsen research material on Charles Biederman, circa 1927-2011. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Washington, D.C. Research Center.

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

Neil Juhl Larsen (1956-2006) was a writer, artist, friend, and biographer of modernist painter and sculptor Charles Biederman (1906-2004). Larsen died in 2006 while preparing the biography, and the project was turned over to art historian Susan Larsen (no relation to Neil), who had written on Biederman as well. The biography, *Charles Biederman*, was published in 2011.

Scope and Contents

The Neil Juhl Larsen research material on Charles Biederman measures 9.4 linear feet and dates from circa 1927-2011. The material was compiled primarily by Neil Juhl Larsen in preparation for his biography, *Charles Biederman* (Hudson Hills Press, 2011). Also included is a small amount of material compiled by art historian Susan Larsen (no relation to Neil), who completed the book after Neil Larsen's death in 2006. The bulk of the research material consists of original papers belonging to Charles Biederman, including biographical material, correspondence, writings, personal business records, printed material, and photographs. These papers were given to Neil Juhl Larsen by Biederman and his daughter Anna Biederman Brown.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 2 series.

- Series 1: Charles Biederman Papers, circa 1927-2004 (Boxes 1-6; 6.0 linear feet)
 - Series 2: Research Files, circa 1941-2011 (Boxes 7-10; 3.4 linear feet)
-

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Modernism (Art)

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Biederman, Charles Joseph, 1906-2004

Larsen, Susan C.

Occupations:

Painters -- Minnesota

Sculptors -- Minnesota

Container Listing

Series 1: Charles Biederman Papers, circa 1927-2004

6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-6)

The Charles Biederman papers consists of biographical material, correspondence, writings, personal papers, printed material, and photographs which were given to Neil Juhl Larsen during the course of his work on the book *Charles Biederman*. While most papers are original, some of the writings and correspondence are photocopies.

The series is arranged as 6 subseries.

- 1.1: Biographical Material, 1932-2004
- 1.2: Correspondence, 1935-2004
- 1.3: Writings, 1950-2004
- 1.4: Personal Business Records, 1960-2001
- 1.5: Printed Material, 1933-1996
- 1.6: Photographs, circa 1927-2003

1.1: Biographical Material, 1932-2004

Found here is scattered biographical material regarding Charles Biederman including various resumes, chronologies and biographical content for Biederman's website. Also found are thoughts on Biederman written by his wife Mary, caregiver notes and recollections, a list of books in Biederman's library, and an oral history interview transcript. Researchers should note that additional documents such as one address book, estate and selective service records, and passports are primarily photocopies of originals.

Box 1, Folder 1	Address Book, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Archives of American Art Oral History Transcript, 1976
Box 1, Folder 3	Biographical Resumes and Chronologies, 1969-1976
Box 1, Folder 4	Books in Personal Library, 1999-2000
Box 1, Folder 5	Caregiver's Journal and Various Personal Recollections, 2002-2004
Box 1, Folder 6	Estate Planning, 1978
Box 1, Folder 7	Passports, 1932-1988
Box 1, Folder 8	Selective Service, 1941-1945
Box 1, Folder 9	Thoughts on Charles Written by Mary Biederman, 1936
Box 1, Folder 10	Website Content, 2001

1.2: Correspondence, 1935-2004

The majority of correspondence is between Charles Biederman, his wife Mary, and daughter Anna. Included are "Morning Notes" which Biederman would write late at night in his studio and leave on the breakfast table for Mary and Anna to read in the morning. Many of these are illustrated. Also included is correspondence with Mary's brother-in-law and sister, John and Eugenie Anderson. John Anderson was also an patron of Biederman's early artistic work. Additional correspondence of note is with writers Leif Sjoberg, Joan Waddell Barnes, and artist Jean Albert Gorin. The bulk of the correspondence found here is either photocopies or typescripts of originals.

Box 1, Folder 11-19	Anderson, John and Eugenie, 1935-1942
Box 1, Folder 20-21	Barnes, Joan Waddell - Excerpts from Letters, 1941-1942
Box 1, Folder 22-34	Biederman, Anna, 1952, 1955, 1961-1969
Box 1, Folder 35-38	Biederman, Mary, 1940
Box 2, Folder 1-18	Biederman, Mary, 1941-1974
Box 2, Folder 19	Biederman, Mary, undated
Box 2, Folder 20-24	"Morning Notes" to Mary and Anna Biederman, 1950s
Box 2, Folder 25-27	Gorin, Jean Albert, 1946-1952
Box 2, Folder 28	Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 1976
Box 2, Folder 29-30	Sjoberg, Leif, 1969-1979
Box 2, Folder 31	Zabriskie Gallery, 1972
Box 2, Folder 32	Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1940-2004

1.3: Writings, 1950-2004

Writings include notebooks, notes, poetry, essays, and other draft writings by Charles Biederman. Most of the writings are on nature. Researchers should note that most of these documents are photocopies of originals, especially writings dating before 1995.

Box 2, Folder 33	Notebook, 1950-1988
Box 2, Folder 34	Notebook, circa 2004
Box 2, Folder 35-39	Notes From Nature, 1957-1990

Box 3, Folder 1-5	Notes, 1960-2003
Box 3, Folder 6-7	Notes, circa 1995-1999
Box 3, Folder 8	Notes, undated
Box 3, Folder 9	Poems, circa 1961-1976
Box 3, Folder 10	Journal LLL Art & Music, circa 1951-1953
Box 3, Folder 11	"Art and Literature as Creation", 1957-1959
Box 3, Folder 12	"The Creative Process of Nature", 1960
Box 3, Folder 13	"The Creative Structural Process of Nature Part II", 1963
Box 3, Folder 14-25	Various Writings, 1959-2003
Box 3, Folder 26	Writings by David Bohm, Annotated by Charles Biederman, undated

1.4: Personal Business Records, 1960-2001

Found here is a small amount of Charles Biederman's personal business records, including his dealings with the Archives of American Art and Weisman Art Museum, reproduction agreements, and deeds of gift for his artwork to various individuals.

Box 3, Folder 27	Archives of American Art, 1973-1998
Box 3, Folder 28	Deeds of Gift, 1960-2001
Box 3, Folder 29-32	Permissions to Reproduce for <i>Search For New Arts</i> , 1976-1980
Box 3, Folder 33	Reproduction Agreements, 1976-2001
Box 3, Folder 34-36	Weisman Art Museum Agreements, 1991-2001
Box 4, Folder 1	Miscellaneous Business Records, circa 1992

1.5: Printed Material, 1933-1996

Printed material primarily consists of exhibition catalogs and announcements for Biederman's work, as well as a few press releases, conference publications, and magazines. Also included is one book containing annotations by Biederman.

Box 4, Folder 2	Annotated Book, <i>Science and Sanity</i> by Alfred Korzybski, 1933
-----------------	---

Box 4, Folder 3	Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, 1936-1941
Box 4, Folder 4-14	Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, 1962-1996
Box 4, Folder 15	Press Release, 1965
Box 4, Folder 16	Pro Conference Publications, 1987-1992
Box 4, Folder 17	Magazines, 1966-1978, 1942
Box 4, Folder 18-19	<i>Structure</i> Magazine, 1958-1964

1.6: Photographs, circa 1927-2003

Numerous photographs depict Charles Biederman, his wife Mary and daughter Anna, their home and studio, and exhibitions of his work. Also included are photographs of friends and family and Biederman's 1988 trip to Europe, as well as photographs, slides, transparencies, and negatives of Biederman's artwork.

Box 4, Folder 20-26	Charles Biederman, 1936-2000s
Box 4, Folder 27	Charles, Mary, and Anna Biederman, circa 1940s-1960s
Box 4, Folder 28	Charles Biederman with Others, circa 1927-1990s
Box 4, Folder 29	Anna Biederman, 1940s-1960s
Box 4, Folder 30	Others, circa 1927-2002
Box 4, Folder 31	Biederman Home and Studio, circa 1950s-2000s
Box 4, Folder 32-33	Visit to Europe, 1988
Box 4, Folder 34	Exhibition Installation at Hayward Gallery, 1969
Box 5, Folder 1-2	Exhibition Installations, 1998, undated
Box 5, Folder 3-4	Exhibition Opening at Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, 2003
Box 5, Folder 5	Miscellaneous Personal Photographs, circa 1940s-1990s
Box 5, Folder 6	Photographs and Transparencies for "Search for New Arts", circa 1950s-1970s

Box 5, Folder 7-22	Photographs of Artwork, 1938-1960s
Box 6, Folder 1-14	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1930s-2002
Box 6, Folder 15	Photographs of Artwork by Others, circa 1950s-1960s
Box 6, Folder 16	Photographs of String Reliefs, 1950s-1960s
Box 6, Folder 17-22	Slides, circa 1958-1990s
Box 6, Folder 23-24	Transparencies and Negatives, circa 1950s-1990s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Research Files, circa 1941-2011

3.4 Linear feet (Boxes 7-10)

Found here are Neil Juhl Larsen's research files regarding Charles Biederman compiled during his work on the book *Charles Biederman*, which was published in 2011 after Larsen's death. A small amount of material compiled or annotated by Susan Larsen for the completion of the book is also included. Files contain notes, annotated photocopies of original documents, articles on Biederman, photographs, and a small amount of correspondence. Research files document many aspects of Biederman's life and career, including extensive documentation on his artwork and writings, as well as related subject matter. Of note is a research binder belonging to Neil Juhl Larsen which includes original correspondence with Biederman, photographs, and other material documenting their collaboration on this book project. Researchers should note that much of the research material is photocopies which are often annotated by Larsen. Also included is a set of color snapshots of preliminary sketches, artworks on paper, designs, and drawings by Charles Biederman.

Box 7, Folder 1	Architecture, circa 2000s
Box 7, Folder 2	Art Production and Sales, circa 2002
Box 7, Folder 3-18	Articles about Charles Biederman (1934-1999), 1963-2000s
Box 7, Folder 19	Awards, 1998-2000s
Box 7, Folder 20	Background, Family, Youth, 2007-2009
Box 7, Folder 21	British Structurism, 1957-2000s
Box 7, Folder 22	Copyright, circa 1979-2000
Box 7, Folder 23	Correspondence Regarding Book Project, 2001-2009
Box 7, Folder 24	Death, Wills, Etc., 1999-2005
Box 7, Folder 25	Exhibitions, circa 2000s, 2011
Box 7, Folder 26	Interviews, circa 2000s
Box 7, Folder 27	Internet Articles, 2005-2009
Box 7, Folder 28-29	Inventory, Charles Biederman Preliminary Studies, 2005
Box 7, Folder 30-34	Jan Van der Marck Files on Charles Biederman, 1963-2005
Box 7, Folder 35	Jan Van der Marck Interview, circa 2000s

Box 7, Folder 36	Jordan Court, 2000s, circa 1973
Box 7, Folder 37	List of Published Articles by Charles Biederman, circa 2001
Box 7, Folder 38	Mary Biederman's Journals, Excerpts and Photocopies, circa 2000s
Box 7, Folder 39	Miscellaneous Articles, circa 1940s-2005
Box 7, Folder 40	Miscellaneous Documents, circa 1990s-2000s
Box 7, Folder 41	Museums, 1996-2004
Box 8, Folder 1	North American Structurism, 2000s, 1968
Box 8, Folder 2	Notebook of Charles Biederman Quotes, 1998-2001
Box 8, Folder 3	Notes from Conversations with Charles Biederman, 2005
Box 8, Folder 4	Obituaries, 2004-2005
Box 8, Folder 5-20	Photographs of Artwork, 2000s Color snapshots of preliminary sketches, artworks on paper, designs, and drawings by Charles Biederman. Photographs also includes annotations by Biederman.
Box 9, Folder 1-14	Photographs of Artwork, 2000s Color snapshots of preliminary sketches, artworks on paper, designs, and drawings by Charles Biederman. Photographs also includes annotations by Biederman.
Box 9, Folder 15	Printed Material on Related Subject Matter, 1950-200s
Box 9, Folder 16-20	Published Writings by Charles Biederman, 1942-2000s
Box 9, Folder 21	Red Wing Public Library, circa 1990s
Box 9, Folder 22	Reproductions of Artwork, circa 1990s-2009
Box 9, Folder 23	Research Binder, 1993-2000s Includes photographs, correspondence between Larsen and Biederman, and original writings by Biederman.
	Research on Individuals

Box 9, Folder 24	Joost Baljeu, 2006
Box 9, Folder 25	Joan Saugrain Brendendieck, 1965-2005
Box 9, Folder 26	Wilma Crittenden, 2000s
Box 9, Folder 27	Jean Gorin, 2000s
Box 9, Folder 28	Beatrice Chinnock Grabbe, 2000s
Box 9, Folder 29	Malcolm McCannel, 1997
Box 9, Folder 30	George L. K. Morris, circa 1941
Box 10, Folder 1	Victor Pasmore, 1998
Box 10, Folder 2	George Rickey, 2000s
Box 10, Folder 3	Jean Sabo, 2000s
Box 10, Folder 4	Leif Sjoberg, 1998-2000s
Box 10, Folder 5	Charles Stinson, circa 2000s
Box 10, Folder 6	Jan Van der Marck, 2000-2005, 1966
Box 10, Folder 7	Aspasia Voulis, 1963, 2000s, 1966
Box 10, Folder 8	Gillian Wise, circa 1967, 2000s

Research on Writings

Box 10, Folder 9	"Art As the Evolution of Visual Knowledge", 2000s
Box 10, Folder 10	"Art As Humanization of Science", circa 1998
Box 10, Folder 11	"Nature Art Anew", circa 2000s
Box 10, Folder 12	"The New Cezanne", 1958, 1975, 2000s
Box 10, Folder 13	"Search For New Arts", circa 1981-1982
Box 10, Folder 14	"Visual Millenium", 2000

Box 10, Folder 15-16	Thesis, "The Art of Charles Biederman," David Lee Craven, 2006, 1979
Box 10, Folder 17	Thesis, "The Search for a Constructive Art," David John Barr (1965), circa 2000s
Box 10, Folder 18	Visit to Europe, 2000s, 1988
Box 10, Folder 19-20	Weisman Art Museum, 1998-2005
Box 10, Folder 21	Weisman Art Museum, Inventory of Archival Material, 2005
Box 10, Folder 22	Weisman Art Museum, Memorial Service, 2005

[Return to Table of Contents](#)