



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Richard Lippold Papers, 1940s-1977, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

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.

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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/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Richard Lippold papers
<b>Date:</b>	1940s-1977
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.lipprich
<b>Creator:</b>	Lippold, Richard, 1915-2002
<b>Extent:</b>	1.3 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of sculptor and educator Richard Lippold measure 1.3 linear feet and date from 1940s to 1977. The collection provides documentation on Lippold's career through correspondence, writing files, project files, printed materials, and several motion picture films.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in several installments by Richard Lippold between 1968-1977. Materials found on reel N69-24 were lent for microfilming 1968-1969.

### Separated Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds microfilm (reel N69-24) of material loaned for microfilming including correspondence; catalogs; clippings; writings; and papers relating to the Conference on Government Participation in the Arts and Humanities. Loaned materials were returned to the donor after microfilming and are not described in the collection container inventory.

### Available Formats

Portions of the collection and material lent for microfilming are available on 35mm microfilm reel D342 and N69-24 at the 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 Christopher DeMairo in 2021.

### Preferred Citation

Richard Lippold papers, 1940s-1977. 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

Richard Lippold (1915-2002) was a sculptor and educator in New York, NY. Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he studied at the University of Chicago and received training in industrial design at the Art Institute of Chicago. He also studied dance and piano. After graduating, Lippold started his own industrial design studio, but soon ended this endeavor to teach design and engineer drawing and mechanics at the University of Michigan in 1941. After moving to New York in 1944, Lippold began his career as a professional artist, exhibiting his work and creating public art installations. His art was known for metal, gold, and silver wire, rods, and bars used to create geometric sculptures that often incorporated a component of suspension. His installations can be found in museums, building lobbies, and universities across America including *Flight* found in the Pan Am (now the Met Life) Building, *The Sun* in the Museum of Modern Art, *Baldacchino* in St. Mary's Cathedral, California, and *Ad Astra* in front of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. Notable group exhibitions featuring Lippold's work include *Abstract Painting and Sculpture in America* (1951) and *Fifteen Americans* (1952) both at the Museum of Modern Art, Venice Biennale (1988), and *Sculpture: American Directions, 1945-75* (1975) at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Marquette University's Haggerty Museum of Art held a retrospective exhibition for Lippold in 1990. His work is found in collections at the Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and more. In addition to the University of Michigan, Lippold also taught at Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont, Trenton Junior College in New Jersey, and Hunter College in New York where he taught for over a decade.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor and educator Richard Lippold measure 1.3 linear feet and date from 1940s to 1977. The collection documents Lippold's career through correspondence, writing files, project files, printed materials, and several motion picture films.

Correspondence includes letters to and from museums and galleries, architects, clients, friends, teaching colleagues, and other artists discussing various professional and non-professional topics. Writing files include drafts and transcripts of speeches on art, society, and sculpture given by Lippold; personal writings and notes; statements on his own art and the art of other artists; and teaching materials such as drafts of syllabi, course schedules, and lectures. Project files mostly relate to public commissions and contain correspondence, status reports, work schedules, financial information, sketches and preliminary drawings, agreements, as well as some writings. Printed materials include newspaper clippings; seven issues of the publication, "Dance Observer," for which Lippold served among its editors and contributors; and some exhibition material. Film footage includes the dedication of Lippold's "Orpheus and Apollo" at the Lincoln Center in 1962; a documentary made about Lippold's sculpture, "The Sun," at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and scenes of Lippold's "World Tree" at Harvard University.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged as five series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1945-1977 (Box 1; .5 linear feet)
  - Series 2: Writing Files, 1940s-1970s (Box 1; 10 folders)
  - Series 3: Project Files, 1950-1972 (Box 1-2; .5 linear feet)
  - Series 4: Printed Material, 1943-1973 (Box 1; 6 folders)
  - Series 5: Motion Picture Film, circa 1960s (FC 2-4; .3 linear feet)
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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:

Public art

### Types of Materials:

Motion pictures

### Occupations:

Educators -- New York (State) -- New York  
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1945-1977

#### *0.5 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Files consist of business and general correspondence with museums and galleries, architects, clients, and others involved with Lippold's artwork and public commissions. Personal correspondence is with friends and other artists discussing various professional and non-professional topics. Notable correspondents include: Josef Albers, William Baziotis, Naum Gabo, Morris Graves, Walter Gropius, Mark Rothko, Eero Saarinen, and Mark Tobey. Also present is one folder that contains correspondence, salary information, and certificates from Lippold's time as professor at Hunter College.

Box 1, Folder 1-2      Business, 1957-1976, undated

Box 1, Folder 3-8      General, 1948-1977, undated

Box 1, Folder 9-10      Personal, 1953-1970s

Box 1, Folder 11      Graves, Morris, 1945-1966

Box 1, Folder 12      Hunter College, 1952-1960

Box 1, Folder 13      Museum of Modern Art, 1959-1962

Box 1, Folder 14      Rothschild, 1957-1960

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## Series 2: Writing Files, 1940s-1970s

### 10 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Drafts and transcripts of speeches on art, society, and sculpture given by Lippold; personal writings and notes; statements on his own art and the art of other artists including Mark Rothko, Ray Johnson, and Clyfford Still; and teaching materials such as drafts of syllabi, course schedules, and lectures. Some folders include some correspondence and printed material as well.

Box 1, Folder 15	"Sculpture in Space," Arts Club of Chicago, 1953
Box 1, Folder 16	"Praise, Praise, Praise," Hunter College Honors Convocation, 1958
Box 1, Folder 17	Comments at the M.I.T. Panel on the Future of the Arts, Transcript, 1961
Box 1, Folder 18	"Nearer to Thee," CBS-TV News, Script, 1969
Box 1, Folder 19	Presentation of Award of Merit of the Academy of Arts and Letters to Clyfford Still, 1972
Box 1, Folder 20	"Illusion as Structure", undated
Box 1, Folder 21	Articles and Speeches, Drafts, 1940s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 22	Drafts and Notes, 1940s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 23	Teaching Materials and Writings, 1945-1968
Box 1, Folder 24	"Richard Lippold," by Sylvia Plapinger, 1959

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## Series 3: Project Files, 1950-1972

### 13 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Files related to public commissions may contain correspondence, status reports, work schedules, financial information, sketches and preliminary drawings, agreements, as well as some writings about the project. Also present are publicity releases, correspondence, addresses, invitations, and itineraries related to Lippold's participation in a cultural exchange program to Germany in 1954; and project correspondence regarding Gyorgy Kepes' *Vision + Value* (1965-1966), for which Lippold contributed remarks on sculpture and structure.

Box 1, Folder 25	Harvard University Commons Building, Massachusetts, "World Tree" (1950), 1950-1958
Box 1, Folder 26	Metropolitan Museum of Art, "The Sun" (1953-1956), 1951-1963
Box 1, Folder 27	Inland Steel Company, Chicago, "Radiant I" (1958), 1957-1960
Box 1, Folder 28	City Investing Company, New York, "Expanding Universe" (1959), 1958-1962
Box 1, Folder 29	Four Seasons Restaurant, New York, 1959
Box 1, Folder 30	Portsmouth Priory, Rhode Island, "The Trinity" (1960), 1958-1962
Box 1, Folder 31	PanAm Building, New York, "Flight" (1963), 1960-1963
Box 1, Folder 32	Jesse H. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts, Houston, Texas, "Gemeni II" (1966), 1965-1966
Box 1, Folder 33	St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco, California, "Baldacchino" (1967), 1966-1971
Box 1, Folder 34	North Carolina National Bank, "Homage to North Carolina" (1970), 1969-1972
Box 1, Folder 35	Papers, circa 1961-1962
Box 1, Folder 36	German Cultural Exchange Program, 1954
Box 1, Folder 37	Vision + Value (1965-1966) edited by Gyorgy Kepes, Project Correspondence, 1962

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## Series 4: Printed Material, 1943-1973

### 6 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Materials include articles written by Lippold for newspapers and journals; seven issues of the publication, "Dance Observer," for which Lippold served among its editors and contributors; exhibition catalogs and announcements for several of Lippold's solo shows; an exhibition brochure for Maude Gatewood at the Willard Gallery and includes text written by Lippold; and one folder containing published material that featured images of Lippold's work.

Box 1, Folder 38	Articles by Lippold, 1943-1960
Box 1, Folder 39	Articles by Lippold; "Dancy Observer", 1945-1954
Box 1, Folder 40	Articles on Lippold, 1949, 1956
Box 1, Folder 41	Exhibition Material, Lippold, 1948-1962
Box 1, Folder 42	Exhibition Material, Other Artists; Writings by Lippold, 1972-1973
Box 1, Folder 43	Reproductions, Bibliography, 1962-1964

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## Series 5: Motion Picture Film, circa 1960s

### 0.3 Linear feet (FC 2-4)

Scope and Contents: Footage includes the dedication of Lippold's "Orpheus and Apollo" at the Lincoln Center in 1962; a documentary made about Lippold's sculpture, "The Sun," at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and scenes of Lippold's "World Tree" at Harvard University.

Item FC 2                      Dedication of "Orpheus and Apollo", 1962  
1 Film reel (16 mm)

Item FC 3                      "The Sun and Richard Lippold", 1966  
1 Film reel (16mm)

Item FC 4                      "World Tree" at Harvard, undated  
1 Film reel (16mm)

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