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A Finding Aid to the Laurie Lisle Research Material on Georgia O'Keeffe and Louise Nevelson, 1902-1990

Christopher DeMairo

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	3
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Research Files on Georgia O'Keeffe, 1902-1990.....	4
Series 2: Interviews of and Related to Louise Nevelson, 1975-1988.....	7

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Laurie Lisle research material on Georgia O'Keeffe and Louise Nevelson
Identifier:	AAA.lisllaur
Date:	1902-1990
Creator:	Lisle, Laurie
Extent:	3.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Laurie Lisle research material on Georgia O'Keeffe and Louise Nevelson measures 3.4 linear feet and dates from 1902-1990. The collection consists of copied biographical papers, recordings, correspondence, and printed material related to O'Keeffe, and 97 recorded interviews related to the life of Louise Nevelson. The outcome of Lisle's research on O'Keeffe resulted in her book, <i>Portrait of an Artist: A Biography of Georgia O'Keeffe</i> (1980); and on Nevelson, Lisle authored, <i>Louise Nevelson: A Passionate Life</i> (1990).

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was donated by Laurie Lisle in two separate installments. The material on Georgia O'Keeffe was donated in 1991, and the material on Louise Nevelson was donated in 2004.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also houses the Louise Nevelson papers, circa 1903-1979.

Available Formats

Some of the sound recordings in this collection have been copied for research access and digital copies are available in the Archives of American Art offices.

Processing Information

This collection was processed and a finding aid was written by Christopher DeMairo in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Laurie Lisle research material on Georgia O'Keeffe and Louise Nevelson, 1902-1990. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The Georgia O'Keeffe portion of this collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment, and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

Terms of Use

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Biographical / Historical

Louise Lisle is an art historian and author in Sharon, Connecticut. Lisle is originally from Providence, Rhode Island and attended college at Ohio Wesleyan University. After college she held positions at *The Providence Journal* and *Newsweek* magazine. She has published five books covering the topics of art history, education, sociology, and her own life. Lisle is married to painter and printmaker Robert Kipniss.

Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986) was born in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin in 1887. She was an artist who is mostly known for painting flowers, New York Skyscrapers, and New Mexico landscapes. O'Keeffe began high school at Sacred Heart Academy in Madison, Wisconsin, but ultimately graduated from Chatham Episcopal Institute in Virginia after her family moved to Williamsburg, Virginia in 1902. O'Keeffe went on to study at the School of Art Institute of Chicago, Art Students League, Teachers College of Columbia University, and taught art at high schools in Texas and at Chatham Episcopal Institute, Columbia College, and became the chair of the art department at West Texas State Normal College. O'Keeffe's art was ultimately promoted by Alfred Stieglitz who, although eventually marrying O'Keeffe in 1924, first exhibited her artwork at his esteemed 291 gallery in New York City. O'Keeffe's fame as an artist took off from there. O'Keeffe was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters; she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and the National Medal of Arts in 1985; and in 1993 was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Louise Nevelson (1899-1988) was born in Kiev, Russia in 1899. Her parents, Isaac and Minna Berliawsky, and their children emigrated to America in 1905 and settled in Rockland, Maine. She decided upon a career in art at an early age and took some drawing classes in high school, before graduating in 1918. Two years later, she married Charles Nevelson, a wealthy businessman, and moved to New York. She proceeded to study painting, drawing, singing, acting, and eventually dancing. In 1922, Nevelson gave birth to a son, Myron (later called Mike). Beginning in 1929, Nevelson began to study art full-time at the Art Students League, where she took classes with Kenneth Hayes Miller and Kimon Nicolaides. In 1931, she went to Europe and studied with Hans Hofmann in Munich before traveling to Italy and France. Over the years, she received honorary degrees from Rutgers University and Harvard University, among other schools, as well as numerous awards, including the Brandeis University Creative Arts Award in Sculpture and the Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture in 1971, the gold medal for sculpture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1983, and the National Medal of the Arts in 1985.

Scope and Contents

The Laurie Lisle research material on Georgia O'Keeffe and Louise Nevelson measures 3.4 linear feet and dates from 1902-1990. The O'Keeffe portion of the collection consists of biographical papers, recordings, correspondence, and printed material. Biographical material includes academic records, maps and ephemera regarding O'Keeffe's various residences, and legal records concerning law suits and her will. The correspondents in this series include artists, gallery representatives and collectors, and exhibition organizers. Printed material consists of newspaper clippings, magazines, and exhibition announcements for both her and her husband, Alfred Stieglitz. Also included in the printed material is a file pertaining to Laurie Lisle's book, *Portrait of an Artist: A Biography of Georgia O'Keeffe* (1980).

The research material on Louise Nevelson consists of 97 audiocassettes featuring interviews with Louise Nevelson, some members of the Nevelson family, artists, dealers, and peers. The recordings were gathered in preparation for Lisle's biography on Nevelson, *Louise Nevelson: A Passionate Life* (1990).

Arrangement

Collection is arranged as two series.

- Series 1: Research Files on Georgia O'Keeffe, 1902-1990 (1 linear foot; box 1)
 - Series 2: Interviews of and Related to Louise Nevelson, 1975-1988 (2.4 Linear feet; shoeboxes 2-7)
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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 art historians
Women artists
Women authors
Women painters
Women sculptors

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Nevelson, Louise, 1899-1988
O'Keeffe, Georgia , 1887-1986

Occupations:

Art historians -- Connecticut
Authors -- Connecticut

Container Listing

Series 1: Research Files on Georgia O'Keeffe, 1902-1990

1 Linear foot (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series contains predominantly copied materials that were collected in preparation for Laurie Lisle's 1990 biography on Georgia O'Keeffe, *Portrait of an Artist: A Biography of Georgia O'Keeffe* (1990). The biographical files include papers pertaining to O'Keeffe's academic record as both a student and educator; legal papers such as lawsuit and estate documents; transcripts from O'Keeffe interviews; and 11 audiocassettes consisting of interviews discussing O'Keeffe, the audio from a guided tour of O'Keeffe's "Ghost Ranch" home in Abique, New Mexico, and a soundtrack to a documentary on O'Keeffe containing excerpts of O'Keeffe interviews. This series also includes O'Keeffe correspondence with gallery representatives, artists, and collectors, and printed material such as newspaper clippings, magazines, and exhibition ephemera from both O'Keeffe and her husband, Alfred Stieglitz.

Arrangement: This series is arranged as 3 subseries

- 1.1: Biographical Papers, 1902-1987
- 1.2: Correspondence, 1915-1969
- 1.3: Printed Material, 1970-1990

1.1: Biographical Papers, 1902-1987

Box 1, Folder 1	Academic Material, 1902-1917, 1977
Box 1, Folder 2	Chronology and Miscellaneous Records, circa 1924-1977, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Genealogy, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Homes, Residences, and Maps, circa 1914-1980
Box 1, Folder 5	Legal, Georgia O'Keeffe vs. Doris Bry, 1978
Box 1, Folder 6	Legal, Georgia O'Keeffe vs. Barry Snyder (d/b/a/ Princeton Gallery of Fine Art), 1979
Box 1, Folder 7	Legal, Estate, 1983-1986
Box 1, Folder 8	Partial Transcripts, ABC's "Good Morning America"; CBS's "Sunday Morning", 1976, 1981

Box 1, Folder 9, Item 1	Interview with Brett, Dorothy, 1977 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 9, Item 2	Interview with Howard, Lila, 1977 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 9, Item 3	Interview with Klenert, Catherine, 1977 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 10, Item 1	Interview with McAlpin, David, 1977 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 10, Item 2	Interview with Merrill, Carol, 1977 2 Sound cassettes
Box 1, Folder 11, Item 1	Interview with Rubenstein, Meridel , 1977 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 11, Item 2	Interview with Williamson, Jessie, 1977 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 11, Item 3	Arlene Raven Lecture on Georgia O'Keeffe at Stanford University, 1977 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 12, Item 1	Audio Tour of "Ghost Ranch", 1987 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 12, Item 2	Soundtrack of O'Keeffe Documentary, undated 1 Sound cassette

1.2: Correspondence, 1915-1969

Box 1, Folder 13	American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, 1946-1963
Box 1, Folder 14	Bryan, John Stewart (College of William and Mary), 1938-1961
Box 1, Folder 15	Carnegie International Exposition, 1933-1938
Box 1, Folder 16	Dow, Arthur Wesley, 1915
Box 1, Folder 17	Dykstra, C.A. and Julia Milkinson, 1942
Box 1, Folder 18	Herrmann, Frank S., 1922, undated
Box 1, Folder 19	Hirshhorn, Joseph H. and Rolf G. Nelson, 1957-1969
Box 1, Folder 20	Rich, Daniel Cotton (Downtown Gallery), 1958-1960

Box 1, Folder 21 Steichen, Edward, undated

Box 1, Folder 22 Toomer, Jean, 1934

2.3: Printed Material, 1970-1990

Box 1, Folder 23-28 On Georgia O'Keeffe, 1917-1989, undated

Box 1, Folder 29-30 Georgia O'Keeffe Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, 1960-1990

Box 1, Folder 31 Laurie Lisle, O'Keeffe Book Review and Correspondence, 1980,1988

Box 1, Folder 32 On Alfred Stieglitz, circa 1921-1981

Box 1, Folder 33 On O'Keeffe's Peers, circa 1946-1987

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Interviews of and Related to Louise Nevelson, 1975-1988

2.4 Linear feet (Shoeboxes 2-7)

Scope and Contents: This series includes 97 sound cassettes of interviews, 1975-1988, with Louise Nevelson, Mike Nevelson (her son) and other Nevelson relatives, Edward Albee, Dore Ashton, Sally Avery, Will Barnet, Maryette Charlton, Minna Citron, Worden Day, Dorothy Dehner, Jimmy Ernst, Arnold Glimcher, Chaim Gross, Hilton Kramer, Ibram and Ernestine Lassaw, Vera List, Dorothy Miller, Alfonso Ossorio (original recording fades out after only 2 minutes and 14 seconds due to technical issues), Arnold Scassi, Peter Lipman-Wulf, and others.

Restrictions: All Louise Nevelson related interviews in this collection are access restricted; written permission is required. Contact Reference Services for more information. Access, with permission, to original papers and audiovisual material requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

Box 2, Item 1-4	Louise Nevelson, 1975 May 13 4 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Item 5	Louise Nevelson, 1978 September 5 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 6-7	Louise Nevelson, 1982 October 13 2 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Item 8	Louise Nevelson, 1983 January 5 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 9	Louise Nevelson, 1983 March 10 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 10-11	Louise Nevelson, 1986 September 5 2 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Item 12	Louise Nevelson , 1988 November 10 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 13	Albee, Edward, 1988 August 8 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 14	Ashton, Dore, 1987 February 13 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 15	Avery, Francis, 1983 September 24 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 16	Avery, Sally, 1987 March 5 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 17	Barnet, Will, 1982 November 17

1 Sound cassette

Box 2, Item 1	Beards, Lucille, 1987 February 5 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 2	Bernstein-Meyerowitz, Theresa, 1982 October 20 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 3	Buecher, Bobby, 1983 April 6 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 4	Block, Suzanne, 1985 November 7 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 5-6	Busa, Peter, 1983 July 12 2 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Item 7	Charlton, Maryette, 1983 November 14 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 8-9	Chasins, 1983 2 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Item 10	Citron, Minna, 1983 January 4 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 11	Crehan, Hubert, 1983 November 7 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 12-13	Day, Worden, 1982 October 10 2 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Item 14-15	Dehner, Dorothy, 1982-1983 2 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Item 16	Diamonstein, Barbaralee, 1988 November 11 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 17	Eaton, Marjorie, 1982 September 15 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Item 18	Ente, Lily, 1984 January 14 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Item 1-2	Ernst, Jimmy, 1983 October 24 2 Sound cassettes
Box 3, Item 3	Foshee, Rufus, 1982 July 22

1 Sound cassette

Box 3, Item 4	Geist, Sidney , 1983 June 21 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Item 5-7	Glimcher, Arnold, 1986-1988 3 Sound cassettes
Box 3, Item 8-9	Grippe, Peter, 1983 August 2 Sound cassettes
Box 3, Item 10	Gross, Chaim, 1983 January 13 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Item 11	Gwathmey, Robert, 1982 November 19 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Item 12	Hios, Theo, 1984 March 9 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Item 13	Jacobi, Lotte, 1983 May 4 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Item 14	Johnson, Cletus, 1988 August 30 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Item 15	Katz, [?], 1988 October 5 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Item 16-17	Kendall, Tom, 1986 January 26 2 Sound cassettes
Box 3, Item 18	Kramer, Hilton, 1988 April 4 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Item 1	Laning, Mary fife, 1983 July 7 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Item 2	Landis, Lily, 1987 February 13 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Item 3	Lassaw, Ibram and Ernestine, 1983 February 10 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Item 4	Lipman, Howard and Jean, 1988 September 30 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Item 5	Lipman-Wolf, Peter, 1983 February 28

1 Sound cassette

Box 4, Item 6	List, Vera, 1987 January 15 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Item 7	Low, Fritz, 1983 March 9 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Item 8-9	Mackown, Diana, 1988 June 28 2 Sound cassettes
Box 4, Item 10	Margolis, David, 1984 March 3 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Item 11	Mavros, Don, 1986 August 12 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Item 12	Mildwoff, Ben, 1983 January 20 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Item 13	Miller, Dorothy, 1983 March 15 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Item 14	Model, Elizabeth, 1983 November 16 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Item 15	Neel, Alice, 1983 October 3 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Item 16-18	Nevelson, Corinne, 1988 April 13 3 Sound cassettes
Box 5, Item 1	Nevelson, Corinne, 1988 November 10 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Item 2-3	Nevelson, Florence, 1988 November 5, undated 2 Sound cassettes
Box 5, Item 4	Nevelson, Joyce, 1985 February 2 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Item 5-15	Nevelson, Mike, 1984-1985 11 Sound cassettes
Box 5, Item 16-17	Nevelson, Neith, 1983 July 2 Sound cassettes
Box 6, Item 1	Nevelson, Neith, 1983 July

1 Sound cassette

Box 6, Item 2	Ossorio, Alfonso, 1983 March 3 1 Sound cassette
Box 6, Item 3	Peterson, Ralph, 1988 May 19 1 Sound cassette
Box 6, Item 4	Salemme, Lucia, 1984 March 3 1 Sound cassette
Box 6, Item 5	Scassi, Arnold, 1983 April 10 1 Sound cassette
Box 6, Item 6	Simkovitch, Helena, 1983 March 10 1 Sound cassette
Box 6, Item 7	Solman, Joseph, 1983 January 1 1 Sound cassette
Box 6, Item 8	Walinska, Anna, 1983 January 4 1 Sound cassette
Box 6, Item 9	Weschler, Anita, 1983 February 22 1 Sound cassette

[Return to Table of Contents](#)