



# Smithsonian

## *Archives of American Art*

### A Finding Aid to the Kenworth Moffett Papers, circa 1959-1988, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

2023 December 13

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical .....	1
Scope and Contents .....	1
Names and Subjects .....	
Container Listing .....	
Series 1: Kenworth Moffett papers, circa 1959-1988 .....	3

---

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Kenworth Moffett papers
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1959-1988
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.moffkenw
<b>Creator:</b>	Moffett, Kenworth
<b>Extent:</b>	0.6 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated by Lucy Baker, former wife of Kenworth Moffett, 1993.

### 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.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Kenworth Moffett (1934-2016) was an art critic, curator, and art museum director in Massachusetts and Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Moffett studied art history at Columbia University and earned a PhD from Harvard University in 1968. A champion of Color Field painting, he wrote critical essays and reviews for major art periodicals including *Artforum* and *Art International* throughout the late 1960s to 1970s.

From 1968 to 1979, Moffett was a professor of art history at Wellesley College. In 1971, he was made founding curator of twentieth-century art at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, where he organized exhibitions of sculptor Anthony Caro and painters Jules Olitski, Barnett Newman, and Friedel Dzubas. He also curated the first museum exhibition of realist Albert York. In 1989, Moffett was appointed director of the Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale, where he remained until 1997. Moffett died in 2016.

---

## Scope and Contents

The papers of Kenworth Moffett measure 0.6 linear feet and date from circa 1959 to 1988. The papers document Moffett's career as a critic and curator through correspondence, slides and photographs of works of art by artists who were subjects of Moffett's research, notes, teaching material from his time at Wellesley College, and unpublished papers written by colleagues and students.

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Occupations:

- Art critics -- Massachusetts
- Art museum curators -- Massachusetts
- Art museum directors -- Florida -- Fort Lauderdale

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Kenworth Moffett papers, circa 1959-1988

#### 0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Series includes correspondence, slides and photographs of works of art by artists who were subjects of Moffett's research, notes, teaching material from his time at Wellesley College, writings by students, an edition of the "Moffett's Artletter" newsletter, and an NEA grant application related to an exhibition, *Abstract Sculpture Since 1945*.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Correspondence, 1976-1988
Box 1, Folder 3	Art Seminar Courses, Wellesley College, 1970-1976
Box 1, Folder 4-6	Writings by Students, 1970-1981
Box 1, Folder 7	Student Blue Books, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	"Abstract Sculpture Since 1945" Exhibition NEA Grant Application, 1981
Box 1, Folder 9	"Moffett's Artletter", 1986
Box 1, Folder 10	Photographs, Art, circa 1959-1980
Box 1, Folder 11-12	Slides, Art, 1963-1983
Box 2, Folder 1-2	Slides, Art, 1979-1983
Box 2, Folder 3	Miscellaneous, 1967-1988

[Return to Table of Contents](#)