



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Thomas Morin Papers, 1952-2015, in the Archives of American Art

Erin Kinhart

2016 December 6

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.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3
Series 1: Biographical Material, 1957-circa 2000.....	3
Series 2: Correspondence, 1954-2015.....	4
Series 3: Writings, circa 1960s-2008.....	5
Series 4: Professional Files, 1953-2014.....	6
Series 5: Printed Material, 1954-circa 2015.....	8
Series 6: Photographic Material, 1950s-2000s.....	9
Series 7: Artwork, 1952-1974.....	11

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Thomas Morin papers
Date:	1952-2015
Identifier:	AAA.morithom
Creator:	Morin, Thomas, 1934-
Extent:	4.7 Linear feet
Language:	Collection is in English.
Summary:	The papers of sculptor and teacher Thomas Morin measure 4.7 linear feet and date from 1952-2015. His career at several universities and art schools as well as his work as a sculptor and metalsmith are documented through biographical material, correspondence, writings, professional files, printed material, and artwork. The bulk of the collection consists of photographs and slides of Morin's artwork and the fabrication process.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated in 2015 by Thomas Morin.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Erin Kinhart in 2016.

Preferred Citation

Thomas Morin papers, 1952-2015. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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

Thomas Morin (1934-) is a sculptor, teacher, and metalsmith in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Morin received a degree in Education from Massachusetts College of Art and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Sculpture from Cranbrook Academy of Art. He was an instructor at Cranbrook and Silvermine Guild of Artists, and in 1960 he visited Florence, Italy, to study foundry casting on a Fulbright scholarship. From 1961 to 1979, he taught at the Rhode Island School of Design, and was head of the Department of Sculpture, Ceramics and Glass for nine years. After leaving RISD, Morin served as professor and department head at Akron University (1979-1981), Ohio State University (1981-1986), and West Virginia University (1986-1988). He then served as Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs at Minneapolis College of Art and Design (1988-1994), and Director of the Schools of Art and Design and American Crafts and Rochester Institute of Technology (1994-1996). Morin was also an active member of the National Council of Art Administrators. During his teaching career, he exhibited and received commissions to create sculptures, and wrote for publications on metal casting and foundry technique. He continues to live and work in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor and teacher Thomas Morin measure 4.7 linear feet and date from 1952-2015. His career at several universities and art schools as well as his work as a sculptor and metalsmith are documented through biographical material, correspondence, writings, professional files, printed material, and artwork. The bulk of the collection consists of photographs and slides of Morin's artwork and the fabrication process.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1957-circa 2000 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, 1954-2015 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 3: Writings, circa 1960s-2008 (0.4 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 4: Professional Files, 1953-2014 (1.0 linear foot; Boxes 1-2, OV 7)
 - Series 5: Printed Material, 1954-circa 2015 (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 2-3, OV 7)
 - Series 6: Photographic Material, 1950s-2000s (1.8 linear feet; Boxes 3-5)
 - Series 7: Artwork, 1952-1974 (0.4 linear feet; Boxes 5-6)
-

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Study and teaching

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Occupations:

Art teachers -- New Mexico -- Santa Fe

Metal-workers -- New Mexico -- Santa Fe

Sculptors -- New Mexico -- Santa Fe

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1957-circa 2000

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes one biographical summary about Morin, his selective service records, award certificates, and records of a civil suit regarding the Rhode Island Board of Elections. Also found are photographs, news clippings, and other documentation on Morin's renovation of his house in Coventry, Rhode Island.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Summary, circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 2	Certificates, 1957-1989
Box 1, Folder 3-4	House Renovation, Coventry, 1970s
Box 1, Folder 5	Rhode Island Civil Suit, circa 1972
Box 1, Folder 6	Selective Service, 1958, 1968

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1954-2015

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found here is Morin's personal correspondence with friends George Bishop and Lawrence Kupferman, as well as professional correspondence, including thank you letters and recommendations written for Morin. Also found are numerous emails and letters from owners of works by Morin in response to his request for descriptions and photographs of artworks. General correspondence is primarily from museums, galleries, universities, and publishers regarding Morin's professional activities. Additional correspondence is included in Series 4: Professional Files.

Box 1, Folder 7	Bishop, George, 1965-1968
Box 1, Folder 8	Kupferman, Lawrence, 1954-1965
Box 1, Folder 9-10	General Correspondence, 1957-1999, 2015
Box 1, Folder 11-13	Emails Regarding Photographs of Morin Artwork, 2006, 2011-2012
Box 1, Folder 14-15	Letters Regarding Photographs of Morin Artwork, 2005-2011
Box 1, Folder 16	Letters of Recommendation for Morin, 1959-1994
Box 1, Folder 17	Thank You Letters, 1964-1992

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Writings, circa 1960s-2008

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Writings include a draft for an unpublished book on casting metal for sculpture, as well as draft chapters for a similar collaborative book project and draft technical writings on foundry practice. Writings are by Morin and colleagues including Jon Lash and Donald Irving. Other writings by Morin include brief artist statements and general notes.

Box 1, Folder 18-19	Book Drafts, Casting Metal for Sculpture, circa 1982-1983
Box 1, Folder 20-21	Draft Manuscript, "Casting Metal for Sculpture", 1986
Box 1, Folder 22	Draft, "Foam Vaporization Casting", 1982
Box 1, Folder 23	Draft, "Casting Sculpture in Non Art Foundries", 1984 August 3
Box 1, Folder 24	Draft, "Self-Set Sand/Wax Meltout", undated
Box 1, Folder 25	Essay, "Understanding the Right Brain in a Left Brain Society", 1981
Box 1, Folder 26	Miscellaneous Notes and Lists, circa 1960s-1990s
Box 1, Folder 27	Professional and Artist Statements, circa 1967-2008
Box 1, Folder 28	Writings by Morin and Others about Foundry Practice, circa 1960s
Box 1, Folder 29	Writings about Casting by Others, 1984

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Professional Files, 1953-2014

1 Linear foot (Boxes 1-2, OV 7)

Scope and Contents: Professional files document Morin's sculpture commissions, memberships, teaching activities, exhibitions, conferences, and the opening of a studio in New Mexico. Files may include correspondence, photographs, publications, and planning documents. Of note are several files regarding his tenure as a professor and department chair at the Rhode Island School of Design and his work at the Silvermine Guild of Artists.

Box 1, Folder 30	American Foundrymen's Society, 1960s
Box 1, Folder 31	Barn Gallery Associates, 1966-1976
Box 1, Folder 32	Brookfield Craft Center, 1965-1968
Box 1, Folder 33	Commission, "The Heraldic Arena", 1963-1967
Box 1, Folder 34	Commission, John Glenn Sculpture, 1962
Box 1, Folder 35	Commission, World's Fair New York, 1963-1964
Box 1, Folder 36	Conferences, 1978-1987
Box 1, Folder 37	Cranbrook Academy of Art, 1953-1961
Box 1, Folder 38	Exhibition at Art Unlimited, 1963
Box 1, Folder 39	Exhibition Records, 1967-2000s
Box 2, Folder 1	Festival of Soviet Russia in USA, 1987
Box 2, Folder 2	Ford Foundation Proposal, 1963-1964
Box 2, Folder 3	Guggenheim Fellowship, 1962-1965
Box 2, Folder 4	Institute of American Indian Art, 1975
Box 2, Folder 5	International Casting Conference, Toronto, Captions for Slides, undated
Box 2, Folder 6	Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation, 1965-1966
Box 2, Folder 7-9	Minneapolis College of Art and Design, circa 1987-1994
Box 2, Folder 10	National Council of Art Administrators, circa 1986-1989 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 7
Box 2, Folder 11	New Mexico Studio and Gallery, 1999-2014

Box 2, Folder 12-16	Rhode Island School of Design, 1961-1970s
Box 2, Folder 17	Reuben Nakian Recommendation, 1958-1962
Box 2, Folder 18	Sculpture Commissions and Proposals, 1966-1997 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 7
Box 2, Folder 19-21	Silvermine Guild of Artists, 1958-1968
Box 2, Folder 22	University of Akron, circa 1979-1981
Box 2, Folder 23	West Virginia University, 1986-1988
Box OV 7	Oversized Sculpture Commissions, undated
Box OV 7	Oversized National Council of Art Administrators, 1989-1997

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Printed Material, 1954-circa 2015

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, OV 7)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes exhibition catalogs and announcements for exhibition of Morin's work; magazines, news clippings, and newsletters mentioning his professional activities; and a large number of Rhode Island School of Design publications from the period that he was head of the sculpture department. Also found are eight self-published books by Morin, primarily containing photographs of his sculptures.

Box 2, Folder 24-26	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1954-2010 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 7
Box 2, Folder 27-28	Magazines, circa 1969-2011 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 7
Box 2, Folder 29	News Clippings, 1962-2009
Box 2, Folder 30	Newsletters, 1966-1988
Box 2, Folder 31-32	Rhode Island School of Design Publications, 1962-1973
Box 3	Self-Published Books
Box 3, Folder 1	"Early Sculpture", circa 2015
Box 3, Folder 2	"Foam Vaporization Sculpture", circa 2015
Box 3, Folder 3	"Icons of Erotic Pagentry and Celebration", circa 2015
Box 3, Folder 4	"New Mexico Mesa Series", circa 2015
Box 3, Folder 5	"Spirit Icon Series", circa 2015
Box 3, Folder 6	"Shield Series", circa 2015
Box 3, Folder 7	"Studies for Monumental Sculpture", circa 2015
Box 3, Folder 8	"Tribal Rug Series", circa 2015
Box 3, Folder 9	Miscellaneous, circa 1970s-1990s
Box OV 7	Oversized Exhibition Announcement, undated
Box OV 7	Oversized Magazines, 1985-2000

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Photographic Material, 1950s-2000s

1.8 Linear feet (Boxes 3-5)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material depicts artwork by Morin and others. Included are numerous photographs of his work from early to late career, as well as sculpture installations, casting, fabrication, and other foundry work. A few photographs show Morin with his sculptures and working in the foundry. Also found are color transparencies and slides of Morin's artwork and work by colleagues and students.

Box 3, Folder 10	Thomas Morin with Artwork, circa 1960s-2000s
Box 3, Folder 11	Photograph Album of Artwork, circa 2004
Box 3, Folder 12	Photograph Albums of Artwork, 2002-2004
Box 3, Folder 13-20	Photographs of Artwork, 1950s-2000s
Box 4, Folder 1-7	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1960s-2000s
Box 4, Folder 8-9	Photographs of Artwork Installations, circa 1958-1960s
Box 4, Folder 10	Photographs of Artwork, Recent Work, Mixed Media, circa 1990s
Box 4, Folder 11	Photographs of Artwork, Series, circa 2000s
Box 4, Folder 12	Photographs of Artwork by Steve Branch, undated
Box 4, Folder 13-15	Photographs of Foundry Work, circa 1960s
Box 4, Folder 16-18	Photographs of Molding and Casting, circa 1960s
Box 4, Folder 18-19	Photographs of Sculpture Fabrication, 1960s
Box 4, Folder 20	Photographs of Sculpture in Process, circa 2002
Box 4, Folder 21	Photographs of "Steam Out", circa 1960s
Box 4, Folder 22	Color Transparencies of "Icons" Series, undated
Box 4, Folder 23	Color Transparencies of David Smith Sculpture, circa 1960s
Box 4, Folder 24	Color Transparencies of School House, undated
Box 4, Folder 25-26	Slides of Artwork, circa 1970s-2000s
Box 4, Folder 27	Slides of Foundry Work, circa 1960s
Box 4, Folder 28	Slides of Italy Exchange Program, 1989

Box 5, Folder 1 [Slides of RISD Student Sculpture, 1960s-1970s](#)

Box 5, Folder 2-3 Slides of Student Work, 1970s

Box 5, Folder 4 Slides of Sculpture Exhibition, 1974

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Artwork, 1952-1974

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 5-6)

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes Morin's pencil and ink sketches and diagrams for sculptures. Most of the drawings date from his student years at Cranbrook Academy of Art and Massachusetts College of Art, as well as his early career at the Silvermine Guild and Rhode Island School of Design.

Box 5, Folder 5	Drawing, 1955
Box 5, Folder 6	Drawings for Highly Polished, Symmetrical Sculpture, 1970-1974
Box 5, Folder 7-8	Drawings, Inspiration for Composition of Foam Vaporization Process of Casting Metal, 1963-1969
Box 5, Folder 9	Drawings, Machine Structures, Mass. College of Art, 1952-1953
Box 5, Folder 10	Drawings, Plaster Reliefs, Mass. College of Art, 1953-1956
Box 5, Folder 11-13	Drawings, Sand Block Castings, Silvermine Guild of Artists and Rhode Island School of Design, 1958-1962
Box 6, Folder 1	Drawings, Sentinel Series, Cast Iron, Silvermine Guild of Artists, 1958-1959
Box 6, Folder 2	Drawings, Welded Sculpture, Cranbrook Academy of Art, 1956-1957
Box 6, Folder 3	Refined Drawings for Cast Metal Reliefs, 1963-1969
Box 6, Folder 4	Transition Drawings, Welding to Sand Core Bronze Casting, Cranbrook Academy of Art, 1957
Box 6, Folder 5	Sketchbook, circa 1950s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)