



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Anthony Palumbo Papers, 1947-2008, bulk 1968-2008, in the Archives of American Art

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Anthony Palumbo papers
<b>Date:</b>	1947-2008 (bulk 1968-2008)
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.paluanth
<b>Creator:</b>	Palumbo, Anthony
<b>Extent:</b>	0.6 Linear feet 0.763 Gigabytes
<b>Language:</b>	Collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of New York painter and art instructor Anthony Palumbo measure 0.6 linear feet and 0.763 GB and date from 1947 to 2008, with the bulk of materials dating from 1968 to 2008. The collection documents Palumbo's work through his writings and drawings mostly used as teaching materials. Also found are exhibition catalogs, clippings, and photographs of his work, and a digital video recording of an interview.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The papers were donated to the Archives of American Art in 2013 by Phyllis Tracy Malinow (Phyllis Malinow Palumbo), widow of Palumbo.

### Processing Information

This collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared in 2014 by Harriet E. Shapiro. The Archives of American Art has implemented minimal processing tactics when possible in order to increase information about and access to more of our collections.

Minimal processing included arrangement to the series and folder levels. Generally, items within folders were simply verified with folder titles, but not arranged further. Folders within boxes were not numbered. The collection was rehoused in archival containers and folders, but not all staples and clips were removed.

Born-digital materials were processed by Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner in 2019 with funding provided by Smithsonian Collection Care and Preservation Fund.

### Preferred Citation

Anthony Palumbo papers, 1947-2008, bulk 1968-2008. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions

The Anthony Palumbo papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

## Restrictions

Use of original materials requires an appointment.

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## Biographical / Historical

Anthony Palumbo (1922-2008) was a painter and instructor at the Art Students League of New York. Born in Italy, Palumbo immigrated to the United States in 1929. During the Depression he attended art classes in New Jersey and apprenticed with well-known W.P.A. artists. In the army during World War II, Palumbo served as a radio technician and produced cartoons on GI life for Army publications.

Palumbo then studied at the Art Students League of New York and the New School for Social Research with artists such as Reginald Marsh and Stuart Davis. He also studied privately with Hans Hofmann and Burne Hogarth, working as a cartoonist to sustain his fine artwork. His cartoons were published in the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Collier's* magazine. In the 1950s he traveled to Mexico, where he assisted muralist Rufino Tamayo. Returning to New York, he established a studio and continued to paint until 1960 when he lost his artwork in a catastrophic studio fire. That same year Palumbo was included in the Whitney Museum's annual presentation of contemporary art.

The next years were difficult for Palumbo, but in 1968 he started teaching at the Art Students League of New York, where he remained a highly regarded and well liked teacher until his death at age 85.

Palumbo was married to Phyllis Malinow, also an artist.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of New York painter and art instructor Anthony Palumbo measure 0.6 linear feet and 0.763 GB and date from 1947 to 2008, with the bulk of materials dating from 1968 to 2008. The collection documents Palumbo's work through his writings and drawings mostly used as teaching materials. Also found are exhibition catalogs, clippings, and photographs of his work, and a digital video recording of an interview.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 5 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 2002-2008 (Box 1; 1 folder, ER01; 0.763 GB)
- Series 2: Writings, 1947-2008 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 3: Printed Material, circa 1965-2008 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 4: Artwork and Sketchbook, 1947-2008 (Box 1, OV 2; 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 5: Photographs, circa 1965-2008 (Box 1, OV 3; 0.8 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:

Art -- Study and teaching  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Drawings  
Photographs

Occupations:

Art teachers -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 2002-2008

1 Folder (Box 1 )

0.763 Gigabytes (ER01)

Language: English.

Scope and Contents: Biographical material contains a draft personal essay probably by Palumbo, an obituary clipping, a memento folder given out at his memorial service at The Art Students League of New York, a DVD of this service, and an undated interview with Palumbo by Ira Goldberg. There also are hand written notes which appear to be by Palumbo, noting important events of his life.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, 2002-2008 Includes born-digital materials, see ER01.
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Folder ER01	Anthony Palumbo Interview (2008), Digital Video Recording, 2016 0.763 Gigabytes (One computer file) Notes: Video was filmed at the Art Students League in New York 2002, and edited by Nicole Jung and Anthony Gonzales in 2008.
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## Series 2: Writings, circa 1965-2008

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

Scope and Contents: There are six pocket sized notebooks, which consist of thoughts about art and teaching, loose sheets, and some tracing paper drawings.

Box 1, Folder 2-3	Notebooks and Notes, circa 1965-2008
Box 1, Folder 4	Lists, Notes and Drawings, circa 1965-2008

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## Series 3: Printed Material, 1947-2008

### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes two exhibition catalogs, one of a Palumbo retrospective in 2002 and the other from the Selby Gallery at Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida; photocopies of cartoons probably by Palumbo and some clippings relating to his fine artwork; a book by Jon Gngany, TV art instructor, *You Are an Artist*, autographed by Gnagny with the inscription " ... best pal...who did most of the work on the book;" an unpublished bound writing by Palumbo entitled "Figure Drawing Through Easily Recognizable Symbols;" a poster showing artist-student relationships and influences; and a radio & telegraphic schematic.

Box 1, Folder 5

[Printed Material, 1947-2008](#)

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## Series 4: Artwork and Sketchbook, 1947-2008

### 0.1 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 2)

Scope and Contents: Artwork consists of a small sketch book with 4 drawings or sketches in graphite and crayon. Also found are a few oversized graphite drawings and colored photographic reproductions of brightly colored compositions.

Box 1, Folder 6      [Sketchbook, 1947-2008](#)

Box 1, Folder 7      Artwork, 1947-2008  
Oversized material housed in OV 2

Box OV 2              Oversize Artwork from Box 1, Folder 7, 1947-2008

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## Series 5: Photographs, circa 1965-2008

### 0.3 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: There are two black and white snapshots of Palumbo at an event and four photocopied photographs of him in his studio teaching. The remaining photographs are of drawings and diagrams of the figure with notes, also probably used for classroom teaching. Also found are a few color snapshots and digital prints of paintings.

Box 1, Folder 8	Palumbo, circa 1970-2008
Box 1, Folder 9	<a href="#">Figure Study Teaching Material, circa 1965-2008</a>
Box 1, Folder 10	<a href="#">Figure Study Teaching Material, circa 1989</a>
Box 1, Folder 11	<a href="#">Figure Study Teaching Material, circa 1990-1992</a>
Box 1, Folder 12	Figure Studies, Painting, and Cartoons, circa 1965-2008 Oversized material housed in OV 3
Box OV 3	Oversize Photographs of Artwork from Box 1, Folder 10, circa 1965-2008

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