Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Alice Kagawa Parrott Papers, circa 1950-2010, in the Archives of American Art

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....
Administrative Information 1
Biographical / Historical 2
Scope and Contents 2
Arrangement 2
Names and Subjects .....
Container Listing .....
Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1957-2009 4
Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1953-2009 5
Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1957-2009 7
Series 4: Studio Practice Files, circa 1951-2005 10
Series 5: Printed Material, 1954-2008 12
Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1950-2010 13

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Alice Kagawa Parrott papers
Date:	circa 1950-2010
Identifier:	AAA.parralic
Creator:	Parrott, Alice Kagawa, 1929-2009
Extent:	7.1 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Japanese American fiber artist and ceramicist Alice Kagawa Parrott measure 7.1 linear feet and date from circa 1950 to 2010. The papers document Parrott's career as a textile artist and weaver based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. There is a small amount of biographical material; correspondence with family, friends, and art institutions; personal business records mostly of financial records related to Parrott's business The Market later known as Parrott Fabrics Inc.; studio practice files related to equiment, materials, and designs for wall hangings, clothes, and tapestries; printed material such as exhibition catalogs and clippings mostly on Parrott and her arwork but also on other artists; and photographs and slides of Parrott, her weavings, family and friends, and her studio and home.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Alice Kagawa Parrott papers were donated in 2019 by Paul Kagawa and Diane Leavitt, trustees of the Alice Kagawa Parrott Family Trust.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Rihoko Ueno in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Alice Kagawa Parrott papers, circa 1950-2010. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Alice Kagawa Parrott (1929-2009) was a Japanese American fiber artist and ceramicist based in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Parrott was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1929 to Takato and Isono Kagawa who were Japanese immigrants. She graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1952, then studied weaving at Cranbrook Academy of Art, where she met ceramicist Toshiko Takaezu, who became a lifelong friend. After graduating from Cranbrook in 1954, she taught weaving and ceramics at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 1956, she married Allen Morgan Parrott and they moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where they bought a home and adopted their sons Ben and Tim. Also that year, she opened a weaving and craft shop called The Market, which later became Parrott Fabrics Inc. Parrott had many commissions and customers, such as the woodworker Sam Maloof. A notable early commission was from the Santa Fe Opera. From 1971-1972, Parrott was an artist-in-residence in Maui, where she taught workshops and created tapestries for several public commissions. In 1977, she became an American Craft Council Fellow. Parrott participated in numerous exhibitions over the course of her career. Parrott passed away in 2009 in Santa Fe.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Japanese American fiber artist and ceramicist, Alice Kagawa Parrott, measure 7.1 linear feet and date from circa 1950 to 2010. The collection mainly documents Parrott's work as a fiber artist based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. There is a small amount of biographical material; correspondence with family, friends, and colleagues; personal business records mostly of financial records related to Parrott's business The Market later known as Parrott Fabrics Inc.; studio practice files related to equiment, materials, and designs for wall hangings, clothes, and tapestries; printed material such as exhibition catalogs and clippings mostly on Parrott and her arwork but also on other artists; and photographs and slides of Parrott, her weavings, family and friends, her studio and home, and dyeing process.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1957-2009 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1953-2009 (1.2 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1957-2009 (1.9 linear feet; Boxes 2-4, 9)
- Series 4: Studio Practice Files, 1951-2005 (2.2 linear feet; Boxes 4-6, 9)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1954-2008 (0.8 linear feet; Boxes 6-7, 9)
- Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1950-2010 (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 7-9)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Asian American art
Asian American artists
Asian American ceramicists
Asian American fiber artists
Japanese American art
Women artists

Occupations:

Artists -- New Mexico -- Santa Fe
Ceramicists -- New Mexico

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1957-2009

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This is a small series that contains Alice Kagawa Parrott's biographical profiles, curriculum vitae, business cards, address books, award certificates and various identification documents such as passports, licenses, and membership cards. There are also recipes, Christmas card lists, and a memorial file.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Address Books, circa 1960-circa 2009
Box 1, Folder 3	Award Certificates, circa 1960-circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 4	Biographical Profiles and Curriculum Vitae, circa 1967-circa 1998
Box 1, Folder 5	Business Cards and Letterhead, circa 1957-circa 2005
Box 1, Folder 6	Business Cards of Other People, circa 1957-circa 2005
Box 1, Folder 7	Identification and Membership Cards, 1990-2008
Box 1, Folder 8	Lists of Christmas Cards Sent and Gifts Received, 1983-1996
Box 1, Folder 9	Memorial File, 2009
Box 1, Folder 10	Passports, 1978-2005
Box 1, Folder 11	Recipes, 1989

Return to Table of Contents

Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1953-2009

1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: This series consists of personal and professional correspondence with friends, family, colleagues, and arts organizations. Notable correspondents include fiber artist Lenore Tawney, ceramicist Toshiko Takaezu, and woodworker Sam Maloof.

Arrangement: The alphabetical correspondence consists of folders of materials that were already separated by correspondent upon arrival at the archives. The remainder of the correspondence is in chronological order, with one folder of condolence letters at the end of the series.

Box 1, Folder 12	Bowron, Mary J., circa 1992-2004
Box 1, Folder 13	Dagen, Margaret, 1995-1998
Box 1, Folder 14	Fugate, Julia, circa 1986-1993
Box 1, Folder 15	Hawaiian Mission Academy Class Reunion, 1988, 1996-1997
Box 1, Folder 16-29	Hurley, Joseph, undated, 1969-2002
Box 1, Folder 30	Kagawa Family, circa 1969-1973
Box 1, Folder 31	Lakhia, Kinnari, 1978-1986
Box 1, Folder 32	Lever, Janet, 1987-2002
Box 1, Folder 33-35	Maloof, Sam, undated, 1965-2009
Box 1, Folder 36	Murai, Ernestine, circa 1953
Box 1, Folder 37	Oahu Kanyaku Imin Exhibition, 1985
Box 1, Folder 38	Rapp, Charlie and Ellie, 1999-2002
Box 1, Folder 39	Smith, Paul J., 2004-2005
Box 1, Folder 40	State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, 1997-2002
Box 1, Folder 41-45	Takaezu, Toshiko, undated, 1968-2007
Box 1, Folder 46-49	Tawney, Lenore, undated, 1961-1979
Box 2, Folder 1-3	Tawney, Lenore, 1970-2007
Box 2, Folder 4-8	Chronological Correspondence, 1957-1960s
Box 2, Folder 9-12	Chronological Correspondence, 1970s

Box 2, Folder 13-16	Chronological Correspondence, 1980s-1990s
Box 2, Folder 17-19	Chronological Correspondence, 2000-2009
Box 2, Folder 20-21	Chronological Correspondence (Undated), circa 1960-circa 2009
Box 2, Folder 22	Condolence Letters, 2009

Return to Table of Contents

Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1957-2009

1.9 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4, 9)

Scope and Contents: Personal business records mostly consist of financial documents related to Alice Kagawa Parrott's craft and weaving shop called The Market which was later incorporated as Parrott Fabrics Inc. There are several check registers that list expenses for materials, bills and receipts, sales records, customer orders which detail the cost of materials, information about commissions from individual customers as well as the Santa Fe Opera, and notebooks that list addresses as well as track expenses and financial information. In addition to financial records, there is a lot of documentation about the establishment and running of Parrott Fabrics Inc., its incorporation, by-laws, meeting minutes, financial reports, etc. There are also legal documents and several files of materials on the renovation of Parrott's house and studio.

Box 2, Folder 23-27	Acequia Litigation, circa 1981-1985
Box 2, Folder 28	Car Expenses Notebook, circa 1990-circa 2009
Box 2, Folder 29	Check Register, 1982-1984
Box 2, Folder 30-31	Check Register, 1990-1995
Box 2, Folder 32-37	Check Register - Parrott Fabrics Inc., 1982-1991
Box 2, Folder 38	Check Register - Personal and Santa Fe National, 1979-1982
Box 3, Folder 1-2	Check Register - Personal, 1985-1990
Box 3, Folder 3-5	Custom Orders for Clothes - Bills and Receipts, circa 1964-1971
Box 3, Folder 6-7	Custom Orders for Clothes - Index Cards with Measurements, circa 1965-circa 1980
Box 3, Folder 8	Custom Orders for Clothes - Index Cards, circa 1965-circa 1980
Box 3, Folder 9-11	Custom Orders for Clothes - Notes on Yarn and Measurements (Disbound Binder), circa 1999-circa 2002
Box 3, Folder 12	Custom Orders for Clothes, Fabric, Upholstery, circa 1973-circa 1997
Box 3, Folder 13	Custom Orders Notebook, 1980-1984
Box 3, Folder 14	Finances Notebook, 1991-1994
Box 3, Folder 15-17	Financial Records (Disbound Binder), circa 1991-2004
Box 3, Folder 18-19	House - Building Permits, circa 1980-1989

Box 3, Folder 20	House Shed, Studio Remodeling, 1985-1987
Box 3, Folder 21	House Weaving Shed Addition, circa 1993
Box 3, Folder 22	"Indian Trade" Orders and Receipts, 1976-1985
Box 3, Folder 23	Kinnari Lakhia Orders and Shipments, circa 1978-circa 1984
Box 3, Folder 24-27	Notebooks, circa 1969-circa 1998
Box 3, Folder 28	"Order Sheets" and Requests, circa 1989-circa 1992
Box 3, Folder 29	Parrott Fabrics Inc. (The Market) - Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, 1963
Box 3, Folder 30	Parrott Fabrics Inc. (The Market) - Certificate of Incorporation, 1963
Box 3, Folder 31-32	Parrott Fabrics Inc. (The Market) - Financial Records, circa 1979-1991
Box 3, Folder 33-39	Parrott Fabrics Inc. (The Market) - Financial Records, 1992
Box 3, Folder 40-42	Parrott Fabrics Inc. (The Market) - Financial Records, 1993-1994
Box 4, Folder 1-2	Parrott Fabrics Inc. (The Market) - Financial Records, 1994-1996
Box 4, Folder 3	Parrott Fabrics Inc. (The Market) - Incorporation, Sales and Leases, circa 1965-1971
Box 4, Folder 4	Parrott Fabrics Inc. (The Market) - Meeting Minutes, 1963-1966
Box 9, Folder 1	Parrott Fabrics Inc. (The Market) - Packaging Material (Oversized), circa 1960-circa 1970
Box 4, Folder 5	Parrott Fabrics Inc. (The Market) - Stationary and Marketing Materials, circa 1957-circa 1990
Box 4, Folder 6	Phone Call Log Book, 1980-2007
Box 4, Folder 7-9	Pri Brahe Invoices and Receipts, circa 1990-2004
Box 4, Folder 10	Santa Fe Opera Shop, 1988-1999
Box 4, Folder 11	The Market Sales and Expenses Ledger, 1959
Box 4, Folder 12-13	Tsuyama - Santa Fe Sister City Association, circa 1994-1998
Box 4, Folder 14-16	Yarn Orders Binder 1, A-Z (Disbound Binder), circa 1980-circa 1997

Box 4, Folder 17-19	Yarn Orders Binder 2, B-Z (Disbound Binder), circa 1990-2003
Box 4, Folder 20	Yarn Orders Binder 2, Handwoven Yardage (Disbound Binder), circa 1990-2003

Return to Table of Contents

Series 4: Studio Practice Files, circa 1951-2005

2.2 Linear feet (Boxes 4-6, 9)

Scope and Contents: Studio practice files are mostly related to the equipment, materials, and processes which Alice Kagawa Parrott used to create her wall hangings, as well as clothes, as ordered by customers. This series includes dye recipes, garment patterns, pencil design sketches of wall hangings, yarn samples, and wall hanging studies. There are notebooks on weaving techniques and warps, files with materials on workshops on dyeing and weaving, and also correspondence and instructions on ordering and assembling looms from Gilmore Looms.

Box 4, Folder 21	Custom Orders - Bedspreads for Cab Childress, circa 1990-2000
Box 4, Folder 22	Custom Orders - Bedspreads for Dan Ritchie and Joannie Dittmer, circa 1995
Box 4, Folder 23	Custom Orders - Wall Hanging for Maui, circa 1972
Box 4, Folder 24	Dye Recipes, circa 1976-circa 1994
Box 4, Folder 25	Dye Studies, 1973-1975
Box 4, Folder 26-29	Dyed Yarn Samples, circa 1960-circa 1990
Box 4, Folder 30	Dyeing Instructions, circa 1986
Box 9, Folder 2	Garment Patterns for Agnes Martins Vest Jacket, circa 1990-circa 2001
Box 9, Folder 3	Garment Patterns for Carol Horn Coat, circa 1990-circa 2001
Box 4, Folder 31	Garment Patterns for Navajo Skirt, 1988
Box 9, Folder 4	Garment Patterns for Sam Maloof Coat and Jacket, circa 1990-circa 2001
Box 9, Folder 5	Garment Patterns for Sam Maloof Shirt and Cardigan, 2001
Box 9, Folder 6	Garment Patterns for Various (Undated), circa 1990-circa 2002
Box 9, Folder 7	Garment Patterns for Various, 1997-2002
Box 4, Folder 32	Garment Patterns Sketchbook, circa 1984
Box 4, Folder 33	Gilmore Looms, circa 1970-circa 1996
Box 4, Folder 34-35	Indigo Workshop, circa 1992
Box 4, Folder 36	Loom and Equipment Assembly Instructions, circa 1968-circa 2000
Box 5, Folder 1	Maui Puunene School Artist in Residence Program, 1971

Box 5, Folder 2	Miscellaneous Notes and Materials on Weaving, circa 1951-circa 2000
Box 9, Folder 8	Wall Hanging Design Sketchbook (Oversized), 1970s
Box 5, Folder 3-5	Wall Hanging Design Sketches, circa 1960-circa 2000
Box 9, Folder 9	Wall Hanging Design Sketches (Oversized), circa 1970-circa 1990
Box 5, Folder 6-11	Wall Hanging Design Sketches for Custom Orders or Projects, circa 1972-circa 1988
Box 5, Folder 12-14	Wall Hanging or Tapestry Studies, circa 1960-circa 2005
Box 5, Folder 15	"Warps 5/1990" Notebook, 1990-1992
Box 5, Folder 16	"Warps 1991 to" Notebook, 1990-1992
Box 5, Folder 17	Warps 9/92" Notebook, 1992-2003
Box 5, Folder 18	Weaving Progress Notebook, circa 1993
Box 5, Folder 19-27	Weaving Samples, circa 1970-circa 2005
Box 5, Folder 28	Weaving Techniques Class Assignments, circa 1960-circa 1980
Box 6, Folder 1	Weaving Techniques Notebook, 1970
Box 6, Folder 2	Weaving Workshop Notebook, circa 1980-circa 1995
Box 6, Folder 3-4	Yarn Samples for Various Orders, circa 1965-circa 2000
Box 6, Folder 5	Yarn Samples, circa 1965-circa 2000

Return to Table of Contents

Series 5: Printed Material, 1954-2008

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 6-7, 9)

Scope and Contents: The bulk of this series consists of printed materials on Alice Kagawa Parrott and her artwork, but there are also some materials on other artists, such as ceramicist Toshiko Takaezu who was a close friend. Materials in this series include clippings, exhibition catalogs and announcements, magazines, and bulletins. Most materials include information on Parrott, unless otherwise noted.

Box 6, Folder 6	Clippings About Alice Kagawa Parrott (Undated), circa 1960-circa 1990
Box 6, Folder 7-11	Clippings About Alice Kagawa Parrott, 1957-2006
Box 6, Folder 12	Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements (Undated), circa 1955-circa 2000
Box 6, Folder 13-16	Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, 1957-1968
Box 6, Folder 17-20	Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, 1970-1990s
Box 6, Folder 21-22	Magazines, 1960-2004
Box 9, Folder 10	Magazines (Oversized), 1966-1967
Box 6, Folder 23	Reports and Bulletins, 1961-2003
Box 6, Folder 24	Books on Other Artists, 1991-1997
Box 6, Folder 25	Clippings on Dyeing and Weaving, circa 1971-1993
Box 6, Folder 26-27	Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements on Other Artists, 1954-2000
Box 6, Folder 28	Printed Material on Other Artists, 1960-2008
Box 6, Folder 29	Printed Material on Toshiko Takaezu (Undated), circa 1960-circa 2000
Box 7, Folder 1-4	Printed Material on Toshiko Takaezu, 1959-2008

Return to Table of Contents

Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1950-2010

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 7-9)

Scope and Contents: Photographs are of Alice Kagawa Parrott, her home, studio, dyeing process, wall hangings, garments, friends and family. The bulk of the series consists of photographic prints and slides. The slides are mostly of Parrott's tapestries and weaving but also include images of Parrott with friends and traveling.

Box 7, Folder 5	Alice Kagawa Parrott (Undated), circa 1950-circa 2000
Box 7, Folder 6	Alice Kagawa Parrott (Undated), circa 1950-circa 2000
Box 7, Folder 7-10	Alice Kagawa Parrott, 1950s-2002
Box 9, Folder 11	Alice Kagawa Parrott (Oversized Photograph), circa 1955-circa 1965
Box 7, Folder 11	Alice Kagawa Parrott and Family, 1958-2008
Box 7, Folder 12	Alice Kagawa Parrott Teaching, circa 1972
Box 7, Folder 13	Alice Kagawa Parrott with Others, 1953-circa 2000
Box 7, Folder 14-15	Art, Clothing, Tapestries by Alice Kagawa Parrott, circa 1963-circa 2000
Box 7, Folder 16	Exhibition Installation, 1965
Box 7, Folder 17	Family, Friends, and Others, circa 1963-circa 1998
Box 7, Folder 18	Photograph Series of Alice K. Parrott, House, and Family Taken by Don Normack, circa 1954
Box 7, Folder 19	Slide Binder - "Maui, 1972" (Part 1 of 2), 1972
Box 8, Folder 1	Slide Binder - "Maui, 1972" (Part 2 of 2), 1972
Box 8, Folder 2-4	Slide Binder - "Weaving Production, The Market - Santa Fe, Wall Hangings", circa 1958-circa 1986
Box 8, Folder 5-9	Slide Binder - Untitled, circa 1962-circa 1981
Box 8, Folder 10	Studio, House, and Garden, circa 1987-2010
Box 8, Folder 11	Toshiko Takaezu, 1953-2002

Box 8, Folder 12 Miscellaneous Negatives, circa 1965-circa 2002

Return to Table of Contents