



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Robert Perine Research  
Material on the Chouinard Art Institute, circa  
1923-circa 1985, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

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Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

2019/10/01

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Robert Perine research material on the Chouinard Art Institute
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.perirobe
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1923-circa 1985
<b>Extent:</b>	1.8 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Perine, Robert
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Robert Perine research material on the Chouinard Art Institute measures 1.8 linear feet and date from circa 1923 to circa 1985. Documents consist of research material used in Perine's book <i>Chouinard: An Art Vision Betrayed</i> (1985) including catalogs for the Chouinard Institute and California Institute of the Arts; notes and preliminary writings for the book, including an annotated table of contents and a bibliography; floor plans of the Institute; material concerning the lawsuit brought against the board of trustees in an attempt to prevent the closing of the school; 158 photographs of Nelbert Chouinard, classes, students and buildings; and 27 sound cassettes of interviews of 52 artists and staff, some with partial transcripts.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The research material was donated to the Archives of American Art by Robert Perine in 1987.

### Available Formats

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

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2019.

### Preferred Citation

Robert Perine research material on the Chouinard Art Institute, circa 1923-circa 1985. 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. Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Painter, educator, and author Robert Perine (1922-2004), was a student and later a professor at the Chouinard Art Institute. The Chouinard Art Institute was founded in Los Angeles, California, by Ms. Nelbert M. Chouinard in 1921. The Institute received financial support from Walt Disney who also oversaw its merger with the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music to form the Californian Institute of the Arts in 1961. The Chouinard Art Institute continued to operate as its own entity within the California Institute of the Arts until it was completely absorbed by the California Institute of the Arts in 1972.

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## Scope and Contents

The Robert Perine research material on the Chouinard Art Institute measures 1.8 linear feet and date from circa 1923 to circa 1985. Documents consist of research material used in Perine's book *Chouinard: An Art Vision Betrayed* (1985) including catalogs for the Chouinard Institute and California Institute of the Arts; notes and preliminary writings for the book, including an annotated table of contents and a bibliography; floor plans of the Institute; material concerning the lawsuit brought against the board of trustees in an attempt to prevent the closing of the school; 158 photographs of Nelbert Chouinard, classes, students and buildings; and 27 sound cassettes of interviews of 52 artists and staff, some with partial transcripts.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as four series.

- Series 1: Writings, 1930, 1962, circa 1980-circa 1985 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Printed Material, 1931-1984 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: Photographs, circa 1923-1977 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 4: Interviews, circa 1979 (0.9 linear feet; Box 1-3)

## 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 -- California -- Los Angeles  
California Institute of the Arts  
Chouinard Art Institute (Los Angeles, Calif.)

Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

Names:

Chouinard Art Institute (Los Angeles, Calif.)  
Chouinard, Nelbert, 1879-1967

Occupations:

Authors -- California -- Los Angeles  
Educators -- California -- Los Angeles  
Painters -- California -- Los Angeles

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Writings, 1930, 1962, circa 1980-circa 1985

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

Material includes footnotes, an annotated table of contents, quotes, and other notes related to Perine's book *Chouinard: An Art Vision Betrayed*. Also included is Perine's resume.

Box 1, Folder 1	"Chouinard: The Mother, The Children, the Art" Annotated Table of Contents, circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 2	Draft Notes, circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 3	Draft Notes, Footnotes, circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 4	Draft Notes, Quotes, circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 5	Draft Notes, Usable Quotes, circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 6	Draft Notes, References, circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 7	"Echoes of the Madame and Her School", circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 8	Floor Plans, 1930, 1962
Box 1, Folder 9-11	Miscellaneous Draft Notes, circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 12	Resume, circa 1980

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## Series 2: Printed Material, 1931-1984

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

Printed material includes academic catalogs for both the Chouinard Art Institute and the California Institute of the Arts, newsletter from the Californian Institute of the Arts, newspaper and magazine clipping related to the Chouinard Institute, and copies of legal documents related to the Chouinard Art Institute. The series is arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 13	Chouinard Art Institute Faculty and Classes, 1931
Box 1, Folder 14-16	Chouinard Art Institute Catalogs, 1937-1960
Box 1, Folder 17	Rite of Spring, 1961
Box 1, Folder 18-20	California Institute of the Arts Catalogs, 1963-1969
Box 1, Folder 21	California Institute of the Arts Alumni Association, 1966-1968
Box 1, Folder 22	California Institute of the Arts, "The Concept", undated
Box 1, Folder 23-27	California Institute of the Arts Newsletters, 1965-1984
Box 1, Folder 28	Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1968-1982
Box 1, Folder 29	Chouinard Legal Documents, 1969-1970
Box 1, Folder 30	Miscellaneous, 1970-1980

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## Series 3: Photographs, circa 1923-1977

*0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Photographs document student life, artwork, faculty, and school grounds at the Chouinard Art Institute.

Box 1, Folder 31-38      Chouinard Art Institute, circa 1923-1977

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## Series 4: Interviews, circa 1979

### *0.9 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3)*

Found here are interviews Perine conducted with staff of the Chouinard Art Institute for use in his book. There are partial transcripts for some of the interviews. The series is arranged with the transcripts first in alphabetical order followed by the audio cassettes. Since there are multiple interviews on each cassette, the cassettes are in no particular order.

- Box 1, Folder 39-41      Partial Transcripts, undated  
Partial transcripts exist for the following interviews: Rex Brandt, Mrs. Chouinard, Watson Cross, Marc Davis, Harry Diamond, Phil Dike and Sheets, Haines, Hauser, Alex Hovsepian, Bill Moore and James Normile, Phil Paradise, Rubin, Mary Vartikian, and Elin Waite.
- Box 2                      Interviews, circa 1979  
*17 Sound cassettes*  
Interviews include the following individuals: Huebner, David Thorne, Elmer Plummer, Mrs. Brugger, Brandt, Monohan, M. Clark, James Normile, Sheets, Watson Cross, Hauser, Ed Reep, Mary Vartikian, Haines, Millie Rocque, Ruth Hatfield, Mary Nystrom, Marjory Best, Mrs. Belzer, F. Diamond, Edith Head, Davis, Alex Hovsepian, Bob Mackie, Ned Jacoby, Bob Irwin, Bob, Mason, Corinne Hartley, Lou Danziger, and Rubin.
- Box 3                      Interviews, circa 1979  
*11 Sound cassettes*  
Interviews include the following: Phil Paradise, V. Partch and George Giroux, D. Constable, La Doriva, Herb Jepson, Ted Gibson, Jim Real, Wal Batterton, Roysher, Geo Hall, Katherine Hall, Mary Lea, Shiela de Bretteville, Wing Fong, Lee Blair, Woelffer, Clay Walker, Lalla Lezli, Cleo Dorman, Sheets, Janice Garbuit, Eva Roberts, Lee Blair, Pauline Annon, Alice Davis, Mary Nystrom, McMillan, Betty Armstrong, Fred Gardner, Rogers, Pokey Baker, Ruth Hatfield, Romero, Harry and fran Diamond, Cross, Marv Rubin, Elin Waite, Dave Smith, Trout, Gabrielson, and Mrs. Chouinard.

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