



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Bernard A. Pfriem Papers,
1932-1995, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

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Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

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Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Bernard A. Pfriem papers
Identifier:	AAA.pfriern
Date:	1932-1995
Extent:	8.4 Linear feet
Creator:	Pfriem, Bernard, 1914-1996
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter and educator Bernard A. Pfriem measure 8.4 linear feet and date from 1932-1995. The material documents Pfriem's career through biographical material, general and business correspondence, writings, subject files, printed matter, photographic material, sound, film, and video recordings, and artwork. A large portion of the papers concern Pfriem's tenure as founder and director of the Lacoste School of the Arts in Provence, France.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 1997 by Pfriem's nephew, Bernard C. Pfriem.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Christopher DeMairo in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Bernard A. Pfriem papers, 1932-1995. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual material in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Painter and educator Bernard A. Pfriem taught at the Cooper Union School of Art and Sarah Lawrence College in the 1960s before helping to found the Lacoste School of the Arts in Provence, in southeastern France.

Pfriem was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1916. He was awarded a four-year scholarship at the Cleveland Institute of Art in 1936, and received funding to work in Mexico after graduating in 1940. In Mexico, Pfriem assisted Jose Clemente Orozco with frescoes, collaborated with Julio Castellanos, and exhibited his own paintings and drawings. Pfriem joined the U.S. Army Air Force in 1942. After his service, he settled in New York City and taught drawing at the Museum of Modern Art. Pfriem moved to France in the early 1950s where he established studios in Paris and Lacoste, was awarded the William and Noma Copley Foundation Grant for Painting in 1959, and worked as chief designer for the United States government, organizing exhibitions and pavilions around the world.

After returning from France in the early 1960s Pfriem focused his career on education. He taught drawing at the Cooper Union School of Art (1963-1973), resumed teaching at the Museum of Modern Art (1963-1965), and was an instructor at Silvermine College of Art (1965-1969) and Sarah Lawrence College (1969-1975). In 1970 Pfriem, along with Sarah Lawrence College, established the Lacoste School of the Arts in southeastern France. The Cleveland Institute of Art, Pfriem's alma matter, became the primary affiliate of the school in 1980.

Pfriem's artwork can be found in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, Chase Manhattan Bank, the Art Institute of Chicago, Atlanta Museum, and the Brooklyn Museum, among others. Pfriem has had solo exhibitions at the Cleveland Institute of Art, Alexandre Iolas Gallery, and Richard Feigen Gallery, and has participated in many group exhibitions including *Recent Acquisitions* (1961) at the Museum of Modern Art, *American Drawings* (1965) sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, and exhibitions at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and many others.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and educator Bernard A. Pfriem measure 8.4 linear feet and date from 1932-1995. The material documents Pfriem's career through biographical material, general and business correspondence, writings, subject files, printed matter, photographic material, sound, film, and video recordings, and artwork. A large portion of the papers concern Pfriem's tenure as founder and director of the Lacoste School of the Arts in Provence, France.

Biographical material includes address cards, Pfriem's high school diploma, identification cards, resumes, and correspondence with colleagues, friends, family, and former students.

Writings consist of Pfriem's notes, lesson plans, speeches, and essays as well as writings about Pfriem by others. Subject files contain correspondence, photographs, financial information, legal documents, and printed material that shed light on Pfriem's involvement with various galleries, museums and institutions, and other art organizations.

Papers concerning Pfriem's tenure as founder and director of the Lacoste School of the Arts in Lacoste, in Provence, France, form a large part of the collection. These records include administrative files,

photographs taken at the school between 1970 and the 1990s, and material related to "The Stones of Lacoste," a thirty-minute documentary film produced and written by Pfriem about the art school and its historic location.

Printed material includes news clippings about Pfriem and reviews of his work, books, and exhibition catalogs, posters, and announcements.

Photographs, negatives, slides, and transparencies, include snapshots taken of Pfriem while working in Mexico, and in the military during World War II. Photographic material also depicts his exhibitions, his travels in Ethiopia and Greece, and his artwork.

Artwork includes several small drawings and sketches by Pfriem, a collage made by a former student, and one unsigned silk screen print.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1932-1995 (Box 1, 9, OV 11; 0.6 linear feet)
- Series 2: Writings, 1940s-1970s (Box 1; 7 folders)
- Series 3: Subject Files, 1942-1993 (Box 1-2, .5 linear feet)
- Series 4: Lacoste School of the Arts, 1960s-1995 (Box 2-5, 9, OV 11, FC 13-14; 4 linear feet)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1939-1993 (Box 5-6, 9, OV 11; 1.3 linear feet)
- Series 6: Photographs, circa 1936-1990s (Box 6-8, 10; 1.8 linear feet)
- Series 7: Artwork, circa 1940s-1990s (Box 8, OV 12; 4 folders)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Moving images
Sound recordings

Names:

Lacoste School of the Arts

Occupations:

Educators -- France
Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
Painters -- France
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1932-1995

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1, 9, OV 11)

Series includes address cards, Pfriem's high school diploma from West High School in Cleveland, Ohio, identification cards, resumes, and general correspondence with colleagues, friends, family, and former students. Also included are sound recordings containing music, a French lesson, and an overview of his work.

Box 1, Folder 1-4	Address Cards, undated
Box 1, Folder 5-9	Correspondence, General, 1951-1995, undated
Oversize 11	Correspondence, General, circa 1950s-1960s
Box 9, Folder 1	Correspondence, General, undated
Box 9, Folder 2	High School Diploma, 1932
Box 1, Folder 10	Identification Cards, 1944-1994
Box 1, Folder 11	Resumes, 1961-1991, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Bernard Pfriem, "His Work", 1976 <i>1 Sound cassette</i>
Box 1, Folder 13	Fete Music, 1974 <i>2 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 1, Folder 14	Daniel French Lesson; Disca Lesson; Fete Music, undated <i>1 Sound cassette</i>

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Series 2: Writing Files, 1940s-1970s

7 Folders (Box 1)

Writings by Pfreim include a eulogy, notes and writings on art techniques and movements, lesson plans, speeches, and two papers on art, journalism, and propaganda in Latin America during World War II. Writings by others include statements about and reviews of Pfriem's artwork and career; and a draft of Patrick Waldberg's *Pfriem* (1961).

Box 1, Folder 15	Eulogy, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Lesson Plans, Notes, and Drafts, 1970, undated
Box 1, Folder 17	Speeches and Lectures, undated
Box 1, Folder 18	Untitled Draft, undated
Box 1, Folder 19	"War Propoganda in Latin America", 1940s
Box 1, Folder 20	"Bernard Pfriem," Patrick Waldberg, circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 21	Statements on Pfriem's Work, undated

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Series 3: Subject Files, 1942-1993

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Folders may contain correspondence, photographs, financial information, legal documents, and printed material shedding light on Pfriem's involvement with various museums and institutions, galleries, and other art organizations. Other miscellaneous subjects include letters of recommendation, letters written during Pfriem's time in the military, files related to his studios and residences, papers from the Conference of Inter-American Affairs (1943), and information pertaining to the authentication of Marcel Duchamp's *Bottlerack* possessed by Pfriem.

Box 1, Folder 22	American Federation of Arts, Drawing Show, 1971-1972
Box 1, Folder 23	Artwork for Advertisements, 1973, undated
Box 1, Folder 25	Bayer, Herbert, 1965- 1970
Box 1, Folder 26	Calder, Alexander, 1949
Box 1, Folder 27	C and E Editions, undated
Box 1, Folder 28	The Century Club and The Chelsea Arts Club, 1979-1988
Box 1, Folder 29	Cleveland Institute of Art, 1974-1983
Box 1, Folder 30	Cleveland Museum of Art, 1953, 1945, 1982-1983
Box 1, Folder 31	Conference of Inter-American Affairs, 1943
Box 1, Folder 32	Duchamp, Marcel, Auction, 1965-1993, undated
Box 1, Folder 33	Duchamp, Marcel, "Bottlerack", 1974-1976
Box 9, Folder 3	Duchamp, Marcel, "Bottlerack" Photographs, circa 1975
Box 1, Folder 34	Exhibitions, Iolas and Hugo Galleries, 1951-1989
Box 2, Folder 1	Exhibition Guest List, 1984
Box 2, Folder 2	Letters of Recommendation, 1942-1943, 1969
Box 2, Folder 3	Loft Renovation, 1986
Box 2, Folder 4	Matisse, Henry, Copy of Letter, 1948

Box 2, Folder 5	Midtown Gallery, 1970-1972
Box 2, Folder 6	Military, 1942-1943
Box 2, Folder 7	Mizui, Yasuo, Fuji TV, 1980 <i>1 Videocassettes (Betacam)</i>
Box 2, Folder 8	Museum of Modern Art, circa 1963
Box 2, Folder 9	Personal Business, 1970-1992
Box 2, Folder 10	Richard Feigen Gallery, 1965-1968
Box 2, Folder 11	Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Awards Dinner, 1990
Box 2, Folder 12	Staempfli Gallery, 1973-1975
Box 2, Folder 13	Studios, 1983-1984, undated
Box 2, Folder 14	Typography, 1942-1950, undated

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Series 4: Lacoste School of the Arts in France, 1960s-1995

4 Linear feet (Box 2-5, 9, OV 11, FC 13-14)

This series forms almost half the collection and documents Pfriem's involvement with the founding and running of the Lacoste School of the Arts.

The series is arranged as 3 subseries.

- 4.1: Administrative Files, 1962-1995
- 4.2: "The Stones of Lacoste," 1970s
- 4.3: Photographs, 1960s-1990s

4.1: Administrative Files, 1962-1995

Administrative files include mailing lists, course descriptions, meeting minutes, publicity material, reports and memos, articles, some documentation of student exhibitions, and correspondence with administrators, teachers, guest lecturers, architects, and partnering institutions.

Box 2, Folder 15	Actes de Vente, undated
Box 2, Folder 16	Alumni Association, 1984-1986, undated
Box 2, Folder 17	Arnold, Paul, 1979-1980
Box 2, Folder 18	Bard College, 1984-1993
Box 2, Folder 19	Joan Baren and the South Bronx Kids, 1984, 1986
Box 2, Folder 20	Barnes, Betty, 1971, 1975
Box 2, Folder 21	Board of Trustees, 1984-1995
Box 2, Folder 22	Brihat, Denis, 1970
Box 2, Folder 23	Brochure Requests, 1973, 1982, 1987
Box 2, Folder 24	Case Statements, 1985-1986, undated
Box 2, Folder 25	Center for Interim Programs, 1986-1992
Box 2, Folder 26	Clayton, James, 1980-1982
Box 2, Folder 27-30	Correspondence, General, 1979-1994
Box 2, Folder 31	Correspondence, Housing, 1970-1971
Box 2, Folder 32	Courses, Proposals and Descriptions, circa 1969-1994

Box 2, Folder 33	DeCarlo, Charles, 1971-1973
Box 2, Folder 34	Djian, Maurice, 1970-1971
Box 2, Folder 35	Donations, Benefits, Solicitations, and Grants, 1982-1990
Box 2, Folder 36	Exhibitions of Student Work, 1971-1972
Box 2, Folder 37	Expenses, 1963-1982
Box 2, Folder 38-39	Falk, Katherine Hahn, 1985-1986
Box 2, Folder 40	Forms and Application Procedures, undated
Box 2, Folder 41	Insurance, 1969-1972
Box 3, Folder 1	Lectures on Color, Design, Drawing, and Painting, undated
Box 3, Folder 2	Mailing List, 1971
Box 3, Folder 3	Orientation Speeches, undated
Box 3, Folder 4	Peronne, Jacques, Architect, undated
Box 3, Folder 5	Petty Cash, circa 1970-1971
Box 3, Folder 6	Pilkonis, Pamela, circa 1984-1994
Box 3, Folder 7	Poetry Books, 1977-1989
Box 3, Folder 8	Program Course Enrollment, 1971-1972
Box 3, Folder 9-11	Program Posters, Brochures, and Pamphlets, 1960s-1990s
Oversize 11	Program Posters, Brochures, and Pamphlets, 1960s-1990s
Box 3, Folder 12	Property, 1962-1984
Box 3, Folder 13	Publicity, Articles, 1962-1987
Box 3, Folder 14	Publicity, 1971-1986

Box 3, Folder 15-17	Sarah Lawrence College, 1969-1985
Box 3, Folder 18	Societe Generale, 1971, undated
Box 3, Folder 19	Student Evaluations, 1981
Box 3, Folder 20	Student Materials, 1971-1983
Box 3, Folder 21	Teachers, 1972-1990
Box 3, Folder 22	Telephone, circa 1970-1971
Box 3, Folder 23	Travel Information, 1971-1981
Box 3, Folder 24	Visiting Lecturers, 1970, undated
Box 3, Folder 25	Wuart, Michel, 1966
Box 3, Folder 26	Writings, "Lacoste, Laboratory of Sadism" and "An Episode of the Revolution of Lacoste: The Pillage of the Chateau," Andre Bouer, circa 1971
Box 3, Folder 27	Writings, "Sarah Lawrence Makes it in Lacoste," Jane Freeman, 1971

4.2: "The Stones of Lacoste", 1970s

Subseries consists of correspondence, scripts, sound recordings and motion picture film related to "The Stones of Lacoste," a thirty-minute documentary film written and directed by Pfriem about the art school and its historic location.

Box 3, Folder 28	Papers, 1971-1972
Box 3, Folder 29	Film Script, circa 1971-1973
Box 3, Folder 30	Film; Music and Hammering, undated <i>2 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 3, Folder 31	Narration and Music II, Sasha Schneider; Music and Quarry Noises, undated
Item FC 13	"Stones of Lacoste", 1973 November 30 <i>1 Film reel (Super 8mm)</i>
Item FC 14	"Stones of Lacoste," Workprint, circa 1973 <i>1 Film reel (Super 8mm)</i>

4.3: Photographs, 1960s-1990s

Photographs depict students during class, the landscape and architecture of Lacoste, class trips, parties, exhibitions, concerts, and artwork.

Box 4, Folder 1-6	General, circa 1970-1980s
Box 9, Folder 4	General, 1960s-1980s
Box 4, Folder 7	General, Betsy Richardson, undated
Box 4, Folder 8	General, Transparencies and Negatives, circa 1970-1980s
Box 4, Folder 9	General, Slides, circa 1970-1991
Box 4, Folder 10-13	Student Artwork, circa 1970-1990s
Box 5, Folder 1-5	Student Artwork, circa 1970-1990s
Box 5, Folder 6-8	Student Artwork, Slides, 1970-1990
Box 5, Folder 9	Student Artwork, Negatives, circa 1970-1990s

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1939-1993

1.3 Linear feet (Box 5-6, OV 11)

Series includes artist cards; articles and reviews of Pfriem's artwork; catalogs, announcements, and posters from group and solo exhibitions; *Pfriem* (1961) by Patrick Waldberg; material from an advertisement and exhibition that used Pfriem's illustrations; and *The Mosaics of Jeanne Reynal* (1964) for which Pfriem contributed an essay. Also included is exhibition material from the shows of other artists, news clippings not directly related to Pfriem, trade catalogs, and art publications.

Box 5, Folder 10	Artist Cards, Pfriem, undated
Box 5, Folder 11	Clippings, About Pfriem, 1951-1969
Box 5, Folder 12	Clippings, Various Articles, 1965-1987
Box 5, Folder 13	Exhibition Material, Pfriem Solo Shows, 1950s-1960s
Oversize 11	Exhibition Material, Pfriem Solo Shows, 1963
Box 5, Folder 14-15	Exhibition Material, Pfriem Group Shows, 1956-1979
Box 5, Folder 16-19	Exhibition Material, Other Artists, 1960s-1980s
Box 6, Folder 1-6	Exhibition Material, Other Artists, 1960s-1980s
Box 9, Folder 5	Exhibition Material, Other Artists, 1970, 1993
Box 6, Folder 8	Illustrations, Exhibition Ephemera Designed by Pfriem for <i>400 Years of Italian Art</i> (1967), 1967
Oversize 11	Illustrations, Omega Watch Advertisement , circa 1960s-1970s
Oversize 11	"8 Polaroid Pages Pfrom Pfriem", 1968
Box 6, Folder 9	<i>The Mosaics of Jeanne Reynal</i> (1964), Text by Ashton, Campbell, Tyler, de Kooning, Pfriem, and Reynal, 1964
Box 5, Folder 11	<i>Pfriem</i> (1961) by Patrick Waldberg , 1961
Box 6, Folder 10	"Crossroad," Vol. 1 and 2, 1939
Box 6, Folder 11	"Industrial Design", 1957
Box 6, Folder 12	Poster and Book Catalogs, 1966-1968

Box 6, Folder 13 Sculpture Services Inc., Catalog, undated

Box 6, Folder 14 Miscellaneous, circa 1950s-1970s

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Series 6: Photographs, circa 1936-1990s

1.8 Linear feet (Box 6-8, 10)

Series includes snapshots, slides, contact sheets, negatives, and transparencies depicting Pfriem, his travels in Greece and Ethiopia, hand and nude models, and artwork created by him, former students, and other artists.

Box 6, Folder 15	Bernard Pfriem, circa 1945-1990s
Box 10, Folder 1	Bernard Pfriem, 1940s
Box 6, Folder 16	Bernard Pfriem, Slides and Transparencies, circa 1942-1960s
Box 6, Folder 17	U.S. Pavilion at Salonika, Greece, circa 1953-1956
Box 6, Folder 18-20	Ethiopia, 1950s
Box 6, Folder 21-23	Ethiopia, Transparencies, 1950s
Box 7, Folder 1	Ethiopia, Transparencies, 1950s
Box 7, Folder 2	Travel, Transparencies, 1960s-1970s
Box 7, Folder 3	Exhibitions, Bernard Pfriem, circa 1960s-1980s
Box 7, Folder 4	Drawing Show, Iolas Gallery, 1960s
Box 7, Folder 5	Exhibition, Scale Model Conceived by Ward Bennett, undated
Box 7, Folder 6	Artwork Photograph Inventory, 1971
Box 7, Folder 7	Artwork, College and Mexico, circa 1936-1942
Box 7, Folder 8	Artwork, Mexico, 1940-1942
Box 7, Folder 9-14	Artwork, circa 1947-1980s
Box 10, Folder 2	Artwork, circa 1940s-1960s
Box 7, Folder 15-16	Artwork, Self Portraits, 1950s-1980s
Box 7, Folder 17-18	Artwork, Portraits, 1960s
Box 7, Folder 19	Artwork, Nudes, circa 1960s

Box 7, Folder 20	Artwork, Collections, undated
Box 8, Folder 1	Slides, Pfriem and Artwork, 1940s-1990s
Box 8, Folder 2-3	Transparencies and Negatives, Artwork, 1950s-1960s
Box 8, Folder 4-5	Artwork, Other Artists, undated
Box 8, Folder 6	Hands, circa 1960s-1970s
Box 8, Folder 7	Nude Female, undated

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Series 7: Artwork, circa 1940s-1990s

4 Folders (Box 8, OV 12)

Folders contain several small drawings and sketches by Pfriem, a collage made by a former student, and one silk screen print that is unsigned.

Box 8, Folder 8 Drawings by Pfriem, undated

Oversize 12 Drawings by Pfriem, undated

Box 8, Folder 9 Student Collage, undated

Box 8, Folder 10 Untitled Silk Screen, undated

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