



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Poindexter Gallery  
Records, 1931-1985, bulk 1955-1978,  
in the Archives of American Art

Alexandra Krensky

Funding for the processing of this collection was provided by  
Smithsonian Institution Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Poindexter Gallery records
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.poingall
<b>Date:</b>	1931-1985 (bulk 1955-1978)
<b>Extent:</b>	7.1 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Poindexter Gallery
<b>Language:</b>	The collection is in English
<b>Summary:</b>	The records of the Poindexter Gallery measure 7.1 linear feet and date from 1931-1985 with the bulk of the materials dating from 1955-1978 when the gallery was active. The majority of the collection consists of artists' files documenting the gallery's relationships with its artists, including exhibitions, and containing a wide variety of materials, including photographs. Also found are the "desk files" kept by the gallery's founder, Elinor Poindexter; correspondence; and financial and legal records.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Poindexter Gallery records were donated over a period from 1968-1978 by the Poindexter Gallery via owners Elinor Poindexter and art director Harold Fondren. A 2006 accession was donated by Christie Poindexter Dennis, daughter of Elinor.

### Related Materials

Among other resources relating to the Poindexter Gallery records in the Archives of American Art is an oral history with gallery owner, Elinor Poindexter, conducted by Paul Cummings on September 9, 1970.

### Processing Information

The collection was minimally processed, arranged, and described by Alexandra Krensky in 2013 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution's Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

The goal for minimal-level processing at the Archives of American Art is to provide access to collections as quickly as possible while maintaining our high standards for arrangement, description and preservation. Generally, materials are minimally rearranged, existing folder titles are retained, and all materials are rehoused in acid-free folders and boxes. Staples and other fasteners are not removed, but materials are removed from binders or damaged binding when necessary.

## Preferred Citation

Poindexter Gallery records, 1931-1985, bulk 1955-1978, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution

## Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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## Biographical / Historical

The Poindexter Gallery was founded in 1955 in New York City by Elinor Poindexter. The gallery specialized in sculpture, abstract, and figurative art and featured the works of such artists as Richard Diebenkorn, Jules Olitski, Nell Blaine, Willem de Kooning, Giorgio Spaventa, Franz Kline, Earl Kerkam, Milton Resnick and Robert De Niro, among others. The Poindexter Gallery closed in 1978.

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## Scope and Contents

The records of the Poindexter Gallery measure 7.1 linear feet and date from 1931-1985 with the bulk of the materials dating from 1955-1978 when the gallery was active. The majority of the collection consists of artists' files documenting the gallery's relationships with its artists, including exhibitions, and containing a wide variety of materials, including photographs. Also found are the "desk files" kept by the gallery's founder, Elinor Poindexter; correspondence; and financial and legal records.

Elinor Poindexter's desk files consist of documents she kept as a reference for both her personal needs and gallery business. Correspondence is with artists, museums, colleges and universities, and art institutes. Notable correspondents include Worcester Art Museum, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Solomon Guggenheim Museum, Denver Art Museum, Yale University, Oberlin College, University of Arizona, the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, Smithsonian Institution, and the Montana Historical Association. Additional correspondence is found throughout desk files and artists' files as well.

Artists' files are found for artists represented by the gallery, or in whom the gallery took an interest. Contents of the files vary, but may contain correspondence, photographs, sales records, exhibition files, and printed materials. There is extensive material relating to artists Richard Diebenkorn, Willem de Kooning, Giorgio Spaventa, Robert De Niro, Earl Kerkam, Franz Kline, Milton Resnick, Eleanor Dickinson, Paul Harris, Jules Olitski, among others.

The remainder of the collection consists of financial and legal files containing sales inventories and receipts, price lists, bills, loan agreements, and documents pertaining to the estate of Giorgio Spaventa,

as well as photographic materials consisting of prints, negatives, slides and color transparencies of artwork.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 5 series.

- Series 1: Elinor Poindexter Desk Files, 1947-1969 (Box 1, 8 folders)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1955-1971 (Box 1-2, 1.8 linear feet)
- Series 3: Artists' Files, 1931-1983, undated (Box 2-5, 2.4 linear feet)
- Series 4: Financial and Legal Files, 1955-1985 (Box 5-6, 1.0 linear feet)
- Series 5: Photographic Materials, 1933-1977 (Box 6-7, 1.4 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 galleries, Commercial -- New York (State) -- New York  
Art, Modern -- 20th century

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Corcoran Gallery of Art  
De Kooning, Willem, 1904-1997  
De Niro, Robert, Sr., 1922-1993  
Denver Art Museum  
Dickinson, Eleanor, 1931-  
Diebenkorn, Richard, 1922-1993  
Fogg Art Museum  
Harris, Paul, 1925-  
Kerkam, Earl, 1891-1965  
Kline, Franz, 1910-1962  
Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.)  
Montana Historical Society  
Oberlin College  
Olitski, Jules, 1922-2007  
Resnick, Milton, 1917-2004  
Smithsonian Institution  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum  
Spaventa, George, 1918-  
University of Arizona  
Worcester Art Museum  
Yale University

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Elinor Poindexter Desk Files, 1947-1969

#### *10 Folders (Box 1)*

The Elinor Poindexter desk files contain clippings, press releases, Elinor's biography, an index of articles about artists, savings bank documents, notes and personal files, legal documents, invoices, and miscellaneous correspondence.

Arranged alphabetically by original file name.

Box 1, Folder 1	Artists, Personal Advances, Past History, 1956-1969
Box 1, Folder 2	Artists' Publications Index, 1947-1953
Box 1, Folder 3	Gallery Correspondence, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Invoices, 1968-1969
Box 1, Folder 5	Legal, 1968
Box 1, Folder 6	Notes, Useful for Gallery, 1954-1969
Box 1, Folder 7	Printed Material, 1958
Box 1, Folder 8	Publicity, 1959
Box 1, Folder 9	Resume, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Savings Bank, 1959, 1969

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1955-1971

### *1.8 Linear feet (Box 1-2)*

Correspondence chronicles the gallery's relationships with different artists, including artists who exhibited there, as well as artists who they took an interest in. The series also includes correspondence between the Poindexter Gallery and other art galleries, museums, and colleges and universities. Notable correspondents include Worcester Art Museum, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Solomon Guggenheim Museum, Denver Art Museum, Yale University, Oberlin College, University of Arizona, the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, Smithsonian Institution, and the Montana Historical Association.

Arranged chronologically per original order.

Box 1, Folder 11-26	Correspondence, 1955-1959
Box 1, Folder 27-52	Correspondence, 1960-1961
Box 1, Folder 53-78	Correspondence, 1962-1963
Box 2, Folder 1-25	Correspondence, 1964-1965
Box 2, Folder 26-51	Correspondence, 1966-1967
Box 2, Folder 52-77	Correspondence, 1968-1969
Box 2, Folder 78-96	Correspondence, 1970-1971
Box 2, Folder 97	Correspondence, undated
Box 2, Folder 98	Form Letters, undated
Box 2, Folder 99	Letter Fragments, undated

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## Series 3: Artists' Files, 1931-1983

### 2.4 Linear feet (Box 2-5)

The artists' files represent the bulk of the records and are files that were created by the Poindexter Gallery in order to keep track of artists whose work they exhibited and whose work they were interested in.

Among those represented in the series are the artists Richard Diebenkorn, Willem de Kooning, Giorgio Spaventa, Robert De Niro, Earl Kerkam, Franz Kline, Milton Resnick, Eleanor Dickinson, Paul Harris, Jules Olitski. Materials included in the artists' files are correspondence, photographs of artwork, sales records, exhibition files, and printed materials. Due to the nature of the material as reference files, some of the artists' files predate and postdate the dates that Poindexter Gallery was open.

Arranged alphabetically by surname.

Box 2, Folder 100	Annesley, David, 1968
Box 2, Folder 101	Condon, Rudolph, Newspaper Clippings, 1957-1959
Box 2, Folder 102	Condon, Rudolph, Photographs, undated
Box 2, Folder 103	Condon, Rudolph, Sketches, undated
Box 2, Folder 104	Condon, Rudolph, Writings and Printed Material, circa 1958
Box 2, Folder 105	Davis, Gene, Biographical Information, circa 1963
Box 3, Folder 1	Davis, Gene, Exhibit Brochures, circa 1963
Box 3, Folder 2	Davis, Gene, Photographs, undated
Box 3, Folder 3	Davis, Gene, Newspaper Clippings, 1964-1967
Box 3, Folder 4	de Kooning, Willem, 1946-1967
Box 3, Folder 5	De Niro, Robert, 1955-1957
Box 3, Folder 6-9	Dickinson, Eleanor, 1966-1974
Box 3, Folder 10	Diebenkorn, Richard, 1963-1979
Box 3, Folder 11	Diebenkorn, Richard, 1963-1979
Box 3, Folder 12	Diebenkorn, Richard, Biographical Information, 1957-1959
Box 3, Folder 13	Diebenkorn, Richard, 1957-1958



Box 3, Folder 14	Diebenkorn, Richard, 1960-1970
Box 3, Folder 15	Diebenkorn, Richard, Lithographic Documentation Sheet, 1970
Box 3, Folder 16	Diebenkorn, Richard, Magazine and Newspaper Clippings, 1957-1970
Box 3, Folder 17-18	Diebenkorn, Richard, 1964-1983
Box 3, Folder 19	Diebenkorn, Richard, Photographs and Reproductions, 1961-1968
Box 3, Folder 20	Diebenkorn, Richard, Printed Material, 1964-1999
Box 3, Folder 21	Harris, Paul, 1966-1974
Box 3, Folder 22	Harris, Paul, Correspondence, 1966-1972
Box 3, Folder 23	Harris, Paul, Catalogs and Clippings, 1958-1961
Box 3, Folder 24	Harris, Paul, Correspondence, 1958-1970
Box 4, Folder 1	Harris, Paul, Notebook, undated
Box 4, Folder 2	Harris, Paul, Photographs and Negatives of Works, 1959-1972
Box 4, Folder 3	Hopkins, Bud, Biographical Information, undated
Box 4, Folder 4	Hopkins, Budd, Exhibit Brochures, 1964-1967
Box 4, Folder 5	Hopkins, Budd, Magazine and Newspaper Articles , 1962-1971
Box 4, Folder 6	Kerkam, Earl, 1951-1957
Box 4, Folder 7	Kerkam, Earl, Exhibit Brochures, undated
Box 4, Folder 8	Kerkam, Earl, Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1931-1955
Box 4, Folder 9	Kerkam, Earl, Photographs of Work, undated
Box 4, Folder 10	Kline, Franz, 1957
Box 4, Folder 11	Levin, Kim, 1964-1968
Box 4, Folder 12	Levin, Kim, Photography of Work , 1965-1967

Box 4, Folder 13	McNeil, George, Biographical Information, undated
Box 4, Folder 14	McNeil, George, Newspaper Clippings, 1959
Box 4, Folder 15	McNeil, George, Photographs of Work, 1957-1959
Box 4, Folder 16	Natkin, Robert, Biographical Information, undated
Box 4, Folder 17	Natkin, Robert, Exhibit Brochures, 1965-1968
Box 4, Folder 18	Natkin, Robert, Photographs and Slide , 1965
Box 4, Folder 19	Nankin, Robert, 1960-1968
Box 4, Folder 20	Natkin, Robert, Magazine and Newspaper Reviews, 1962-1969
Box 4, Folder 21	Olitski, Jules, Biography and Catalogs, circa 1964
Box 4, Folder 22	Olitski, Jules, Clippings, 1961-1965
Box 4, Folder 23	Olitski, Jules, Correspondence, 1961-1972 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 4, Folder 24	Olitski, Jules, Inventories and Price List, 1963-1967
Box 4, Folder 25	Pring, Gwytha, circa 1963-1964
Box 4, Folder 26	Pring, Gwytha, Photography of Works, 1961-1962
Box 4, Folder 27	Resnick, Milton, 1955-1960
Box 4, Folder 28	Shtainmets, Leon, 1976
Box 4, Folder 29	Slowinski, Ronald, 1966-1970
Box 4, Folder 30	Soffer, Sasson, Biographical Information, undated
Box 4, Folder 31	Soffer, Sasson, Exhibit Brochures, 1964
Box 4, Folder 32	Soffer, Sasson, Photographs of Work, 1963-1964
Box 4, Folder 33	Spaventa, Giorgio, Biography, Correspondence, 1964-1965

Box 4, Folder 34	Speyer, Nora, 1965-1966
Box 4, Folder 35	Suro, Dario, 1960-1962
Box 4, Folder 36	Weeks, James, 1963-1964
Box 4, Folder 37	Wilke, Ulfert, 1969-1974
Box 4, Folder 38	Woelffer, Emerson, 1958-1974
Box 4, Folder 39	Wonner, Paul, 1971-1973
Box 5, Folder 1	Wonner, Paul, Biographical Information, undated
Box 5, Folder 2	Wonner, Paul, Exhibit Brochures, 1958-1965
Box 5, Folder 3	Wonner, Paul, Exhibit Guestbook, 1971
Box 5, Folder 4	Wonner, Paul, Photographs of Work, 1961-1964
Box 5, Folder 5	Yektai, Manoucher, 1961-1969 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 5, Folder 6	Other Artists, Biographical Information, 1967
Box 5, Folder 7	Miscellaneous Photographs of Work, 1955, 1965
Box 5, Folder 8	Miscellaneous Notes, undated
Box 5, Folder 9	Miscellaneous Exhibit Brochures, 1962-1969

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## Series 4: Financial and Legal Files, 1955-1985

### *1 Linear foot (Box 5-6)*

Financial and legal files document sales made by the gallery as well as day-to-day fiscal and legal matters. Materials include invoices, price lists, sales receipts, bills, inventories, and loan agreements. Also included are court papers regarding a claim brought against the gallery by the estate of Giorgio Spaventa after his death in 1978.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title and thereunder chronologically.

Box 5, Folder 10	Bills, 1962-1965
Box 5, Folder 11	Bills, 1966
Box 5, Folder 12	Bills, 1967
Box 5, Folder 13	Bills, 1968
Box 5, Folder 14	Bills, 1969
Box 5, Folder 15	Bills, 1970-1971
Box 5, Folder 16	Bills, undated
Box 5, Folder 17	Gallery Bills, Receipts, Invoices, etc., 1955-1961
Box 5, Folder 18	Inventories, Price Lists, 1955-1971 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 5, Folder 19	Inventories, Price Lists, undated <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 5, Folder 20	Loans, 1957-1958
Box 5, Folder 21	Loans, 1958
Box 5, Folder 22	Loans, 1959
Box 5, Folder 23	Loans, 1961
Box 5, Folder 24	Loans, 1962-1963
Box 5, Folder 25	Loans, 1964
Box 5, Folder 26	Loans, 1965

Box 5, Folder 27	Loans, 1966
Box 5, Folder 28	Loans, 1967
Box 5, Folder 29	Loans, 1968
Box 5, Folder 30	Loans, 1969
Box 5, Folder 31	Loans, undated
Box 5, Folder 32	Poindexter Gallery Business Papers, undated
Box 6, Folder 1-5	Spaventa Estate Material, circa 1960s-1985

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## Series 5: Photographic Materials, 1933-1977

### 1.4 Linear feet (Box 6-7)

Photographic materials consist of prints, developed negatives, color transparencies and slides of artwork by artists who were represented by Poindexter Gallery or in whom the gallery took an interest. Among the artists heavily represented are Alfred Puhn, Nell Blaine, Richard Diebenkorn, Steven Sloman, and Manchouer Yekati. Photographic materials pertaining to artwork also appear in the artists' files.

Arranged alphabetically by artist's surname.

Box 6, Folder 6	Blaine, Nell, 1957-1971
Box 6, Folder 7	Blaine, Nell, 1965-1974
Box 6, Folder 8	Bogart, Richard, 1968-1969, 1972
Box 6, Folder 9	Dickinson, Eleanor, 1969-1971
Box 6, Folder 10	Diebenkorn, Richard, 1955-1975
Box 6, Folder 11	Diebenkorn, Richard, 1961-1969
Box 6, Folder 12; Box 6, Folder 12	Diebenkorn, Richard, 1968-1971
Box 6, Folder 13; Box 6, Folder 13	Diebenkorn, Richard, Negatives, 1961
Box 6, Folder 14	Diebenkorn, Richard, Negatives, undated
Box 6, Folder 15	Gechtoff, Sonia, 1958
Box 6, Folder 16	Hall, Joellen, 1966
Box 6, Folder 17	Harris, Paul, 1967
Box 6, Folder 18	Herbert, James, 1972-1977
Box 6, Folder 19	Hitchens, Ivan, 1965
Box 6, Folder 20	Kerkam, Earl, 1955-1956
Box 6, Folder 21	Klavun, Betty, circa 1971
Box 6, Folder 22	Natkin, Robert, 1964

Box 6, Folder 23	Sazegar, Morteza, 1964-1977
Box 7, Folder 1	Sloman, Steven, 1973-1974
Box 7, Folder 2	Sloman, Steven, 1974-1975
Box 7, Folder 3	Snow, Michael, undated
Box 7, Folder 4	Somberg, Herman, 1971
Box 7, Folder 5	Spaventa, Giorgio, circa 1964
Box 7, Folder 6	Weeks, James, 1973-1974
Box 7, Folder 7	Wonner, Paul, 1958-1959
Box 7, Folder 8-9	Yektai, Manchouer, 1958-1964
Box 7, Folder 10	Yektai, Manchouer, Negatives, undated
Box 7, Folder 11	Miscellaneous Photographs of Artwork, 1933-1963
Box 7, Folder 12	Miscellaneous Photographs of Artwork, 1955-1964
Box 7, Folder 14	Miscellaneous Photographs of Artwork, undated
Oversize 8, Folder 1	Puhn, Alfred Photographs, circa 1950

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