



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Kenneth and Emma-Stina
Prescott Research Material on Artists, 1919-2001,
bulk 1973-1991, in the Archives of American Art

Erin Kinhart

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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: James Chapin, 1955-circa 1984, 1941	4
Series 2: Burgoyne Diller, 1932-2001	5
Series 3: Dorothea S. Greenbaum, 1919-1980	7
Series 4: Jack Levine, 1961-1991	9
Series 5: Elizabeth Olds, 1931-1992	11
Series 6: Other Artists, 1929-1998	12

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Kenneth and Emma-Stina Prescott research material on artists
Date:	1919-2001 (bulk 1973-1991)
Identifier:	AAA.preskenn
Creator:	Prescott, Emma-Stina Prescott, Kenneth Wade, 1920-
Extent:	9.4 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English.
Summary:	The Kenneth and Emma-Stina Prescott research material on artists measures 9.4 linear feet and dates from 1919 to 2001, with the bulk of the material dating from 1973 to 1991. Kenneth Prescott, an art historian and educator, and his wife Emma-Stina, also an art historian, maintained extensive files concerning artists James Chapin, Burgoyne Diller, Dorothea S. Greenbaum, Jack Levine, and Elizabeth Olds. These files typically include correspondence, artwork inventories, exhibition catalogs and other printed materials, notes, interviews, photographs, and slides. A small amount of material also documents the works of Richard Anuszkiewicz, Byron Browne, Jose de Creeft, Lorrie Goulet, Richard Hunt, Sam Maitin, and Hunt Slonem.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in several installments by Kenneth and Emma-Stina Prescott from 1987 to 2001.

Related Materials

Also found at the Archives of American Art are the Burgoyne Diller papers which include papers and artwork donated by Kenneth and Emma-Stina Prescott. The Kenneth W. Prescott and Emma-Stina Prescott Collection of Ben Shahn is available at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin.

Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Erin Kinhart in 2013. The collection has been minimally rearranged and retains the existing/original folder titles when possible. All materials have been rehoused in archival folders and boxes for long-term stability, but often staples and other fasteners have not been removed. Materials within folders have not been rearranged.

Preferred Citation

Kenneth and Emma-Stina Prescott research material on artists, 1919-2001, bulk 1973-1991. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

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Biographical / Historical

Kenneth Wade Prescott (1920-2013) was an art historian and educator in Austin, Texas. Prescott's wife, Emma-Stina (1924-2021) was also an art historian.

Kenneth Prescott received a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Michigan. While living in Ann Arbor he met his future wife Emma-Stina Johnsson, who was visiting from Stockholm, Sweden. His early career included directorships of the Kansas City Museum, Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, and the New Jersey State Museum. During his career he arranged and curated many exhibitions throughout the country and abroad and administered a grant program in the visual arts for the Ford Foundation. He and his wife moved to Austin, Texas in 1974, and he served as Chairman of the Art Department at the University of Texas at Austin. While there he introduced a Ph.D. program in Art History. Prescott regularly published in the fields of ornithology and the visual arts, including several publications on Ben Shahn and retrospective exhibition catalogs for the works of Elizabeth Olds, Burgoyne Diller, and Jack Levine. He also collaborated with his wife on *The Complete Graphic Work of Jack Levine* which was published in 1984.

Scope and Contents

The Kenneth and Emma-Stina Prescott research material on artists measures 9.4 linear feet and dates from 1919 to 2001, with the bulk of the material dating from 1973 to 1991. Kenneth Prescott, an art historian and educator, and his wife Emma-Stina, also an art historian, maintained extensive files concerning artists James Chapin, Burgoyne Diller, Dorothea S. Greenbaum, Jack Levine, and Elizabeth Olds. These files typically include correspondence, artwork inventories, exhibition catalogs and other printed materials, notes, interviews, photographs, and slides. A small amount of material also documents the works of Richard Anuszkiewicz, Byron Browne, Jose de Creeft, Lorrie Goulet, Richard Hunt, Sam Maitin, and Hunt Slonem.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series.

- Series 1: James Chapin, 1941, 1955-circa 1984 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Burgoyne Diller, 1932-2001 (2.5 linear feet; Boxes 1-3)

- Series 3: Dorothea S. Greenbaum, 1919-1980 (2.7 linear feet; Boxes 4-6)
- Series 4: Jack Levine, 1961-1991 (2.1 linear feet; Boxes 6-8)
- Series 5: Elizabeth Olds, 1931-1992 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 8-9)
- Series 6: Other Artists, 1929-1998 (1.0 linear foot; Boxes 9-10)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Artists -- United States

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Photographs

Names:

Anuskiewicz, Richard
Browne, Byron, 1907-1961
Chapin, James, 1887-1975
De Creeft, José, 1884-1982
Diller, Burgoyne, 1906-1965
Goulet, Lorrie, 1925-
Greenbaum, Dorothea S.
Hunt, Richard, 1935-2023
Levine, Jack, 1915-2010
Maitin, Sam
Olds, Elizabeth, 1896-1991
Slonem, Hunt

Occupations:

Art historians

Container Listing

Series 1: James Chapin, 1955-circa 1984, 1941

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: James Chapin research material primarily consists of correspondence, printed material, photographs, and artwork inventories. Prescott's correspondence is with the Chapin family, museums, galleries, collectors, publishers, and others regarding an exhibition and catalog of Chapin's work at the Yaneff Gallery, Toronto. Also found are originals and photocopies of printed material documenting exhibitions of Chapin's work, and photocopies of inventory cards which include sales information. Photographic materials depict artwork by Chapin, and other miscellaneous research material includes printed material, lists, and photocopies of biographical data.

Arrangement: Printed materials were removed from binders into archival folders. These documents are photocopies annotated by Prescott during the 1970s, but are arranged in chronological order by original publication date, which is provided in parentheses.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Correspondence, 1973-1979
Box 1, Folder 3-5	Inventory and Sales, circa 1984
Box 1, Folder 6-9	Printed Materials (1924-1978), 1970s
Box 1, Folder 10	Time Covers, 1955-1960
Box 1, Folder 11	Photographs, 1968, 1970s
Box 1, Folder 12	Color Transparencies and Negatives, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 13-14	Miscellaneous Research Material, circa 1974-1980, 1941

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Burgoyne Diller, 1932-2001

2.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3)

Scope and Contents: Found here is extensive research material regarding Burgoyne Diller. Included are photocopies of the Diller Estate's inventory records, notecards containing artwork inventory information, photographs and slides of Diller's artwork, exhibition catalogs, and a thesis about Diller. Also found are records which Kenneth Prescott categorized as "Diller Archival," consisting of photocopies of Diller's own archive of correspondence, biographical information, and writings. Additional printed material includes annotated photocopies of news clippings and exhibition publications regarding Diller's career. Other photographs depict Diller and installations of two retrospective exhibitions of his work.

Arrangement: Much of the research material was removed from binders and placed into archival folders. The original order of the documents has been maintained. Photocopies were annotated by Prescott and date from the 1970s but are arranged in chronological order by original publication date, which is provided in parentheses.

Box 1, Folder 15-26	Diller Archival - Correspondence/Records/etc., circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 27-31	Estate Inventory Records, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 32-37	Diller Archival - His Writings, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 38	Poem by Diller, undated
Box 2, Folder 1-6	Catalogue/Exhibition Data (1932-1991), 1970s-1991
Box 2, Folder 7	Thesis, "Burgoyne Diller: A Neo-Plasticist" by Anita J. Ellis, 1975
Box 2, Folder 8-14	Printed Material (1920s-1991), 1970s-1991
Box 2, Folder 15	Magazines, 1968, 1961
Box 2, Folder 16-30	Exhibition Catalogs, 1932-1995
Box 3, Folder 1	Photographs of Diller, circa 1935-1960s
Box 3, Folder 2	Photographs of Exhibition Installations, 1987, 1981
Box 3, Folder 3-5	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 6	Color Transparencies of Artwork, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 7	Negatives, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 8	Slide Inventory, 2001
Box 3, Folder 9-17	Slides, circa 1960s-1980s

Series 2: Burgoyne Diller

Kenneth and Emma-Stina Prescott research material on artists
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Box 3, Folder 18

Notecards, circa 1970s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Dorothea S. Greenbaum, 1919-1980

2.7 Linear feet (Boxes 4-6)

Scope and Contents: Research material on Dorothea S. Greenbaum primarily consists of documentation for a catalogue raisonne that was never published. Included is Prescott's correspondence with Greenbaum, artists, collectors, galleries, dealers, curators, publishers, and others. Also found are an artwork inventory; notecards documenting titles of works, dates, and owners; "problems" regarding specific works of art; and several draft versions of the catalogue raisonne. Also of note are a draft autobiography written by Greenbaum and a transcript of an interview of Greenbaum by Prescott. Printed material includes photocopies and originals of news clippings, exhibition catalogs, press releases, and invitations. Additional photographs depict Greenbaum at gallery events and in her studio. Included is one photograph of Yasuo Kuniyoshi standing next to a Greenbaum sculpture.

Arrangement: Much of this material was removed from binders and placed into archival folders. The original order of the documents has been maintained.

Box 4, Folder 1-4	Correspondence, 1970-1980
Box 4, Folder 5	Interview Transcript, 1973
Box 4, Folder 6-8	Inventory, 1970s
Box 4, Folder 9	Problems, circa 1973-1978
Box 4, Folder 10	Notecards, circa 1970s
Box 5, Folder 1-7	Catalogue Raisonne Drafts, circa 1970s
Box 5, Folder 8	Essay and Notes, circa 1970s
Box 5, Folder 9-10	Autobiography, 1973-1977
Box 5, Folder 11-16	Printed Materials, 1928-1979
Box 5, Folder 17	Exhibition Catalogs, 1933-1944
Box 6, Folder 1-3	Exhibition Catalogs, 1952-1977
Box 6, Folder 4	Drawings, undated
Box 6, Folder 5	Photographs of Dorothea S. Greenbaum and Others, circa 1933-1975
Box 6, Folder 6-15	Photographs of Sculptures, circa 1926-1975
Box 6, Folder 16-17	Photographs of Artwork, 1920s-1970s
Box 6, Folder 18	Negatives, circa 1970s

Box 6, Folder 19-20 Miscellaneous Research Material, 1919, 1939-1979

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Jack Levine, 1961-1991

2.1 Linear feet (Boxes 6-8)

Scope and Contents: Found here is research material on Jack Levine, primarily compiled for a traveling Levine retrospective (1979-1980) and *The Complete Graphic Works of Jack Levine* (1984), written by Kenneth and Emma-Stina Prescott. Included are notecards with artwork inventory details, inventory worksheets, Prescott's correspondence regarding the availability of Levine's work for the planned retrospective, and many slides and photographs of artwork. Also found are writings on Levine by Henry Arnold Freedman and transcripts of two interviews of Levine by Kenneth Prescott. Additional photographs include two portraits of Levine and photographs of Levine and the Prescotts at the opening of the retrospective exhibition. General research material primarily consists of photocopies of news clippings, exhibition publications, letters, and biographical material about Levine.

Arrangement: General research materials were removed from binders into archival folders. These documents are mostly photocopies annotated by Prescott during the 1970s, but are arranged in chronological order by original publication date, which is provided in parentheses.

Box 6, Folder 21-27	Correspondence, 1977-1980
Box 6, Folder 28-29	Exhibition Catalogs, 1961-1986
Box 7, Folder 1	Publication, <i>The Complete Graphic Works of Jack Levine</i> , 1984
Box 7, Folder 2	Thesis, "The WPA Paintings of Jack Levine" by Henry Arnold Freedman, 1967
Box 7, Folder 3-4	Dissertation, "Jack Levine: Painter and Protester" by Henry Arnold Freedman, 1974
Box 7, Folder 5-8	Transcript of Interview with Jack Levine by Kenneth Prescott, 1970s
Box 7, Folder 9	Transcript of Interview with Jack Levine by Kenneth Prescott, 1978
Box 7, Folder 10-15	Inventory Worksheets, 1970s
Box 7, Folder 16-17	Notecards, circa 1970s
Box 7, Folder 18-19	Research Material for Jack Levine Retrospective Exhibition Catalog, circa 1978
Box 7, Folder 20-23	Research Material, General (1936-1949), 1970s
Box 8, Folder 1-18	Research Material, General (1950-1991), 1970s-1991
Box 8, Folder 19	Photographs of Jack Levine, 1963, 1970
Box 8, Folder 20	Photographs of Jack Levine Retrospective, 1978
Box 8, Folder 21-25	Photographs of Artwork, 1970s

Box 8, Folder 26-27

Slides, 1970s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Elizabeth Olds, 1931-1992

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 8-9)

Scope and Contents: Found here is research material regarding artist Elizabeth Olds, including exhibition catalogs and other printed material, photographs and slides of her artwork, an appraisal of her artwork, and a thesis on her career. Also found are a few snapshots of Olds, primarily depicting her sketching outdoors. Recordings include one audio cassette of Olds interviewed by Kenneth Prescott and one videocassette of Olds interviewed at age 88 and a selection of works shown in her 1986 retrospective exhibition at the RGK Foundation.

Box 8, Folder 28	Personal Property Appraisal, 1992
Box 8, Folder 29	Thesis, "Elizabeth Olds: Graphic Artist of the 1930s" by Susan Elizabeth Arthur, 1985
Box 8, Folder 30	Exhibition Catalogs, 1931-1992
Box 8, Folder 31	Printed Material, 1980s
Box 8, Folder 32	Photographs of Elizabeth Olds, 1985, undated
Box 9, Folder 1	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1965-1985
Box 9, Folder 2-3	Slides, 1980s
Box 9, Folder 4	Interview of Elizabeth Olds, 1983 May 5 1 Sound cassette
Box 9, Folder 5	Elizabeth Olds Interview and Artworks, circa 1986 1 Videocassettes (VHS)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Other Artists, 1929-1998

1 Linear foot (Boxes 9-10)

Scope and Contents: Found here is a small amount of research material on other artists including Richard Anuszkiewicz, Jose de Creeft, Byron Browne, Lorrie Goulet, Richard Hunt, Hunt Slonem, and Sam Maitin. Documentation primarily includes slides of artwork and exhibition catalogs, but may also include other biographical and printed material. Also found are artist-made Christmas cards and other artwork from various artists sent to the Prescotts.

Box 9, Folder 6	Richard Anuszkiewicz, Resume, 1990
Box 9, Folder 7-10	Richard Anuszkiewicz, Exhibition Catalogs, 1965-1994
Box 9, Folder 11-12	Richard Anuszkiewicz, Clippings, 1963-1991
Box 9, Folder 13	Byron Browne, Slides, 1989
Box 9, Folder 14-16	Jose de Creeft, Exhibition Catalogs, 1929-1992
Box 9, Folder 17	Jose de Creeft, Printed Material, circa 1983-1986
Box 9, Folder 18	Jose de Creeft, Slides, circa 1980s
Box 9, Folder 19	Lorrie Goulet, Exhibition Catalogs, 1971-1991
Box 9, Folder 20-23	Richard Hunt, Miscellaneous Research Material, 1960-1982
Box 9, Folder 24	Richard Hunt, Exhibition Catalogs, 1971-1976
Box 10, Folder 1	Richard Hunt, Exhibition Catalogs, 1976-1980
Box 10, Folder 2	Sam Maitin, Miscellaneous Research Material, 1971
Box 10, Folder 3	Maxwell Stewart Simpson, Christmas cards, 1966-1970
Box 10, Folder 4	Hunt Slonem, Exhibition Catalogs, 1983-1992
Box 10, Folder 5-6	Hunt Slonem, Slides, circa 1980s
Box 10, Folder 7-8	Artwork by Other Artists, circa 1965-1998 Notes: Includes artwork by Ronald Mallory, Fletcher Benton, Larry Rivers, Roy Lichtenstein, Gregorio Prestopino, Elaine Breiger, Claire Van Vliet, Bernard Childs, Judith Grenell, Carla Binder, Margaret Putnam, Riva Helfond, and Bernece Hunter.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

