



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Eve Propp Papers  
Regarding Joseph Cornell, 1966-1994,  
in the Archives of American Art

Hilary Price

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Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Eve Propp papers regarding Joseph Cornell
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.propeve
<b>Date:</b>	1966-1994
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Linear foot
<b>Creator:</b>	Propp, Eve Cornell, Joseph
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Eve Propp papers regarding artist Joseph Cornell date from 1966-1994 and measure 1 linear foot. This small collection documents the relationship between Eve Propp, a gallerist, and Joseph Cornell. The two maintained a friendship through frequent letters and visits. The papers consist of approximately sixty letters from Cornell to Propp from 1968-1972, letters from others, notes on Propp's visits to Cornell, printed material, and photographic material.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated to the Archives of American Art in 2017 by Eve Propp.

### Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art are the Joseph Cornell papers. The bulk of Cornell's source material resides in the Joseph Cornell Study Center, Smithsonian American Art Museum, along with his library and record collection.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Hilary Price in 2017.

### Preferred Citation

Eve Propp papers regarding Joseph Cornell, 1966-1994. 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Eve Propp befriended artist Joseph Cornell (1903-1972) while operating a short lived gallery in New York, N.Y. She visited him at his home on Wednesdays from 1969-1970. She now resides in upstate New York.

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## Scope and Contents

The Eve Propp papers regarding artist Joseph Cornell date from 1966-1994 and measure 1 linear foot. This small collection documents the relationship between Eve Propp, a gallerist, and Joseph Cornell. The two maintained a friendship through frequent letters and visits. The papers consist of approximately sixty letters from Cornell to Propp from 1968-1972, letters from others, notes on Propp's visits to Cornell, printed material, and photographic material.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as a single series.

- Series 1: Eve Propp papers regarding Joseph Cornell, 1966-1994 (1 linear foot; Box 1)
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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:

Assemblage artists -- New York (State) -- New York  
Filmmakers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Gallery owners -- New York (State) -- New York  
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Eve Propp papers regarding Joseph Cornell, 1966-1994

#### *1 Linear foot (Box 1)*

Approximately sixty letters or cards from Cornell to Eve Propp often incorporate collages, puzzles, and objects. One file contains a few objects that have become separated from the letters. Other letters here are from Cornell's sister, lawyers involved with the estate following Cornell's death, a handwriting expert, and museum curators.

Propp's notes document topics Cornell discussed during their visits, including his thoughts about the color blue, his mother's strictness, the anxiety he felt as a student at Andover, among other topics.

Printed material collected by Propp about Cornell includes a calendar from 1969, the year they were in most frequent contact; clippings from magazines and newspapers; and exhibition announcements and catalogs.

Several photographs of Cornell taken in 1969 during one of Propp's visits are included here with the original negatives, and several copy prints made in subsequent decades.

Box 1, Folder 1	Letters from Joseph Cornell, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Letters from Joseph Cornell, 1968
Box 1, Folder 3-8	Letters from Joseph Cornell, 1969
Box 1, Folder 9	Letters from Joseph Cornell, 1970-1972
Box 1, Folder 10	Objects from Joseph Cornell Letters, circa 1968-1972
Box 1, Folder 11	Empty Envelopes from Joseph Cornell Letters, 1968-1970
Box 1, Folder 12	Letters from Others, circa 1969-1994
Box 1, Folder 13	Notes, circa 1969
Box 1	Printed Material
Box 1, Folder 14	Calendar, 1969
Box 1, Folder 15	Clippings, 1966-1981
Box 1, Folder 16	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, circa 1970-1982
Box 1, Folder 17	Photographs and Negatives, 1994, 1982, 1969

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