



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Barbara Rose Papers, 1962-  
circa 1969, at the Archives of American Art

Megan McShea

2016 March 1

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

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Barbara Rose papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.rosebarb
<b>Date:</b>	1962-circa 1969
<b>Extent:</b>	1.4 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Rose, Barbara
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Summary:</b>	The Barbara Rose papers date from 1962 to circa 1969 and measure 1.4 linear feet. Papers include letters, writings, printed material, interviews with artists, panel discussions, and lectures relating to Barbara Rose's research as an art historian.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1971-1977 by Barbara Rose.

### Separated Materials

Additional papers of Barbara Rose are held by The Getty Research Institute.

### Available Formats

All of the sound recordings in this collection were digitized for research access in 2013 and are available at the Archives of American Art offices.

### Processing Information

This collection was processed in 2016 by Megan McShea.

### Preferred Citation

Barbara Rose papers, 1962-circa 1969. 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. Contact Reference Services for more information.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Barbara Rose papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

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## Biographical / Historical

Barbara Rose is an American art historian and critic who has published widely in the field of modern American art. Born in 1938 in Washington, DC, Rose studied at the Sorbonne, Smith College, Barnard, and finally, Columbia University under Meyer Shapiro. Rose became immersed in the New York-based circle of modernist artists and curators in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and made her substantial contribution to the discourse on contemporary art with the insider's perspective this afforded her. In 1961, she married the painter Frank Stella and they had two children before their divorce in 1969.

Rose taught at Yale University, Sarah Lawrence, University of California at Irvine and San Diego, and the American University Art in Italy program, and was senior curator at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, from 1981-1985. A prolific writer, Rose is the author of *American Art Since 1900* (1967), *The Golden Age of Dutch Painting* (1969), *American Painting: The 20th Century* (Skira, 1969), and monographs on the artists Magdalena Abankawicz, Helen Frankenthaler, Robert Rauschenberg, Alexander Liberman, Larry Rivers, and others, as well as dozens of exhibition catalog essays. She held editorial positions at *Art in America*, *Vogue*, *Artforum*, *Partisan Review*, and *Journal of Art*, and her writing has also appeared in *Art International*, *Studio International*, *Arts Magazine*, and *ARTnews*, among many others.

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## Scope and Contents

The Barbara Rose papers date from 1962 to circa 1969 and measure 1.4 linear feet. Papers include letters, interviews with artists, panel discussions, lectures, writings, and printed material relating to Barbara Rose's work as an art historian and critic.

Letters consist of responses to queries and questionnaires Rose and Irving Sandler sent to contemporary artists as research for writing projects. Questionnaires were sent in preparation for an article in *Art in America* on artists' sensibility of the 1960s, with responses from Robert Motherwell, Robert Craig Kauffman, Len Lye, Robert Morris, George Segal, David Hare, and others. A separate query asked sculptors for their assessment of contemporary sculptor's needs and the potential for patronage, and responses are found from Carl Andre, Charles Frazier, Robert Murray, Anthony Padovano, Ron Bladen, Roy Lichtenstein, Len Lye, Sol LeWitt, Heinz Mack, Otto Peine, Dan Flavin, and Donald Judd.

Interviews conducted by Rose between 1965 and circa 1969 are found with Richard Bellamy, Leo Castelli, James E. Davis, Henry Geldzahler, Ivan Karp, Lee Krasner, John Lefebre, John Myers, Donald Judd with Frank Stella, and Tom Wesselmann. All interviews include original sound recordings, and the Judd and Stella, Krasner, and Myers interviews include transcripts. Panel discussions and lectures include sound recordings and transcripts of seven events on a variety of contemporary art and architecture subjects held between 1962 and 1968. Sound recordings are present for five of the events on 10 sound tape reels, and transcripts are present for all events. Participants in the panel discussions and lectures include Barbara Rose, Ronald Davis, Dan Flavin, Robert Kauffman, John Harvey McCracken, Friedel Dzubas, Ansel Adams, Arthur Bierman, Kenneth Rexroth, Edward Taylor, Ernst Karl Mundt, John Bowles, Roy Dean De Forest, Seymour Locks, Walter Hopps, Mark Di Suvero, Donald Judd, Robert Morris, Kynaston McShine, Walter Darby Bannard, Donald Judd, Larry Poons, Robert Rauschenberg, Richard Meier, Paul Rudolph, Claes Oldenburg, and Robert Murray.

Writings include photocopied typescripts of "Myth, Symbol, or Me," by Emily Wasserman and "Excerpts from a Work Journal on Flying Sculpture," by Charles Frazier. Printed material consists of two copies of the premiere issue of the *57th Street Review*, from Nov. 15, 1966.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 4 series.

- Series 1: Letters (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
  - Series 2: Interviews (0.6 linear feet; Box 1)
  - Series 3: Panel Discussions and Lectures (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
  - Series 4: Writings and Printed Material (0.1 linear feet; Box 2)
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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 critics -- New York (State) -- New York  
Art historians -- New York (State) -- New York  
Art, American

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Lectures  
Sound recordings  
Transcripts

### Names:

Adams, Ansel, 1902-1984  
Andre, Carl, 1935-  
Bannard, Walter Darby, 1934-  
Bellamy, Richard  
Bierman, A. K., 1923- (Arthur Kalme)  
Bladen, Ronald, 1918-1988  
Bowles, John  
Castelli, Leo  
Davis, Jim, 1901-1974  
Davis, Ron, 1937-  
De Forest, Roy, 1930-2007  
Di Suvero, Mark, 1933-  
Dzubas, Friedel, 1915-  
Flavin, Dan, 1933-  
Frazier, Charles  
Geldzahler, Henry  
Hare, David, 1917-1992  
Hopps, Walter  
Judd, Donald, 1928-  
Karp, Ivan C., 1926-2012

Kauffman, Craig, 1932-  
Krasner, Lee, 1908-1984  
LeWitt, Sol, 1928-2007  
Lefebvre, John  
Lichtenstein, Roy, 1923-1997  
Locks, Seymour, 1919-  
Lye, Len, 1901-1980  
Mack, Heinz, 1931-  
McCracken, John, 1934-2011  
McShine, Kynaston  
Meier, Richard, 1934-  
Morris, Robert, 1931-2018  
Motherwell, Robert  
Mundt, Ernest Karl, 1905-  
Murray, Robert, 1936-  
Myers, John Bernard  
Oldenburg, Claes, 1929-  
Padovano, Anthony  
Piene, Otto, 1928-  
Poons, Larry  
Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925-2008  
Rexroth, Kenneth, 1905-1982  
Rose, Barbara  
Rudolph, Paul, 1918-  
Sandler, Irving, 1925-  
Segal, George, 1924-2000  
Stella, Frank  
Taylor, Edward Silverstone  
Wasserman, Tamara E.  
Wesselmann, Tom, 1931-2004

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Letters, 1966

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

Letters consist of responses to queries and questionnaires that Barbara Rose and Irving Sandler sent to contemporary artists as research for writing projects. Questionnaires were sent in preparation for an article entitled "Sensibility of the Sixties," which appeared in the January-February 1967 issue in *Art in America*, and responses were received from Robert Motherwell, Robert Craig Kauffman, Len Lye, Robert Morris, George Segal, David Hare, and others. A separate query asked sculptors for their assessment of contemporary sculptor's needs and the potential for patronage. Respondants to this query include Carl Andre, Robert Morris, Charles Frazier, Robert Craig Kauffman, Robert Murray, Anthony Padovano, Ron Bladen, Roy Lichtenstein, Len Lye, Sol LeWitt, Heinz Mack, Otto Peine, Dan Flavin, and Donald Judd.

Box 1, Folder 1                      Artists' Responses to Query on Contemporary Sculpture, 1966

Box 1, Folder 2-4                  Artists' Questionnaires for "Artists' Sensibility of the 60s" Article, 1966

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## Series 2: Interviews, 1965-circa 1969

### 0.6 Linear feet (Box 1)

Series contains interviews conducted by Rose with Richard Bellamy, Leo Castelli, James E. Davis, Henry Geldzahler, Ivan Karp, Lee Krasner, John Lefebre, John B. Myers, and Donald Judd with Frank Stella, and an interview with Tom Wesselmann conducted by Jacqueline Bogrand. All interviews were conducted between 1965 and circa 1969, and include original sound recordings on 9 sound cassettes and 3 sound tape reels. Transcripts are present for the Judd and Stella, Krasner, and Myers interviews.

All of the sound recordings in this series have been digitized for research access.

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 5             | Richard Bellamy, 1968 April<br><i>1 Sound cassette</i><br>Last nine minutes contain an unrelated interview, with the subject identified as "C.M. Kuntz" on the cassette label. |
| Box 1, Folder 6             | Leo Castelli, 1968 April<br><i>2 Sound cassettes (Poor sound quality)</i>  |
| Box 1, Folder 7             | James Davis, 1968<br><i>1 Sound cassette (Cassette label reads "Remeniscence with James E. Davis" and "re: Marin")</i>   |
| Box 1, Folder 8-9           | Donald Judd and Frank Stella, 1965<br><i>1 Sound tape reel (Includes transcript)</i>   |
| Box 1, Folder 10, Item<br>1 | Henry Geldzahler, 1968 April<br><i>1 Sound cassette</i><br>Interview is on the same cassette as tape 1 of 2 of April 1968 interview with Ivan Karp.                            |
| Box 1, Folder 10, Item<br>2 | Ivan Karp, 1968 April<br><i>2 Sound cassettes</i>  |
| Box 1, Folder 11            | Ivan Karp, 1968 May<br><i>1 Sound cassette</i>   |
| Box 1, Folder 12-13         | Lee Krasner, 1966 July 31<br><i>1 Sound tape reel (Includes transcript)</i>  |
| Box 1, Folder 14            | John Lefebre, 1968 April<br><i>1 Sound cassette (cassette label reads "on art dealing")</i>  |
| Box 1, Folder 15-16         | John B. Myers, circa 1969<br><i>2 Sound tape reels (Includes transcript)</i>   |
| Box 1, Folder 17            | Tom Wesselmann interview conducted by Jacqueline Bogrand, 1968 April 26  |



*1 Sound cassette*

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## Series 3: Panel Discussions and Lectures, 1962-1968

### *0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)*

Panel discussions and lectures include sound recordings and transcripts of seven events on a variety of contemporary art and architecture subjects held between 1962 and 1968. Three events were moderated by Barbara Rose, and Rose was a panelist for one event. Sound recordings are present for five events on 10 sound tape reels, and transcripts are present for all events except the 1968 Architectural League Symposium, "Sculpture and Architecture, A Dialogue."

All of the sound recordings in this series have been digitized for research access.

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|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 18 | 17th Annual Art Symposium, "Pop Art, What?" lecture by Friedel Dzubas, 1964<br><i>1 Sound tape reel</i>   |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | 17th Annual Art Symposium, "Pop Art, What?" lecture by Friedel Dzubas, Transcript, 1964   |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | "The Artist and the Art World" Symposium, San Francisco Art Institute, 1962 September 28<br><i>1 Sound tape reel</i><br>With participants John Bowles, Roy Dean De Forest, and Seymour Locks, with Walter Hopps as moderator                          |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | "The Artist and the Art World" Symposium, San Francisco Art Institute, Transcript, 1962 September 28  |
| Box 1, Folder 22 | "Creative Photography and the Marketplace" Symposium, San Francisco Art Society, 1963 January 14<br><i>2 Sound tape reels</i><br>With participants Ansel Adams, Arthur Bierman, Kenneth Rexroth and Edward Taylor, with Ernst Karl Mundt as moderator |
| Box 1, Folder 23 | "Creative Photography and the Marketplace" Symposium, San Francisco Art Society, Transcript, 1963 January 14  |
| Box 2, Folder 1  | "Is Easel Painting Dead?" The Critics Colloquium, New York University, 1966 November<br><i>2 Sound tape reels</i><br>With panel members Walter Darby Bannard, Donald Judd, Larry Poons, and Robert Rauschenberg, with Barbara Rose as moderator       |
| Box 2, Folder 2  | "Is Easel Painting Dead?" The Critics Colloquium, New York University, 1966 November<br><i>2 Sound tape reels</i>   |
| Box 2, Folder 3  | "Is Easel Painting Dead?" The Critics Colloquium, New York University, Transcript, 1966 November  |

- Box 2, Folder 4      "A New Aesthetic" Symposium, Washington Gallery of Modern Art, 1967  
Transcript only; with participants Ronald Davis, Dan Flavin, Robert Kauffman,  
and John Harvey McCracken, with Barbara Rose as moderator
- Box 2, Folder 5      "Primary Structures" Symposium, The Jewish Museum of New York, 1966 May 2  
Transcript only; with participants Mark Di Suvero, Donald Judd, Robert Morris,  
and Barbara Rose, with Kynaston McShine as moderator
- Box 2, Folder 6      "Sculpture and Architecture, a Dialogue;" Architectural League Symposium,  
1968  
*2 Sound tape reels*  
With participants Richard Meier, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Murray, and Paul  
Rudolph, moderated by Barbara Rose.

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## Series 4: Writings and Printed Material, circa 1965-1967

### *0.1 Linear feet (Box 2)*

Writings include photocopied typescripts of "Myth, Symbol, or Me," by Emily Wasserman and "Excerpts from a Work Journal on Flying Sculpture," by Charles Frazier. Printed material consists of two copies of the premiere issue of the *57th Street Review*, from Nov. 15, 1966.

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|-----------------|---|
| Box 2, Folder 7 | "Excerpts from a Work Journal on Flying Sculpture" by Charles Frazier, circa 1965<br><i>Photocopy</i> |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | "Myth, Symbol, or Me?" by Emily Wasserman, 1967<br><i>Photocopy</i>                                   |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | <i>57th Street Review</i> Premiere Issue, 1966 November 15<br>2 copies                                |

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