



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Ruth White Gallery records, 1933-1974, bulk 1956-1970, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

2021 May 18

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Ruth White Gallery records
<b>Date:</b>	1933-1974 (bulk 1956-1970)
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.ruthwhit
<b>Creator:</b>	Ruth White Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
<b>Extent:</b>	7.1 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Ruth White Gallery records measure 7.1 linear feet and date from 1933 to 1974, with the bulk of the records dating from 1956 to 1970. Administrative records document the running of the gallery, and artist files shed light on the gallery's dealings with artists including Sylvia Bernstein, Jules Engel, Ida Kohlmeyer, Kurt Seligmann, Audrey Skaling, and many others.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by the Ruth White Gallery between 1969 and 1975.

### Separated Materials

Material lent for microfilming on reel 34, Scrapbooks, 1956-1967, containing notices, clippings, and articles about artists represented by the gallery, was returned to the donor and is not described in the collection container inventory.

### Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels 34, N69-41, N69/55-N69/59, and N69/113 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

### Processing Information

The collection received a preliminary level of arrangement after donation and was microfilmed on reels 34, N69-41, N69/55-N69/59, and N69/113.

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Christopher DeMairo in 2021.

### Preferred Citation

Ruth White Gallery records, 1933-1974. 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

The Ruth White Gallery was established in 1956 near Central Park in New York City, and specialized in contemporary art. The gallery was affiliated with artists such as Muriel Castanis, Mildred Crooks, Jan Gelb, Ida Kohlmeyer, Ce Roser, Kurt Seligman, and Audrey Skaling. Kohlmeyer and Castanis had their first solo exhibitions at the gallery in 1959 and 1968 respectively, and Skaling and Kohlmeyer were both personal friends of Ruth White.

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## Scope and Contents

The Ruth White Gallery records measure 7.1 linear feet and date from 1933 to 1974, with the bulk of the records dating from 1956 to 1970. Administrative records document the running of the gallery, and artist files shed light on the gallery's dealings with artists including Sylvia Bernstein, Jules Engel, Ida Kohlmeyer, Kurt Seligmann, Audrey Skaling, and many others.

Administrative records include inventories, correspondence, provenance records, financial and shipping records, printed material, price lists, and photographs of artwork and exhibitions. Also found are gallery and museum files containing similar records, that document the gallery's relationship with other businesses and art institutions.

Artist files consist of biographical summaries and resumes, correspondence, some writings, price lists, invoices, exhibition ephemera, newspaper clippings, photographs of artwork, and scattered photos of artists.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged as two series.

- Series 1: Administrative Records, 1940-1974, bulk 1956-1970 (Box 1-3; 2.1 linear feet)
  - Series 2: Artist Files, 1933-1974, bulk 1956-1970 (Box 3-7, OV 8; 5 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:

Names:

Castanis, Muriel, 1926-2006  
Gelb, Jan, 1906-1978  
Kohlmeyer, Ida, 1912-1997  
Seligmann, Kurt, 1900-1962  
Skaling, Audrey

Functions:

Art galleries, Commercial -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Administrative Records, 1940-1974 (bulk 1956-1970)

#### 2.1 Linear feet (Box 1-3)

**Scope and Contents:** The series includes an artist contact list, inventories, correspondence, provenance records, photographs of artwork, newspaper clippings, and some financial papers such as payments, invoices, price lists, and several ledgers.

Printed material, shipping information, price lists, and photographs document exhibitions, including Ruth White Gallery shows and exhibitions elsewhere that involved artwork from the gallery. Also found in this series are correspondence, donation material, shipping information, printed material, and exhibition ephemera that document dealings with other galleries and museums.

**Arrangement:** The bulk of the series is arranged alphabetically by subject, with exhibition files containing a subgroup of files arranged chronologically by individual exhibition followed by more general exhibition material.

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## Series 2: Artist Files, 1933-1970, bulk 1956-1970

### 5 Linear feet (Box 3-7, OV 8)

Scope and Contents: The series documents the gallery's relationships with many artists, especially Kurt Seligmann, Audrey Skaling, Jules Engel, Ida Kohlmeyer, and Sylvia Bernstein. Folders typically include correspondence with artists, photographs of artwork, price lists, invoices, exhibition ephemera, artist biographical summaries and resumes, and newspaper clippings. Some files contain artist writings and photos of artists.

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