



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Signa Gallery Records, 1957-1963, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Signa Gallery records
Identifier:	AAA.signgall
Date:	1957-1963
Creator:	Signa Gallery
Extent:	1.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The records of the Signa Gallery measure 1.4 linear feet and date from 1957 to 1963. The records document the history of the gallery through administrative files such as leases; correspondence; guestbooks, artist biographies, and photographs of Franz Kline paintings and exhibition opening; exhibition files for exhibits at the gallery; insurance documents, ledgers, invoices, banking information, and other financial records; clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and other printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1981 by Alfonso A. Ossorio, one of the initial founders and owners of the gallery.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels 3983-3984 at 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 was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2021.

Preferred Citation

Signa Gallery records, 1957-1963. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The Signa Gallery was founded in 1957 with the purpose of exhibiting the works of contemporary East Hampton, N.Y. artists. Alfonso Ossorio was one of the founding members and owners of the gallery.

Scope and Contents

The records of the Signa Gallery measure 1.4 linear feet and date from 1957 to 1963. The records document the history of the gallery through administrative files such as leases; correspondence; guestbooks, artist biographies, and photographs of Franz Kline paintings and exhibition opening; exhibition files for exhibits at the gallery; insurance documents, ledgers, invoices, banking information, and other financial records; clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and other printed material.

Administrative files are comprised of a lease for the gallery and a certificate of incorporation for the gallery. Correspondence is between gallery managers Alfonso Ossorio, Elizabeth Parker, and John Little and other galleries, business associates, and artists, including Fritz Bultman, Philip Guston, and Jack Tworokov. Guestbooks and notes include a guestbook and an address book for the gallery, various artist biographies, and some miscellaneous notes. Also included are a file of photographs of exhibition openings, and a file of photographs of Franz Kline paintings.

Exhibitions and Lecture files are comprised of photographs, press material, and correspondence related to exhibitions at the gallery. Also included are a series of lectures and two untranscribed audio tape reels that accompany one of the lectures.

Financial material includes insurance documents, bank records such as checking accounts, invoices, consignments, and some ledgers.

Printed material is made up of newspaper clippings, exhibition announcements, and exhibition catalogs.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into four series.

- Series 1: Administrative Files, 1957-1963 (0.4 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Exhibition Files, 1957-1960 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: Financial Records, 1957-1963 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1957-1960 (0.1 linear feet; Box 2)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Sound recordings -- Audiotapes -- Open reel

Functions:

Art galleries, Commercial -- New York (State)

Container Listing

Series 1: Administrative Files, 1957-1963

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Administrative files are comprised of a lease for the gallery and a certificate of incorporation for the gallery. Correspondence is between gallery managers Alfonso Ossorio, Elizabeth Parker, and John Little and other galleries, business associates, and artists, including Fritz Bultman, Philip Guston, and Jack Tworokov. Guestbooks and notes include a guestbook and an address book for the gallery, various artist biographies, and some miscellaneous notes. Also included are a file of photographs of exhibition openings, and a file of photographs of Franz Kline paintings.

Box 1, Folder 1	Certificate of Incorporation , 1957
Box 1, Folder 2	Lease, 1960
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1957
Box 1, Folder 5-6	Correspondence, 1958
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1959
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1960-1963
Box 1, Folder 9	Guestbook, 1959-1960
Box 1, Folder 10	Attendance Records, 1959-1960
Box 1, Folder 11	Address Book, undated
Box 1, Folder 12-14	Artist Biographies, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Franz Kline Paintings, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Gallery Openings, undated
Box 1, Folder 17	Miscellaneous, undated

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Series 2: Exhibition and Lecture Files, 1957-1960

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Exhibitions and Lecture files are comprised of photographs, press material, and correspondence related to exhibitions at the gallery. Also included are a series of lectures and two audio tape reels that accompany one of the lectures.

Box 1, Folder 18	Exhibitions 1-4 and "Review of the Season", 1957
Box 1, Folder 19	"The Artists' Vision" Exhibition, 1958
Box 1, Folder 20	"The Evocative Eye" Exhibition, 1958
Box 1, Folder 21	"The Human Image" Exhibition, 1958
Box 1, Folder 22	"An International Selection" Exhibition, 1958
Box 1, Folder 23	"The Animate Space" Exhibition, 1959
Box 1, Folder 24	Second Exhibition of 1959, 1959
Box 1, Folder 25	Third Exhibition of 1959, 1959
Box 1, Folder 26	Opening Exhibition of 1960, 1960
Box 1, Folder 27	Second Exhibition of 1960, 1960
Box 1, Folder 28	Third Exhibition of 1960, 1960
Box 1, Folder 29	"Courtyard Art Festival", 1960
Box 1, Folder 30	"Greece Through an Artist's Eye" Lecture, 1959 July 10
Box 1, Folder 31	"Signa Gallery Art Symposium", 1959 July 17
Box 1, Folder 32	Bucminster Fuller Lecture, 1959 August 28
Box 1, Folder 33	"Critic's Panel" Lecture, 1959 September 2 Sound tape reels Notes: Tape reels are untranscribed.

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Series 3: Financial Material, 1957-1963

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Financial material includes insurance documents, bank records such as checking accounts, invoices, consignments, and some ledgers.

Box 1, Folder 34	Insurance: Edward F. Cook, 1957-1960
Box 1, Folder 35	Insurance: Harvey Eigenfeld, 1958-1961
Box 1, Folder 36	Income Tax, 1957-1960
Box 1, Folder 37-47	Checking Account, 1957-1963
Box 1, Folder 48	Account Book, 1959-1960
Box 1, Folder 49	Petty Cash Ledger, 1959-1960
Box 1, Folder 50-53	Invoices for Gallery Expenses, 1957-1959
Box 2, Folder 1-2	Invoices for Gallery Expenses, 1959-1960
Box 2, Folder 3	Paint Sales Records, 1958-1959
Box 2, Folder 4	Sales Ledger, 1958-1960
Box 2, Folder 5	Sales Receipts, 1957-1961
Box 2, Folder 6-7	Consigned Stock, circa 1957-1960
Box 2, Folder 8-11	Consignment Receipts, 1958-1960

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1967-1960

0.1 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Printed material is made up of newspaper clippings, exhibition announcements, and exhibition catalogs.

Box 2, Folder 12	Clippings, undated, 1959
Box 2, Folder 13-16	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1957-1960
Box 2, Folder 17	Miscellaneous, undated, 1958-1959

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