A Finding Aid to the Leon Polk Smith Papers, 1938-1997, in the Archives of American Art

Judy Ng

Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection was provided by the Leon Polk Smith Foundation and the Terra Foundation for American Art.

July 22, 2011
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: Leon Polk Smith papers
Identifier: AAA.smitleon
Date: 1921-1997
Extent: 7.2 Linear feet
Creator: Smith, Leon Polk, 1906-1996
Language: English.
Summary: The papers of New York abstract painter Leon Polk Smith measure 7.2 linear feet and date from 1921 to 1997. The papers consist of biographical material, business and personal correspondence, interview transcripts and an interview video recording, writings, financial records for the corporate entity Leon Polk Smith, Inc., printed material, photographic material, and a scrapbook of newspaper clippings.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
The papers of Leon Polk Smith were donated by the artist's partner, Robert Jamieson, in 1998 and 2002.

Available Formats
This site provides access to the papers of Leon Polk Smith in the Archives of American Art that were digitized in 2011, and total 396 images.

Blank pages, blank versos of photographs, photographs of artwork, duplicates, and medical and routine financial documents have not been scanned. In most cases, only the cover, title page, and individual relevant pages have been scanned from published materials.

The video recording in this collection was digitized for research access in 2011 and is available at the Archives of American Art offices. Researchers may view the original cassette for the archival notations on it, but the original cassette is not available for playback due to fragility.

Processing Information
The collection was processed, arranged, and described by Judy Ng and digitized in August 2011 with funding provided by the Leon Polk Smith Foundation and the Terra Foundation for American Art.
Preferred Citation

Restrictions
Use of original papers requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use
The Leon Polk Smith 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.

Biographical Note
Leon Polk Smith (1906-1996) worked primarily in New York City as a painter, educator, and lecturer. He is considered one of the founders of the hard edge style of minimalist abstract art.

Smith was born in Chickasha, Indian Territory one year before its formal incorporation into the Oklahoma Territory. Both of his parents were of Cherokee ancestry and he was raised in a small farming community that included Cherokee and Choctaw Indians. After receiving his teaching degree in 1934, Smith worked as an educator in rural Oklahoma communities and, at the same time, took the opportunity to introduce arts programs to local schools. In 1936, he enrolled in Columbia University's Teachers College to pursue a graduate degree in arts education and began painting full time. That summer, he visited the Albert E. Gallatin Gallery of Living Art at New York University, where he was first introduced to the work of the European modernists Constantin Brancusi, Jean Arp, and most importantly, Piet Mondrian.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Smith accepted university teaching positions at Rollins College in Florida, and New York University and Mills College of Education in New York. During this time, Smith moved beyond his early explorations of neo-plasticism and began to paint in a more hard edge style, typified by geometric lines, curving shapes of color, and the use of tondo (disk shaped) canvases. In 1958, Betty Parsons's Section Eleven Gallery showcased his new work in two one-man exhibitions, which introduced him to a wider audience of museum curators and art collectors. In the 1960s, Smith's work was included in two of his most important group exhibitions, The Responsive Eye at the Museum of Modern Art (1965) and Systemic Painting at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (1966). In 1995, the Brooklyn Museum curated Leon Polk Smith: American Painter, a retrospective exhibition of Smith's career.

Smith produced works exploring shapes and lines, minimalist use of color, and modularity well into the 1990s and exhibited at a number of affiliated galleries, including the Stable Gallery, Galerie Chalette, Galerie Denise Rene, Washburn Gallery, and ACA Galleries. Smith died in 1996 in his home in Manhattan, at the age of 91.

Scope and Contents
The papers of New York abstract painter Leon Polk Smith measure 7.2 linear feet and date from 1921 to 1997. The papers consist of biographical material, business and personal correspondence, interview transcripts and an interview video recording, writings, financial records for the corporate entity Leon Polk Smith, Inc., printed material, photographic material, and a scrapbook of newspaper clippings.
Biographical material includes official affidavits, certificates, passports, expense receipts, and a travel expense notebook. A curriculum vitae, family history, and medical records are also included in the series.

Correspondence, both business and personal, comprises the bulk of the collection. This includes correspondence between Smith and his life companion, Robert Jamieson; art critics Arthur C. Danto, Claudine Humblet, and David Galloway; and artists Gego (Gertrude Goldschmidt) and Ray Johnson. Business correspondence relates to Smith's various gallery and museum exhibitions, loans, and sales. There is extensive correspondence between Smith and the Brooklyn Museum, Butler Institute of American Art, Di Laurenti Gallery, Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, Galerie Denise Rene, Meyers/Bloom Gallery, Washburn Gallery, and the Wilhelm-Hack Museum. The business subseries also includes correspondence between Smith and his alma mater, East Central University, formerly known as Oklahoma State University.

Interviews consist of six typewritten transcripts of interviews conducted with Smith over the course of his professional career from 1950 to 1993, a 1995 video interview of museum director Robert T. Buck discussing the Brooklyn Museum's exhibition of Leon Polk Smith for the television program *National Arts*, and a 1965 interview transcript with gallery owner Lucile Horsley.

Writings include sixteen published and unpublished scholarly essays on Smith and his work. The series also includes notes and a brief artist's statement by Smith regarding the pros and cons of modern art galleries.

Financial records are 1978-1989 federal income tax filings and routine tax preparation and payment receipts for the corporate entity Leon Polk Smith, Inc. Smith's personal filing records from 1987-1989 are also included in this series.

Printed material consists of two books, including the Brooklyn Museum's monograph *Leon Polk Smith: American Painter*, newspaper clippings reviewing Smith's work, and exhibition announcements and catalogs of Smith's museum and gallery shows from 1941 to 1997.

A scrapbook contains newspaper clippings documenting Smith's years as an educator and artist in Oklahoma in the 1930s and 1940s.

Photographs are of Smith and his acquaintances circa 1920-1960, and a representative selection of photographs and color slides of Smith's artwork from 1939 to 1960.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 8 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1938-1994 (Box 1, OV 10; 11 folders)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1939-1997 (Boxes 1-5, 9, OV 10; 5 linear feet)
- Series 3: Interviews, 1950-1995 (Boxes 5-6; 8 folders)
- Series 4: Writings, 1963-1996 (Box 6; 13 folders)
- Series 5: Financial Records, 1979-1990 (Box 6; 15 folders)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1941-1997 (Boxes 6-7, 9; .5 linear feet)
- Series 7: Scrapbook, 1930-1940 (Box 8; 1 folder)
- Series 8: Photographic Material, 1920-1990 (Box 8; 8 folders)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:
Subjects:
  Art galleries, Commercial
  Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
  Painting, Abstract -- United States

Types of Materials:
  Essays
  Interviews
  Photographs
  Scrapbooks
  Transcripts
  Video recordings

Names:
  Brooklyn Museum
  Buck, Robert T.
  Butler Institute of American Art
  Danto, Arthur Coleman, 1924-
  East Central Oklahoma State University
  Galerie Denise René
  Galloway, David D.
  Gego
  Humblet, Claudine, 1946-
  Jamieson, Robert
  Johnson, Ray, 1927-
  Meyers/Bloom Gallery
  Washburn Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
  Wilhelm-Hack-Museum
Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1938-1994

11 Folders (Box 1, OV 10)

Biographical material includes official affidavits, certificates, passports, expense receipts, and a travel expense notebook. A curriculum vitae, family history, and medical records are also included in the series.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1  Affidavits, 1940, undated
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 2  Biographical Data, 1956
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 3  Certificates, 1938, undated
Image(s)

Oversized material housed in OV 10

Box 1, Folder 4  Medical Records, 1951-1967
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 5  Miscellaneous Receipts, 1958-1973, undated
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 6  Notebook, Expenses, 1968-1972
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 7  Passports, 1939-1986
Image(s)

Box OV 10  Certificates, 1938, undated

Oversized material scanned with Box 1, F3

Return to Table of Contents
Series 2: Correspondence, 1939-1996

5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-5, 9, OV 10)

Correspondence is predominantly in the form of business letters and personal letters received from family and friends. This includes correspondence between Smith and his life companion, Robert Jamieson; art critics Arthur C. Danto, Claudine Humblet, and David Galloway; and artists Gego (Gertrude Goldschmidt) and Ray Johnson.

The bulk of the business correspondence relates to Smith's various gallery and museum exhibitions, loans, and sales. Outgoing correspondence, photographs, slides, and instructions on the installation of exhibitions have been chronologically interfiled within the correspondents' files. There is extensive correspondence between Smith and the Brooklyn Museum, Butler Institute of American Art, Di Laurenti Gallery, Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, Galerie Denise Rene, Meyers/Bloom Gallery, Washburn Gallery, and the Wilhelm-Hack Museum. The business subseries also includes correspondence between Smith and his alma mater, formerly known as Oklahoma State University.

The bulk of this series has been scanned. Slides of artwork filed with Meyers/Bloom Gallery have not been scanned. The series is arranged as 2 subseries:

- Subseries 2.1: Business, 1943-1996
- Subseries 2.2: Personal, 1939-1997

2.1: Business

Box 1, Folder 8    A, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
                  Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 9    ACE Gallery (Christmas, Douglas), 1979-1993
                  Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 10   Albright-Knox Gallery, 1968, 1979-1990
                  Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 11   Amarillo Art Center (Kochka, Al), 1984-1988
                  Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 12   American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, 1979-1991
                  Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 13   Art and Literature, 1964
                  Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 14   Art Museum Association of America (Butera, Virginia), 1984-1988
                  Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 15   B, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
                  Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 16   Bard College, 1984-1985
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 17  Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1985-1986
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 18  Brooklyn Museum, undated, 1992
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 19  Brooklyn Museum, 1993
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 20  Brooklyn Museum, 1993
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 21  Brooklyn Museum, 1994
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 22  Brooklyn Museum, 1995
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in Box 9, F2

Box 1, Folder 23  Buecker, Robert, 1972-1987
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 24  Burnett Miller Gallery (undated), circa 1984-circa 1990
Image(s): Burnett Miller Gallery

Box 1, Folder 25  Burnett Miller Gallery, 1984-1990
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 26  Butler Institute of American Art, 1988
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 27  C, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 28  Carnegie Institute, 1967-1980
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 29  Case Western Reserve University, 1969, undated
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 30  Ciba-Geigy Corporation, 1967-1994
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 31  Cleveland Museum of Art, 1966-1975
Box 1, Folder 32  Columbia University, Wallach Gallery, 1992-1994
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 33  D, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 34  Daniel Goldreyer, Ltd., 1978-1982
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 35  Daniel Goldreyer, Ltd., 1988-1992
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 36  Davis, Philip, 1981-1984
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 37  Davis, Philip, 1985-1988
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 1  DiLaurenti Gallery, 1985-1986
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 2  DiLaurenti Gallery, 1987-1989
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Box 2, Folder 3  Dord Fitz Gallery, 1969-1988
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 4  E, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 5  East Central University, 1984
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 6  East Central University, 1985-1989
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 7  East Central University, 1990-1993
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 8  East Central University, 1994-1997
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 9  Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, circa 1987-1993
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 10  Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, circa 1987-1993
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 10

Box 2, Folder 11  Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, 1987
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 12  Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, 1987
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 13  Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, 1988
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 14  Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, 1989-1991
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 15  Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, 1992-1993
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 16  Elger, Dietmar, 1980-1981
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 17  F-G, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 18  G.W. Einstein Company, Inc., 1986
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 19  Galerie Chalette, 1965-1981
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 20  Galerie Denise Rene, 1971-1976
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 10

Box 2, Folder 21  Galerie Denise Rene, 1977-1982
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 22  Galerie Muller, 1964-1976
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 23  Gallery North, 1976-1981, undated
Box 2, Folder 24  Gallery of Applied Arts, 1985
Image(s)

Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 26  Gibson, Ann, 1990-1991, undated
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 27  Goethe-Institut (Osaka and Turin), 1987-1992
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 10

Box 3, Folder 1  Gorewitz, Rubin, 1981-1990
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 2  Grace Borgenicht Gallery, 1981-1983
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 10

Box 3, Folder 3  Guggenheim Museum, 1970-1984
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 4  Guild Hall, 1987-1990
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 5  H, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 6  Heckscher Museum, 1983-1984
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 7  Hoffman, Marianne, 1992
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 8  I, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 9  International Contemporary Art Fair (Robinson, Charles), 1985-1986
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 10 J, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995

Box 3, Folder 11  James Lodge and Associates, 1981-1982
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 12  K, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 13  Kunstverein in Hamburg, 1989
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 10

Box 3, Folder 14  L, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 15  La Paloma (McPherson, Ronald and Morikawa, Mark), 1988
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 16  M, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 17  Marilyn Pearl Gallery, 1980-1991
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 18  Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1982-1986
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 19  Meyers/Bloom Gallery (undated), circa 1988-circa 1993
Image(s): Meyers/Bloom Gallery

Box 3, Folder 20  Meyers/Bloom Gallery, 1988-1990
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 21  Meyers/Bloom Gallery, 1991-1993
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 22  Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, 1991-1992
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 23  Musee de Grenoble, 1988-1990
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 24  Musee National D'Art Moderne, 1976-1977
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 26  N, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 27  Nabakowski, Gisling, 1987-1988
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 28  National Galerie Berlin (Grisebach, Lucius), 1982-1987
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 29  Nurnberg Museum, 1986-1989
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 30  O, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 31  Oklahoma City Art Museum, 1983-1990
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 32  P, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 33  Pelham-von Stoffler Gallery, 1977-1978
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 34  Prakapas Gallery, 1986-1993
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Box 3, Folder 35  R, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 36  R+V Allgemeine Versicherung AG (Weiermair, Peter), 1989-1991
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Box 3, Folder 37  Riley, Orrin H., 1985-1987
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Box 3, Folder 39  San Francisco Museum of Art, 1967-1973
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Box 3, Folder 40  Sidney Janis Gallery, 1948-1958
Box 3, Folder 41  Siegel Contemporary Art Inc./Ruth Siegel Ltd., 1982-1987  Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 42  Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation (Rebay, Hilla), 1943-1949  Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 43  Squatriti, Fausta/La Biennale di Venezia, 1982-1991  Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 44  Stamford Museum and Nature Center, 1981  Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 45  SUNY, College At Old Westbury, 1978-1979  Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 46  Susan Caldwell Gallery, 1978-1980  Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 47  T, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995  Image(s)
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Box 4, Folder 1  U, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995  Image(s)
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Box 4, Folder 5  Volair Gallery, 1975-1976  Image(s)
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Wichita State University, 1975-1983
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 13  
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 10

Box 4, Folder 14  
Wilhelm-Hack Museum, 1988
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 15  
Wilhelm-Hack Museum, 1989
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 16  
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Box 4, Folder 17  
Y, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
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Box 4, Folder 18  
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Box 9, Folder 2  
Brooklyn Museum, Draft Exhibition Catalog, 1995
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Box OV 10  
Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, Exhibition Announcements, circa 1987-1993
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Box OV 10  
Galerie Denise Rene, Artwork Layout, 1976
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Box OV 10  
Goethe-Institut, Color Sample, circa 1987-1992
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Box 4, Folder 20  B, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 21  Buck, Bob, 1992-1996
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Box 4, Folder 22  Butera, Virginia, 1984-1995
Image(s)

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Image(s)

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Box 4, Folder 27  Downe, Edward Jr., 1980-1982, undated
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Box 4, Folder 28  E, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
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Box 4, Folder 29  F, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
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Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 32  Gego, 1968-1969
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Box 4, Folder 33  Glattfelder, Hans, 1991-1995
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Box 4, Folder 34  H, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 35  Highwater, Jamake, 1979-1985
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 36  Humblet, Claudine (undated), circa 1985-circa 1989
Image(s): Humblet, Claudine

Box 4, Folder 37  Humblet, Claudine, 1985-1989
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 1  Humblet, Claudine, 1990-1997
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 2  I, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 3  Inaya, Beata, 1969-1984
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 4  J, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
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Box 5, Folder 5  K, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 6  Kennedy, Edward M., 1980-1986
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Box 5, Folder 7  L, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
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Box 5, Folder 9  M, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 10  N, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 11  O, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 12  P, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 13  Parks, Addison, 1982-1996
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 14  Pekarsky, Melvin (undated), circa 1980-circa 1989
Image(s): Pekarsky, Melvin

Box 5, Folder 15  Pekarsky, Melvin, 1980-1982
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 16  Pekarsky, Melvin, 1983-1985
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 17  Pekarsky, Melvin, 1986-1989
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 18  Polk, Mark, 1990-1993
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Box 5, Folder 19  Polk, Mark, 1994-1996
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Box 5, Folder 20  R, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
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Box 5, Folder 21  Rowe, Harry L., 1939
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 22  S, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 5, Folder 23  
Smith, Leon Polk and Jamieson, Robert, 1968-1972
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 10

Box 5, Folder 24  
Smith, Leon Polk and Jamieson, Robert, 1981-1994
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 25  
Smith, Virginia, 1969-1996
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 26  
T, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 27  
V, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 28  
Vavruska, Frank, 1971-1973
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 29  
W, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

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Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 31  
Warren, Alice, 1968-1976, undated
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Wooding, Robert, 1987-1995
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Box 5, Folder 33  
Workman, David, 1984-1988
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Box 5, Folder 34  
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 35  
Unidentified and Illegible, circa 1980-1995
Image(s)

Box OV 10  
Smith, Leon Polk, Oversized Letter, circa 1968-1972
Scanned with Box 5, F23

8 Folders (Boxes 5-6)

Interviews consist of six typewritten transcripts of interviews conducted with Smith from 1950 to 1993 by Brooke Kamin Rapaport, D'Arcy Hayman, and William Jeffett, among others, over the course of Smith's professional career. The series also includes a 1995 video interview of museum director Robert T. Buck discussing the Brooklyn Museum's exhibition of Leon Polk Smith for the television program National Arts, and a 1965 interview transcript with gallery owner Lucile Horsley.

This series has been scanned in its entirety. The video interview recording has been digitized for research access and is available at the Archives of American Art offices.

Box 5, Folder 36  Creative Art Seminar Symposium on Modern Art, March 1950  Image(s)
Box 5, Folder 37  K. Osis Interview of Leon Polk Smith, May-June 1963  Image(s)
Box 5, Folder 38  D'Arcy Hayman Interview of Leon Polk Smith, May 1964  Image(s)
Box 5, Folder 39  Gerald Moore Interview of Lucile Horsley, March 1965  Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 1  William Jeffet Interview of Leon Polk Smith, May 1985  Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 2  James Collins Interview of Leon Polk Smith, November 1987  Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 3  Brooke Kamin Rapaport Interview of Leon Polk Smith, July 1993  Image(s)
Box 6, Folder 4  Michael Baker Interview of Robert T Buck for National Arts, 1995 Video recording
Series 4: Writings, 1963-1996

13 Folders (Box 6)

Writings include sixteen published and unpublished scholarly essays on Smith by Lawrence Alloway, Ted Castle, Arthur C. Danto, Carter Ratcliff, and Joseph R. Wolin, among others. The series also includes notes and a brief artist's statement by Smith regarding the pros and cons of modern art galleries.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 6, Folder 5  "Constellations", 1989
Image(s)

Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 7  Calas, Nicholas, "Leon Polk Smith, The Pioneer", 1971
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 8  Castle, Ted, "Leon Polk Smith: The Completely Self-Referential Object", 1979
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 9  Danto, Arthur C., "Painting as Sculpture: Leon Polk Smith and Real Space", 1993-1994
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 10  Elger, Dietmar, "Leon Polk Smith - An Introduction", circa 1981
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 11  Parks, Addison, "Leon Polk Smith", 1992, undated
Image(s)

Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 13  Seeman, Joan, "Leon Polk Smith", 1978
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 14  Smith, Leon Polk, "Minus Gallery/Plus Gallery", 1965
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 15  Smith, Leon Polk, Notes, circa 1960s-1990s
Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 16  Walsh, Grace M., "Leon Polk Smith: A Pioneering Geometric Abstractionist", 1995
Box 6, Folder 17  Wolin, Joseph R., "Line Forms Space", 1994  Image(s)

15 Folders (Box 6)

Financial records is comprised of the 1978-1989 federal income tax filings and routine tax preparation and payment receipts for the corporate entity Leon Polk Smith, Inc. Smith's personal filing records from 1987-1989 are also included in this series.

This series has not been scanned.

Box 6, Folder 19    Corporate Taxes, 1978 Preparation, 1979
Box 6, Folder 20    Corporate Taxes, 1979 Preparation, 1980
Box 6, Folder 21    Corporate Taxes, 1980 Preparation, 1981
Box 6, Folder 22    Corporate Taxes, 1981 Preparation, 1982
Box 6, Folder 23    Corporate Taxes, 1982 Preparation, 1983
Box 6, Folder 24    Corporate Taxes, 1983 Preparation, 1984
Box 6, Folder 25    Corporate Taxes, 1984 Preparation, 1985
Box 6, Folder 26    Corporate Taxes, 1985 Preparation, 1986
Box 6, Folder 27    Corporate Taxes, 1986 Preparation and Past Amounts Due, 1987
Box 6, Folder 28    Corporate Taxes, 1987 Preparation and Past Amounts Due, 1988
Box 6, Folder 29    Corporate Taxes, 1988 Preparation and Past Amounts Due, 1989
Box 6, Folder 30    Corporate Taxes, 1989 Preparation and Past Amounts Due, 1990
Box 6, Folder 31    Corporate Taxes, Past Amounts Due, 1991

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Series 6: Printed Material, 1941-1997

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 6-7, 9)

Printed material consists of two books, including the Brooklyn Museum’s monograph *Leon Polk Smith: American Painter*, newspaper clippings reviewing Smith's work, and exhibition announcements and catalogs of Smith's museum and gallery shows from 1941 to 1997.

The bulk of this series has been scanned. In most cases, only the cover, title page, and individual relevant pages have been scanned from published materials.

Box 6, Folder 33     Book, *Design* by Paul Zelansky and Mary Fisher, 1984
                    Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 34     Book, *Leon Polk Smith: American Painter* by The Brooklyn Museum, 1996
                    Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 35     Clippings, Leon Polk Smith (undated), circa 1941-circa 1997
                    Image(s): Clippings, Leon Polk Smith

Box 6, Folder 36     Clippings, Leon Polk Smith, 1941-1979
                    Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 37     Clippings, Leon Polk Smith, 1980-1997
                    Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 38     Clippings, Smith's Influences, 1972-1991
                    Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 39     Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1941-1949
                    Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 40     Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1951-1958
                    Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 1      Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1962-1964
                    Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 2      Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1965-1969
                    Image(s)
                    Oversized material housed in Box 9, F1

Box 7, Folder 3      Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1971-1979
                    Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 4      Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1980-1983
Box 7, Folder 5  Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1984-1985
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 6  Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1986-1989
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 7  Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1990-1992
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 8  Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1993
Image(s)

Box 7, Folder 9  Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1994-1997
Image(s)

Box 9, Folder 1  Stedelijk Museum Catalog, Vormen van de Kleur, 1967
Scanned with Box 7, F2

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Series 7: Scrapbook, 1930-1940

1 Folder (Box 8)

The scrapbook consists of newspaper clippings documenting Smith's years as an educator and artist in Oklahoma in the 1930s and 1940s.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 8, Folder 1  Scrapbook, circa 1930-1940

Image(s)
Series 8: Photographic Material, 1920-1990

8 Folders (Box 8)

Photographic material includes black and white photographs of Smith and his acquaintances circa 1920-1960, and a representative selection of black and white photographs and color slides of Smith's artwork from 1939 to 1960.

Original photographs have been scanned. Photographs and slides of artwork have not been scanned.

Box 8, Folder 2  Photographs of Leon Polk Smith with Friends and Family, circa 1920-1960
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 3  Photographs of Leon Polk Smith with Friends and Family, circa 1920-1960
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 4  Photographs of Leon Polk Smith with Friends and Family, circa 1920-1960
Image(s)

Box 8, Folder 5  Photographs of Artwork, 1939-1949, circa 1960-1990

Box 8, Folder 6  Photographs of Artwork, 1950-1959, circa 1960-1990

Box 8, Folder 7  Photographs of Artwork, 1960-1979, circa 1960-1990

Box 8, Folder 8  Slides of Artwork, 1937-1969, circa 1960-1990


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