



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## 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

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Leon Polk Smith papers
<b>Date:</b>	1921-1997
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.smitleon
<b>Creator:</b>	Smith, Leon Polk, 1906-1996
<b>Extent:</b>	7.2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	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.

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## 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

Leon Polk Smith papers, 1921-1997. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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## 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 Parson'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.

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## 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.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 8 series:

Missing Title:

- 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)

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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:

Cherokee  
Native American artists  
Painting, Abstract -- United States

Cultures:

Cherokee

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

Occupations:

Educators -- New York (State) -- New York  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 1938-1994

11 Folders (Box 1, OV 10)

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1	<a href="#">Affidavits, 1940, undated</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Biographical Data, 1956</a>
Box 1, Folder 3	<a href="#">Certificates, 1938, undated</a> Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 10
Box 1, Folder 4	<a href="#">Medical Records, 1951-1967</a>
Box 1, Folder 5	<a href="#">Miscellaneous Receipts, 1958-1973, undated</a>
Box 1, Folder 6	<a href="#">Notebook, Expenses, 1968-1972</a>
Box 1, Folder 7	<a href="#">Passports, 1939-1986</a>
Box OV 10	<a href="#">Certificates, 1938, undated</a> Notes: Oversized material scanned with Box 1, F3

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1939-1996

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

**Scope and Contents:** 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, East Central University, formerly known as Oklahoma State University.

**Arrangement:** 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

### Subseries 2.1: Business

Box 1, Folder 8	<a href="#">A, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995</a>
Box 1, Folder 9	<a href="#">ACE Gallery (Christmas, Douglas), 1979-1993</a>
Box 1, Folder 10	<a href="#">Albright-Knox Gallery, 1968, 1979-1990</a>
Box 1, Folder 11	<a href="#">Amarillo Art Center (Kochka, AI), 1984-1988</a>
Box 1, Folder 12	<a href="#">American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, 1979-1991</a>
Box 1, Folder 13	<a href="#">Art and Literature, 1964</a>
Box 1, Folder 14	<a href="#">Art Museum Association of America (Butera, Virginia), 1984-1988</a>
Box 1, Folder 15	<a href="#">B, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995</a>
Box 1, Folder 16	<a href="#">Bard College, 1984-1985</a>
Box 1, Folder 17	<a href="#">Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1985-1986</a>
Box 1, Folder 18	<a href="#">Brooklyn Museum, undated, 1992</a>
Box 1, Folder 19	<a href="#">Brooklyn Museum, 1993</a>



Box 1, Folder 20	Brooklyn Museum, 1993
Box 1, Folder 21	Brooklyn Museum, 1994
Box 1, Folder 22	Brooklyn Museum, 1995 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 9, F2
Box 1, Folder 23	Buecker, Robert, 1972-1987
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
Box 1, Folder 26	Butler Institute of American Art, 1988
Box 1, Folder 27	C, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 1, Folder 28	Carnegie Institute, 1967-1980
Box 1, Folder 29	Case Western Reserve University, 1969, undated
Box 1, Folder 30	Ciba-Geigy Corporation, 1967-1994
Box 1, Folder 31	Cleveland Museum of Art, 1966-1975
Box 1, Folder 32	Columbia University, Wallach Gallery, 1992-1994
Box 1, Folder 33	D, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 1, Folder 34	Daniel Goldreyer, Ltd., 1978-1982
Box 1, Folder 35	Daniel Goldreyer, Ltd., 1988-1992
Box 1, Folder 36	Davis, Philip, 1981-1984
Box 1, Folder 37	Davis, Philip, 1985-1988
Box 2, Folder 1	DiLaurenti Gallery, 1985-1986
Box 2, Folder 2	DiLaurenti Gallery, 1987-1989
Box 2, Folder 3	Dord Fitz Gallery, 1969-1988
Box 2, Folder 4	E, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 2, Folder 5	East Central University, 1984

Box 2, Folder 6	East Central University, 1985-1989
Box 2, Folder 7	East Central University, 1990-1993
Box 2, Folder 8	East Central University, 1994-1997
Box 2, Folder 9	Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, circa 1987-1993
Box 2, Folder 10	Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, circa 1987-1993 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 10
Box 2, Folder 11	Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, 1987
Box 2, Folder 12	Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, 1987
Box 2, Folder 13	Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, 1988
Box 2, Folder 14	Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, 1989-1991
Box 2, Folder 15	Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, 1992-1993
Box 2, Folder 16	Elger, Dietmar, 1980-1981
Box 2, Folder 17	F-G, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 2, Folder 18	G.W. Einstein Company, Inc., 1986
Box 2, Folder 19	Galerie Chalette, 1965-1981
Box 2, Folder 20	Galerie Denise Rene, 1971-1976 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 10
Box 2, Folder 21	Galerie Denise Rene, 1977-1982
Box 2, Folder 22	Galerie Muller, 1964-1976
Box 2, Folder 23	Gallery North, 1976-1981, undated
Box 2, Folder 24	Gallery of Applied Arts, 1985
Box 2, Folder 25	Gallery Paule Anglim, 1970, 1979-1981, 1994
Box 2, Folder 26	Gibson, Ann, 1990-1991, undated
Box 2, Folder 27	Goethe-Institut (Osaka and Turin), 1987-1992 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 10

Box 3, Folder 1	Gorewitz, Rubin, 1981-1990
Box 3, Folder 2	Grace Borgenicht Gallery, 1981-1983 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 10
Box 3, Folder 3	Guggenheim Museum, 1970-1984
Box 3, Folder 4	Guild Hall, 1987-1990
Box 3, Folder 5	H, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 3, Folder 6	Heckscher Museum, 1983-1984
Box 3, Folder 7	Hoffman, Marianne, 1992
Box 3, Folder 8	I, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 3, Folder 9	International Contemporary Art Fair (Robinson, Charles), 1985-1986
Box 3, Folder 10	J, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 3, Folder 11	James Lodge and Associates, 1981-1982
Box 3, Folder 12	K, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 3, Folder 13	Kunstverein in Hamburg, 1989 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 10
Box 3, Folder 14	L, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 3, Folder 15	La Paloma (McPherson, Ronald and Morikawa, Mark), 1988
Box 3, Folder 16	M, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 3, Folder 17	Marilyn Pearl Gallery, 1980-1991
Box 3, Folder 18	Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1982-1986
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
Box 3, Folder 21	Meyers/Bloom Gallery, 1991-1993
Box 3, Folder 22	Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, 1991-1992

Box 3, Folder 23	Musee de Grenoble, 1988-1990
Box 3, Folder 24	Musee National D'Art Moderne, 1976-1977
Box 3, Folder 25	Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, 1977-1980
Box 3, Folder 26	N, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 3, Folder 27	Nabakowski, Gisind, 1987-1988
Box 3, Folder 28	National Galerie Berlin (Grisebach, Lucius), 1982-1987
Box 3, Folder 29	Nurnberg Museum, 1986-1989
Box 3, Folder 30	O, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 3, Folder 31	Oklahoma City Art Museum, 1983-1990
Box 3, Folder 32	P, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 3, Folder 33	Pelham-von Stoffler Gallery, 1977-1978
Box 3, Folder 34	Prakapas Gallery, 1986-1993
Box 3, Folder 35	R, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 3, Folder 36	R+V Allgemeine Versicherung AG (Weiermair, Peter), 1989-1991
Box 3, Folder 37	Riley, Orrin H., 1985-1987
Box 3, Folder 38	S, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 3, Folder 39	San Francisco Museum of Art, 1967-1973
Box 3, Folder 40	Sidney Janis Gallery, 1948-1958
Box 3, Folder 41	Siegel Contemporary Art Inc./Ruth Siegel Ltd., 1982-1987
Box 3, Folder 42	Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation (Rebay, Hilla), 1943-1949
Box 3, Folder 43	Squatriti, Fausta/La Biennale di Venezia, 1982-1991
Box 3, Folder 44	Stamford Museum and Nature Center, 1981
Box 3, Folder 45	SUNY, College At Old Westbury, 1978-1979
Box 3, Folder 46	Susan Caldwell Gallery, 1978-1980

Box 3, Folder 47	T, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 3, Folder 48	Tallix, 1987-1988
Box 4, Folder 1	U, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 4, Folder 2	University of Oklahoma, Museum of Art, 1971-1993
Box 4, Folder 3	V, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 4, Folder 4	Virginia Commonwealth University, 1980-1981
Box 4, Folder 5	Volair Gallery, 1975-1976
Box 4, Folder 6	W, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 4, Folder 7	Washburn Gallery (undated), circa 1980-circa 1985 Image(s): Washburn Gallery
Box 4, Folder 8	Washburn Gallery, 1980-1981
Box 4, Folder 9	Washburn Gallery, 1982
Box 4, Folder 10	Washburn Gallery, 1983-1985
Box 4, Folder 11	Whitney Museum of American Art, 1979-1985, 1964
Box 4, Folder 12	Wichita State University, 1975-1983
Box 4, Folder 13	Wilhelm-Hack Museum, circa 1988-1995 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 10
Box 4, Folder 14	Wilhelm-Hack Museum, 1988
Box 4, Folder 15	Wilhelm-Hack Museum, 1989
Box 4, Folder 16	Wilhelm-Hack Museum, 1991-1995
Box 4, Folder 17	Y, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 4, Folder 18	Yale University Art Gallery, 1979-1985
Box 9, Folder 2	Brooklyn Museum, Draft Exhibition Catalog, 1995 Notes: Scanned with Box 1, F22
Box OV 10	Edition and Galerie Hoffmann, Exhibition Announcements, circa 1987-1993 Notes: Scanned with Box 2, F10

Box OV 10	Galerie Denise Rene, Artwork Layout, 1976 Notes: Scanned with Box 2, F20
Box OV 10	Goethe-Institut, Color Sample, circa 1987-1992 Notes: Scanned with Box 2, F27
Box OV 10	Grace Borgenicht Gallery, Gallery Floor Plan, 1981 Notes: Scanned with Box 3, F2
Box OV 10	Kunstverein in Hamburg, Gallery Floor Plan, 1989 Notes: Scanned with Box 3, F13
Box OV 10	Wilhelm-Hack Museum, Gallery Floor Plan, circa 1988-1995 Notes: Scanned with Box 4, F13

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### Subseries 2.2: Personal

Box 4, Folder 19	A, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 4, Folder 20	B, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 4, Folder 21	Buck, Bob, 1992-1996
Box 4, Folder 22	Butera, Virginia, 1984-1995
Box 4, Folder 23	C, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 4, Folder 24	Clark, Alma, 1968-1969
Box 4, Folder 25	D, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 4, Folder 26	Danto, Arthur C., 1991-1995
Box 4, Folder 27	Downe, Edward Jr., 1980-1982, undated
Box 4, Folder 28	E, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 4, Folder 29	F, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 4, Folder 30	G, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 4, Folder 31	Galloway, David, 1981-1993
Box 4, Folder 32	Gego, 1968-1969
Box 4, Folder 33	Glattfelder, Hans, 1991-1995

Box 4, Folder 34	H, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 4, Folder 35	Highwater, Jamake, 1979-1985
Box 4, Folder 36	Humblet, Claudine (undated), circa 1985-circa 1989 Image(s): Humblet, Claudine
Box 4, Folder 37	Humblet, Claudine, 1985-1989
Box 5, Folder 1	Humblet, Claudine, 1990-1997
Box 5, Folder 2	I, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 5, Folder 3	Inaya, Beata, 1969-1984
Box 5, Folder 4	J, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 5, Folder 5	K, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 5, Folder 6	Kennedy, Edward M., 1980-1986
Box 5, Folder 7	L, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 5, Folder 8	Little, John, 1981-1984
Box 5, Folder 9	M, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 5, Folder 10	N, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 5, Folder 11	O, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 5, Folder 12	P, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 5, Folder 13	Parks, Addison, 1982-1996
Box 5, Folder 14	Pekarsky, Melvin (undated), circa 1980-circa 1989 Image(s): Pekarsky, Melvin
Box 5, Folder 15	Pekarsky, Melvin, 1980-1982
Box 5, Folder 16	Pekarsky, Melvin, 1983-1985
Box 5, Folder 17	Pekarsky, Melvin, 1986-1989
Box 5, Folder 18	Polk, Mark, 1990-1993
Box 5, Folder 19	Polk, Mark, 1994-1996

Box 5, Folder 20	R, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 5, Folder 21	Rowe, Harry L., 1939
Box 5, Folder 22	S, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 5, Folder 23	Smith, Leon Polk and Jamieson, Robert, 1968-1972 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 10
Box 5, Folder 24	Smith, Leon Polk and Jamieson, Robert, 1981-1994
Box 5, Folder 25	Smith, Virginia, 1969-1996
Box 5, Folder 26	T, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 5, Folder 27	V, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 5, Folder 28	Vavruska, Frank, 1971-1973
Box 5, Folder 29	W, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 5, Folder 30	Walls, Michael, 1994-1995, 1979-1984
Box 5, Folder 31	Warren, Alice, 1968-1976, undated
Box 5, Folder 32	Wooding, Robert, 1987-1995
Box 5, Folder 33	Workman, David, 1984-1988
Box 5, Folder 34	Y-Z, Miscellaneous, circa 1980-1995
Box 5, Folder 35	Unidentified and Illegible, circa 1980-1995
Box OV 10	Smith, Leon Polk, Oversized Letter, circa 1968-1972 Notes: Scanned with Box 5, F23

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## Series 3: Interviews, 1950-1995

### 8 Folders (Boxes 5-6)

**Scope and Contents:** 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.

**Arrangement:** 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	<a href="#">Creative Art Seminar Symposium on Modern Art, March 1950</a>
Box 5, Folder 37	<a href="#">K. Osis Interview of Leon Polk Smith, May-June 1963</a>
Box 5, Folder 38	<a href="#">D'Arcy Hayman Interview of Leon Polk Smith, May 1964</a>
Box 5, Folder 39	<a href="#">Gerald Moore Interview of Lucile Horsley, March 1965</a>
Box 6, Folder 1	<a href="#">William Jeffett Interview of Leon Polk Smith, May 1985</a>
Box 6, Folder 2	<a href="#">James Collins Interview of Leon Polk Smith, November 1987</a>
Box 6, Folder 3	<a href="#">Brooke Kamin Rapaport Interview of Leon Polk Smith, July 1993</a>
Box 6, Folder 4	Michael Baker Interview of Robert T Buck for National Arts, 1995 Notes: Video recording

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## Series 4: Writings, 1963-1996

### 13 Folders (Box 6)

**Scope and Contents:** 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.

**Arrangement:** This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 6, Folder 5	<a href="#">"Constellations", 1989</a>
Box 6, Folder 6	<a href="#">Alloway, Lawrence, Four Essays, 1974, 1970, 1981, 1963</a>
Box 6, Folder 7	<a href="#">Calas, Nicholas, "Leon Polk Smith, The Pioneer", 1971</a>
Box 6, Folder 8	<a href="#">Castle, Ted, "Leon Polk Smith: The Completely Self-Referential Object", 1979</a>
Box 6, Folder 9	<a href="#">Danto, Arthur C., "Painting as Sculpture: Leon Polk Smith and Real Space", 1993-1994</a>
Box 6, Folder 10	<a href="#">Elger, Dietmar, "Leon Polk Smith - An Introduction", circa 1981</a>
Box 6, Folder 11	<a href="#">Parks, Addison, "Leon Polk Smith", 1992, undated</a>
Box 6, Folder 12	<a href="#">Ratcliff, Carter, Three Essays, 1971, 1995, 1987</a>
Box 6, Folder 13	<a href="#">Seeman, Joan, "Leon Polk Smith", 1978</a>
Box 6, Folder 14	<a href="#">Smith, Leon Polk, "Minus Gallery/Plus Gallery", 1965</a>
Box 6, Folder 15	<a href="#">Smith, Leon Polk, Notes, circa 1960s-1990s</a>
Box 6, Folder 16	<a href="#">Walsh, Grace M., "Leon Polk Smith: A Pioneering Geometric Abstractionist", 1995</a>
Box 6, Folder 17	<a href="#">Wolin, Joseph R., "Line Forms Space", 1994</a>

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## Series 5: Financial Records, 1979-1990

### 15 Folders (Box 6)

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: This series has not been scanned.

Box 6, Folder 18	Corporate Taxes, 1978-1989 Federal Filing Forms, 1979-1990
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
Box 6, Folder 32	Personal Taxes, 1987-1989 Filing Forms, 1988-1990

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## Series 6: Printed Material, 1941-1997

### 0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 6-7, 9)

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: 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	<a href="#">Book, Design by Paul Zelansky and Mary Fisher, 1984</a>
Box 6, Folder 34	<a href="#">Book, Leon Polk Smith: American Painter by The Brooklyn Museum, 1996</a>
Box 6, Folder 35	<a href="#">Clippings, Leon Polk Smith (undated), circa 1941-circa 1997</a> <a href="#">Image(s): Clippings, Leon Polk Smith</a>
Box 6, Folder 36	<a href="#">Clippings, Leon Polk Smith, 1941-1979</a>
Box 6, Folder 37	<a href="#">Clippings, Leon Polk Smith, 1980-1997</a>
Box 6, Folder 38	<a href="#">Clippings, Smith's Influences, 1972-1991</a>
Box 6, Folder 39	<a href="#">Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1941-1949</a>
Box 6, Folder 40	<a href="#">Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1951-1958</a>
Box 7, Folder 1	<a href="#">Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1962-1964</a>
Box 7, Folder 2	<a href="#">Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1965-1969</a> Notes: <a href="#">Oversized material housed in Box 9, F1</a>
Box 7, Folder 3	<a href="#">Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1971-1979</a>
Box 7, Folder 4	<a href="#">Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1980-1983</a>
Box 7, Folder 5	<a href="#">Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1984-1985</a>
Box 7, Folder 6	<a href="#">Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1986-1989</a>
Box 7, Folder 7	<a href="#">Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1990-1992</a>
Box 7, Folder 8	<a href="#">Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1993</a>
Box 7, Folder 9	<a href="#">Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1994-1997</a>
Box 9, Folder 1	<a href="#">Stedelijk Museum Catalog, Vormen van de Kleur, 1967</a>

Notes: Scanned with Box 7, F2

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## Series 7: Scrapbook, 1930-1940

### 1 Folder (Box 8)

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

Arrangement: This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 8, Folder 1

[Scrapbook, circa 1930-1940](#)

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## Series 8: Photographic Material, 1920-1990

### 8 Folders (Box 8)

Scope and Contents: 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.

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

Box 8, Folder 2	<a href="#">Photographs of Leon Polk Smith with Friends and Family, circa 1920-1960</a>
Box 8, Folder 3	<a href="#">Photographs of Leon Polk Smith with Friends and Family, circa 1920-1960</a>
Box 8, Folder 4	<a href="#">Photographs of Leon Polk Smith with Friends and Family, circa 1920-1960</a>
Box 8, Folder 5	<a href="#">Photographs of Artwork, 1939-1949, circa 1960-1990</a>
Box 8, Folder 6	<a href="#">Photographs of Artwork, 1950-1959, circa 1960-1990</a>
Box 8, Folder 7	<a href="#">Photographs of Artwork, 1960-1979, circa 1960-1990</a>
Box 8, Folder 8	<a href="#">Slides of Artwork, 1937-1969, circa 1960-1990</a>
Box 8, Folder 9	<a href="#">Slides of Artwork, 1970-1996, circa 1970-1990</a>

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