
Catherine S. Gaines

Funding for the digitization of this collection was provided by the Lichtenstein Foundation.

2002
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: Stable Gallery records
Identifier: AAA.stabgall
Date: 1916-1999 (bulk 1953-1970)
Extent: 2.9 Linear feet
Creator: Stable Gallery
Language: English

The collection is in English.

Summary: The Stable Gallery records measure 2.9 linear feet and are dated 1916-1999 (bulk 1953-1970). The gallery was known for its representation of the New York School. Records consist mainly of artist files containing biographical notes, correspondence, price lists, sales and payment information, printed matter, and photographs. A small number of gallery administrative and financial records are included, along with printed matter, photographs, and personal papers and estate records of gallery founder and owner Eleanor Ward. There are also reminiscences by gallery owner Eleanor Ward and her assistant Alan Groh, a sound cassette recording of Eleanor Ward, and a videoreel (1/2 inch) documentary of a 1973 Sotheby auction of works from the Robert C. Scull collection.

Administrative Information

Provenance
The Stable Gallery records were the gift of the Estate of Eleanor Ward. In 1984, artist files were received from Alan Groh, executor of Ward's estate and her assistant at the Stable Gallery. Additional records were donated in 1997 by Buzz Miller on behalf of the Estate of Eleanor Ward; Mr. Miller was Alan Groh's partner and executor of his estate. Another addition was received in 1999 from Paul Gardner, executor of the Estate of Buzz Miller. A final addition of 0.2 linear feet was donated in 2019 by Nancy Berner, Alan Groh's niece.

Related Materials
Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Eleanor Ward conducted by Paul Cummings, February 8, 1972.

Alternative Forms Available
The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2016 and is available on the Archives of American Art's website. Materials which have not been scanned include blank pages, blank versos.
of photographs, and duplicates. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned. Some of the recordings in this collection have been copied for research access and digital copies are available in the Archives of American Art offices.

Processing Information
Materials received a preliminary level of processing at some point after donation and were microfilmed onto reels 5821-5823. All materials were merged and described by Catherine S. Gaines in 2002. In 2007, the motion picture film material was preserved and transferred with funding provided by the Smithsonian Women's Committee. All materials were prepared for digitization by Judy Ng in 2016 and scanned with funding provided by the Lichtenstein Foundation. The 2019 addition was processed by Ryan Evans in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Restrictions on Access
Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

Ownership and Literary Rights
The Stable Gallery records 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.

Historical Note
Established in 1953 by Eleanor Ward (1911-1984), the Stable Gallery derived its name from its first home, a former livery stable on Seventh Avenue at West 58th Street, New York City. Long interested in art and recognized for her “good taste” and “flair,” Mrs. Ward had vaguely considered the idea of opening her own gallery for some time and received encouragement from Christian Dior, with whom she had worked in Paris. In 1952, opportunity arose to lease a suitable building that would later become a gallery. At first, Ward and a friend sold mannequins and made the large, empty space available for fashion photography; in December, she operated a Christmas boutique for a few weeks.

The Stable Gallery opened in 1953 with an exhibition of work by Ward's friend Mike Mishke, a commercial artist. She then arranged for the Stable Gallery to host a sequel to the 1951 Ninth Street Show (the initial show, organized by the Club with financial assistance from Leo Castelli, was held in an empty store on Ninth Street). The New York Artists Annual, better known as the Stable Annual, was selected by the artists themselves; this well-attended, widely-reviewed, and influential exhibition continued until 1957. Participating artists included Philip Guston, Franz Kline, Willem deKooning, Robert Motherwell, Jackson Pollock, Robert Rauschenberg, Ad Reinhardt, Richard Stankiewicz, and Jack Tworkov.

The Stable Gallery soon became a gathering place for artists, including some not in Stable's "stable." Over the years, the Stable Gallery presented the first one-man shows of Robert Indiana, Cy Twombly, and Andy Warhol. Among the artists closely associated with the gallery were: Joseph Cornell, Edward Dugmore,
John Ferren, Alex Katz, Conrad Marca-Relli, Marisol, Joan Mitchell, Isamu Noguchi, Richard Stankiewicz, Cy Twombly, Jack Tworkov, and Wilfred Zogbaum. The gallery was known for dramatic, somewhat theatrical installations, and occasionally presented exhibitions beyond its usual focus (photographs by Hans Namuth and pre-Columbian sculpture, which personally interested Ward).

When the block where the Stable Gallery stood was razed in 1960 to make way for a high rise apartment building, Mrs. Ward moved her gallery to 33 East 74th Street, where she was able to maintain an apartment for herself upstairs. Quite abruptly, Ward closed the Stable Gallery in 1970, noting changes in the art scene, growing commercialization, and a loss of enthusiasm that made the gallery merely a business for her. Alan Groh (1923-1996), who started as Eleanor Ward's assistant in 1956 and was eventually named gallery director, became director of A. M. Sachs Gallery. Mrs. Ward traveled widely and acted as an art consultant to selected clients.

Scope and Content Note

The Stable Gallery records measure 2.9 linear feet and are dated 1916-1999 (bulk 1953-1970). The gallery was known for its representation of the New York School. Records consist mainly of artist files containing biographical notes, correspondence, price lists, sales and payment information, printed matter, and photographs. A small number of gallery administrative and financial records are included, along with printed matter, photographs, personal papers, and estate records of gallery founder and owner Eleanor Ward. There are also reminiscences by gallery owner Eleanor Ward and her assistant Alan Groh, a sound cassette recording of Eleanor Ward, and a videoreel (1/2 inch) documentary of a 1973 Sotheby auction of works from the Robert C. Scull collection.

The Stable Gallery's administrative records includes both general correspondence and copious letters from Eleanor Ward to Alan Groh, her assistant regarding gallery business, lists, floor plans, financial records, printed matter, and photographs of unidentified artwork and exhibition installations. There are also reminiscences by gallery owner Eleanor Ward and Alan Groh, a cassette recording of Eleanor Ward, and a film recording of a 1973 Sotheby auction of works from the Robert C. Scull collection. Additional Stable Gallery administrative and financial information, as well as related printed matter is included with the artist files.

Artist files contain biographical notes, correspondence, price lists, printed matter, and photographs of artists and artwork. The correspondence includes memoranda regarding payments to artists and sales information. Among the printed matter is documentation of the Stable Gallery and other exhibitions, reviews, and miscellaneous articles. Unfortunately, no records about the famous Stable Annuals held between 1953 and 1957 survive.

Artwork consists of 4 sketchbooks and loose sheets with charcoal drawings by unidentified artist(s).

The Eleanor Ward papers include miscellaneous personal papers and records concerning her estate. Photographs in the series are of Eleanor Ward, friends and family, parties, and the interior and exterior of Ward's Connecticut house.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as four series:

- Series 1: Administrative Records, 1955-1986 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 1, 4, 5)
- Series 2: Artist Files, 1952-1997 (1.6 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
• Series 3: Artwork, circa 1955-1970 (3 folders; Box 4)
• Series 4: Eleanor Ward Papers, 1916-1999 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 2-4, 5)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
- Art galleries, Commercial -- New York (State) -- New York
- Art, Modern -- 20th century -- Exhibitions
- Art, Modern -- 20th century -- New York (State) -- New York
- New York school of art

Types of Materials:
- Drawings
- Photographs
- Sketchbooks
- Sound recordings
- Video recordings

Names:
- Groh, Alan, 1923-1996
- New York School of poets and painters
- Scull, Robert, 1917-1986 -- Art collections
- Ward, Eleanor, 1912-1984
Series 1: Administrative, 1955-1986

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, 4, 5)

The Stable Gallery's administrative records include both general correspondence and correspondence between Eleanor Ward and her assistant Alan Groh regarding gallery matters from abroad, lists, floor plans, and printed matter of a general nature, or ones concerning multiple artists. Financial material includes banking and investment records, miscellaneous sales, and invoices. Photographic material is of exhibition installations and unidentified artwork. There are also reminiscences by gallery owner Eleanor Ward and Alan Groh, a sound cassette recording of Eleanor Ward, and a videoreel (1/2 inch) documentary of a 1973 Sotheby auction of works from the Robert C. Scull collection. Additional Stable Gallery administrative and financial information, as well as related printed matter are included with the artist files.

Materials are arranged by document type.

This series has been scanned in its entirety, with the exception of the 2019 addition.

Box 1, Folder 1  Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1961-1970

Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 1  Correspondence, Miscellaneous, circa 1957-1970

Box 5, Folder 2-3  Correspondence, Eleanor Ward to Alan Groh, circa 1957-1960

Box 1, Folder 2  Documentary, Auction, 1973

1 videoreels (1/2 inch) (Original)
2 videocassettes (digital betacam) (Duplicate)
1 videocassettes (vhs) (Duplicate)

Image(s)


Box 5, Folder 4  Floor Plans, Gallery and Apartment, circa 1950s

Box 1, Folder 3  Interview (Eleanor Ward), circa 1969-1970

1 Sound cassette (Original)

Image(s)

Ward reminiscing about the Stable Gallery and discussing with Rupert and Bonnie [?] the possibility of writing a book about her experiences as an art dealer.
Box 1, Folder 4  Writings, Interview Transcript (E. Ward with Paul Cummings for the Archives of American Art), 1972, 1986
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 5  Writings, Memoir by Alan Groh (with Groh's résumé), circa 1971-1973

Box 1, Folder 6  Writings, Notes and Lists, circa 1955-1975
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 7  Financial Records (banking, investments, miscellaneous sales, and invoices), 1956-1971
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 8  Printed Material, Clippings, 1958-1988
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 9  Photographs, Graham Foundation Exhibition, circa 1955-1970
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 10  Photographs, Unidentified Exhibitions, circa 1961
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 11  Photographs, Unidentified Sculpture, circa 1955-1970
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 12  Negatives, Unidentified Artwork, circa 1955-1970
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 1  Oversized Auction Recordings from Box 1, Folder 2, 1973

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Series 2: Artist Files, 1952-1997

1.6 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Artist files contain various combinations of biographical notes, correspondence, price lists, printed matter, and photographs of artwork. The correspondence includes memoranda regarding payments to artists and sales information. Among the printed matter is documentation of the Stable Gallery and other exhibitions, reviews, and miscellaneous articles. There are no files for some artists (e.g. Louise Bourgeois, Hans Namuth, Robert Rauschenberg, Jon Schueler) who are known to have exhibited with the gallery. A few of the artists for whom files exist may not have been associated with the Stable Gallery, but perhaps were of interest as potential gallery artists or for Ward's private collection. In a small number of instances, material post-dating the closing of Stable Gallery has been added.

Materials are arranged alphabetically by artist name.

The bulk of this series has been scanned. In some cases exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.

Box 1, Folder 13  Anderson, Jeremy R., 1954-1957
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 14  Biala, Janice, circa 1970
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 15  Birmelin, Robert, 1963-1967
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 16  Boghosian, Varujan, 1963-1965
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 17  Borgrave, Elie, 1955-1960
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 18  Briggs, Ernest, 1955-1960
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 19  Brooks, James, circa 1957
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 20  Brustlein, Daniel, 1962
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 21  Bultman, Fritz, 1954-1958
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 22  Burlin, Paul, circa 1955-1960
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 23  Burri, Alberto, 1953-1957
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 24  Cage, John, 1958

Box 1, Folder 25  Carone, Nicholas, circa 1955-1960

Box 1, Folder 26  Cavallon, Giorgio, 1954-1960

Box 1, Folder 27  Chase, Janet, circa 1955-1960

Box 1, Folder 28  Cornell, Joseph, 1954-1968

Box 1, Folder 29  Cox, Jan, circa 1955-1960

Box 1, Folder 30  de Kooning, Elaine, 1955-1956

Box 1, Folder 31  Diebenkorn, Richard, circa 1955-1960

Box 1, Folder 32  Downing, Thomas, 1963-1965

Box 1, Folder 33  Dugmore, Edward, 1953-1958

Box 1, Folder 34  Engman, Robert, 1960-1963

Box 1, Folder 35  Ernesto, 1957

Box 1, Folder 36  Ferren, John, 1954-1959

Box 1, Folder 37  Ferren, John (photographs), circa 1955-1960
Image(s)
Includes photograph of the artist.

Box 1, Folder 38  Fiore, Joe, 1954-1956
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 39  Garrigues, Ron, 1963-1964
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 40  Goodnough, Robert, circa 1955-1960
Image(s)
Includes photograph of the artist.

Box 1, Folder 41  Graham, John D., 1961
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 42  Heller, Dorothy, circa 1955-1960
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 43  Hyde, Solomon, circa 1955-1960
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 44  Indiana, Robert (biographical materials), 1962-1968
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 45  Indiana, Robert (correspondence), circa 1962-1968
Image(s): Indiana, Robert (correspondence): circa 1962-1968

Box 1, Folder 46  Indiana, Robert (correspondence), 1962-1963
Image(s): Indiana, Robert (correspondence): 1962-1963

Box 1, Folder 47  Indiana, Robert (correspondence), 1964-1965
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 48  Indiana, Robert (correspondence), 1966
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 49  Indiana, Robert (correspondence), 1967
Image(s): Indiana, Robert (correspondence): 1967

Box 1, Folder 50  Indiana, Robert (correspondence), 1968
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 51  Indiana, Robert (contract, writings, notes), 1965
Image(s): Indiana, Robert (contract, writings, notes): 1965

Box 2, Folder 1 Indiana, Robert (printed material, photographs), 1962-1968
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 2 Insley, Robert, 1968
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 3 Katz, Alex, 1960-1962
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 4 Katz, Alex (photographs), circa 1960-1962
Image(s)
Includes photograph of the artist.

Box 2, Folder 5 Krasner, Lee, circa 1955-1960
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 6 Loew, Michael, circa 1955-1960
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 7 Marca-Relli, Conrad, 1954-1959
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 8 Marca-Relli, Conrad (photographic material), circa 1954-1959
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 9 Marisol, 1961-1965
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 10 Mitchell, Fred, 1955-1957
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 11 Mitchell, Joan (biographical material), 1959-1962
Image(s): Mitchell, Joan (biographical material): 1959-1962

Box 2, Folder 12 Mitchell, Joan (correspondence), circa 1954-1979
Image(s): Mitchell, Joan (correspondence): circa 1954-1979

Box 2, Folder 13 Mitchell, Joan (correspondence), 1954-1962

Box 2, Folder 14 Mitchell, Joan (correspondence), 1963-1979
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 15 Mitchell, Joan (clippings), circa 1957-1965
Image(s): Mitchell, Joan (clippings): circa 1957-1965

Box 2, Folder 16  Mitchell, Joan (printed material), 1952-1965
Image(s): Mitchell, Joan (printed material): 1952-1965

Box 2, Folder 17  Mitchell, Joan (notes, photographs), circa 1955-1975
Image(s): Mitchell, Joan (notes, photographs): circa 1955-1975
Includes photograph of the artist.

Box 2, Folder 18  Morris, Kyle, 1956-1958
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 19  Motherwell, Robert, 1955
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 20  Nesbitt, Lowell, 1967, 1970
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 21  Noguchi, Isamu, 1954-1961
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 22  Oppen, John, 1961
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 23  Ortman, George, 1957-1961
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 24  Pace, Stephen, circa 1955-1960
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 25  Plate, Walter, 1956-1959
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 26  Reynal, Jeanne, 1956-1957
Image(s)
Includes photographs of Jain temple, the artist, and exhibition installation.

Box 2, Folder 27  Sihvonen, Oli, 1963-1964
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 28  Stankiewicz, Richard, 1959-1969, 1982
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 29  Thek, Paul, 1970, 1990
Box 2, Folder 30  Twombly, Cy, 1953-1958
Image(s)
Includes photograph of the artist.

Box 2, Folder 31  Tworkov, Jack, 1957-1961
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 32  Warhol, Andy, 1962-1997
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 33  Welliver, Neil, 1962-1964
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 34  Zakanych (a.k.a. Zakanitch), Robert, 1968
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 35  Zanartu, Henrique, 1954-1955
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 36  Zogbaum, Wilfred, 1957-1961
Image(s)

3 Folders (Box 4)
Artwork consists of 4 sketchbooks and loose sheets with charcoal drawings by unidentified artist(s).

Materials are arranged by document type.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 3  Sketchbooks, Vol. 3-4, circa 1955-1970
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 4  Sketches (loose sheets; includes a few ballpoint pen drawings), circa 1955-1970
Image(s)

0.5 Linear feet (Box 2-4, 5)

The Eleanor Ward papers consists of miscellaneous personal papers and records concerning her estate, in addition to miscellaneous books, exhibition catalogs, and clippings. These include clippings about Eleanor Ward's New York apartment and her house in Connecticut. Also included are two exhibition catalogs, *A Contemporary Collection of Painting and Sculpture Selected from the Collection of Eleanor Ward*, Lyman Allen Museum, 1965, and *In Honor of Alan Groh '49: The Buzz Miller Collection of American Art*, Bayley Art Museum, University of Virginia, 1999 (the collection was acquired mainly from Stable Gallery and donated in honor of Alan Groh, Ward's close friend and long-time assistant).

Materials are arranged by document type.

The bulk of this series has been scanned. In some cases exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned. Elements from the 2019 addition have not been scanned.

- **Box 2, Folder 37** Correspondence, circa 1965-1983
  - Image(s)
  - Includes letters from Ad Reinhardt.

- **Box 2, Folder 38** Estate Records, circa 1982-1986
  - Image(s)
  - Includes will and personal/art inventories.

- **Box 2, Folder 39** Financial Records, 1966-1976
  - Image(s)

- **Box 2, Folder 40** Floorplan, "The Barnhouse", 1964
  - Image(s)

- **Box 2, Folder 41** Artifact, Cigarette Holder, circa 1950
  - Image(s)

- **Box 3, Folder 1** Published Materials, Books, 1916-1978
  - Image(s)

- **Box 3, Folder 2** Published Materials, Clippings, Eleanor Ward, circa 1960-1984
  - Image(s)

- **Box 3, Folder 3** Published Materials, Clippings, Food and Recipes, circa 1975-1980
  - Image(s): Published Materials, Clippings, Food and Recipes: circa 1975-1980

- **Box 3, Folder 4** Published Materials, Clippings, Health and Beauty, circa 1975-1980
Image(s): Published Materials, Clippings, Health and Beauty: circa 1975-1980

Box 3, Folder 5  Published Materials, Clippings, Miscellaneous, circa 1975-1980
Image(s): Published Materials, Clippings, Miscellaneous: circa 1975-1980

Box 3, Folder 6  Published Materials, Exhibition Catalogs, 1965-1999
Image(s)
Contemporary Collection of Painting and Sculpture from the Collection of Eleanor Ward; Small Works by Artist Members, Annual Guild Hall Artist Members, 1983; Hubert Long; and Buzz Miller Collection of American Art.

Box 3, Folder 7  Published Materials, Paul Verlaine, circa 1970
1 sound discs (vinyl)
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 8  Photographs, Eleanor Ward, 1958-1980
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 9  Photographs, Eleanor Ward with Others, circa 1950-1962
Image(s)
With Christian Dior, Alan Groh, Buzz Miller, and unidentified individuals.

Box 5, Folder 5  Photographs, Eleanor Ward and Alan Groh, circa 1959

Box 3, Folder 10 Photographs, Family [?], circa 1950-1980
Image(s)
Great nephew Toby Ferguson, nephew Robert Ferguson Illi, niece Darryl Ferguson, and unidentified individuals.

Box 3, Folder 11 Photographs, Individuals, circa 1960-1980
Image(s)
Alan Groh, Buzz Miller, and unidentified individuals.

Box 5, Folder 6  Photographs, Joan Mitchell with Sister (via Alan Groh), circa 1960s

Box 3, Folder 12 Photographs, Groups, circa 1950-1980
Image(s)
Mainly parties, some at Ward's home; few individuals are identified.

Box 3, Folder 13 Photographs, Groups (parties), circa 1975-1980
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 14 Photographs, Places, Ward's "Barnhouse" (exterior views), circa 1970-1980
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 15 Photographs, Places, Ward's "Barnhouse" (interior views), circa 1970-1980
Box 3, Folder 16  Photographs, Places, Ward's Connecticut Summer House, circa 1960

Box 3, Folder 17  Photographs, Places, Unidentified, circa 1979

Box 3, Folder 18  Photographs, Dog, circa 1965-1970

Box 3, Folder 19  Photographs of Artwork, *Still Life with Eleanor as Eleanor of France*, circa 1980

Drawing by Josef Levi with photocopies of art historical references.

Box 3, Folder 20  Negatives of Artwork, Pre-Columbian Sculpture from the Ward Collection, circa 1955-1975

Oversized Book from Box 3, Folder 1, 1954

*Bruno Caruso* (1954) by Leonard Sinisgalli

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