



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Tanager Gallery Records,
1952-1979, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Hanson

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provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Tanager Gallery records
Identifier:	AAA.tanagall
Date:	1952-1979
Extent:	2.6 Linear feet
Creator:	Tanager Gallery
Language:	English
Summary:	The records of contemporary New York City Tanager Gallery measure 2.6 linear feet and date from 1952 to 1979. Found are administrative files, financial and legal records including detailed receipt books, scattered correspondence, artists' files for circa 70 artists that include price lists and biographies, two scrapbooks of printed materials, newsclippings, exhibition announcements and other printed materials, and five photographs of openings at the gallery and of the exterior of the building.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lois Dodd, co-founder of the Tanager Gallery, donated the Tanager Gallery records in several increments between 1972 and 1989.

Related Material

Among the holdings of the Archives of American Art are the Lois Dodd papers, 1952-2001 and an oral history interview with Lois Dodd by Barbara Shikler from 1988.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35 mm microfilm reels D136 and 3976 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

A portion of the Tanager Gallery records were originally loaned for microfilming in 1963 onto reels 3976 and D136; these reels are no longer in circulation. The records originally loaned for microfilming, along with additional records, were later donated. All accretions were fully merged, processed, and described by Jayna Hanson in 2012 with funds provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

Tanager Gallery records, 1952-1979. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

Ownership and Literary Rights

The Tanager 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

The Tanager Gallery operated from 1952-1962 in New York City. The gallery was one of the first artist cooperative galleries formed on 10th Street in Manhattan to provide an alternative to the larger upscale galleries of Madison Avenue.

In 1952, the artist cooperative Tanager Gallery opened at 90 East 10th Street in Manhattan. Co-founders included Charles Cajori, Lois Dodd, Angelo Ippolito, William King, and Fred Mitchell. The Tanager offered open spaces for young artists to show their work and to sell art on their own terms. Membership at the Tanager included American Realists Alex Katz and Philip Pearlstein, and the Pop art/found-art collagist Tom Wesselmann. Later artists to join the cooperative included Mary Abbott, Perle Fine, Sidney Geist, Joseph Groell, Nanno de Groot, Sally Hazelet, Ben Isquith, Lester Johnson, Nicholas Marsicano, George Earl Ortman, Charlotte Park, Philip Pearlstein, Frank Stout, Raymond Rocklin, and Sal Sirugo. From 1952 to 1962, the Tanager Gallery exhibited works from about 250 artists.

The opening of Tanager and other 10th Street galleries was a radical change for the New York arts scene and for emerging New York artists who generally found representation with uptown gallery owners and/or art dealers on 57th Street or Madison Ave. In the 1950s, Manhattan's 10th Street was a gathering place for young artist-bohemians. The galleries were often the centers for anything avant-garde or new, such as art installations, happenings, poetry readings, jazz sessions, and performance art. For example, Tanager Gallery hosted a series of forums with local artists who would discuss their work and objectives.

Tanager Gallery received attention and respect from the more established art galleries and critics in New York, including Dore Ashton, Leo Castelli, Tom Hess, Martha Jackson, and Dorothy Miller. The Tanager Gallery closed in 1962.

Scope and Content Note

The records of contemporary New York City Tanager Gallery measure 2.6 linear feet and date from 1952 to 1979. Found are administrative files, financial and legal records including detailed receipt books, scattered correspondence, artists' files for circa 70 artists that include price lists and biographies, two scrapbooks of printed materials, newsclippings, exhibition announcements and other printed materials, and five photographs of openings at the gallery and of the exterior of the building.

Administrative files include four day books, lists of artists and exhibitions, historical sketches, and an address book. There are two ledger books of expenses for shows and four receipt books from 1959-1962

which are organized by date and list artist, and artwork, buyer, and price. Correspondence is arranged chronologically and comprised mainly of copies of letters sent by the Gallery to artists as invitations to exhibit. Also found are scattered letters from museums and artists.

There are artists' files for circa 70 artists that contain a variety of materials, including price lists and biographies or resumes. Artists files are found for Anne Arnold, James Brooks, Charles Cajori, Herman Cherry, Lois Dodd, Sally Hazelet Drummond, Perle Fine, Helen Frankenthaler, Sidney Geist, Philip Guston, Hans Hofmann, Angelo Ippolito, Philip Pealstein, Alex Katz, William King, Robert Rauschenberg, Larry Rivers, Theodore Stamos, and Tom Wesselmann among many others.

The collection includes two scrapbooks containing mostly newsclippings and exhibition announcements, as well as additional loose newsclippings, numerous exhibition announcements and catalogs, and press releases. There are five photographs of gallery openings and the exterior of the building, the latter taken by Rudy Burkhardt.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series:

- Series 1: Administrative Files, 1952-1979 (Boxes 1, 4; 0.5 linear feet)
- Series 2: Financial and Legal Records, 1952-1962 (Box 1; 0.5 linear feet)
- Series 3: Correspondence, 1952-1967 (Boxes 1-2; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 4: Artists Files, circa 1952- circa 1962 (Box 2; 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 5: Scrapbooks, circa 1962 (Boxes 2-3; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1952-1971 (Boxes 2, 4; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 7: Photographs, circa 1952-circa 1959 (Box 2; 2 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 -- New York (State) -- New York
Art, Abstract -- New York (State) -- New York
Art, Modern -- 20th century -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Diaries
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sketches

Names:

Arnold, Anne, 1926-
Brooks, James, 1906-1992
Burkhardt, Rudy
Cajori, Charles, 1921-
Cherry, Herman
Dodd, Lois, 1927-

Fine, Perle, 1908-1988
Frankenthaler, Helen, 1928-2011
Geist, Sidney
Guston, Philip, 1913-1980
Hazelet, Sally
Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966
Ippolito, Angelo
Katz, Alex, 1927-
King, William, 1925-2015
Pearlstein, Philip, 1924-
Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925-2008
Rivers, Larry, 1925-2002
Stamos, Theodoros, 1922-1997
Wesselmann, Tom, 1931-2004

Container Listing

Series 1: Administrative Files, 1952-1979

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1, 4)

Found are four day books with notes describing the day-to-day administration of the gallery. Some items were tucked into the day books and may include notes and receipts for services needed for the gallery's daily functions. Also included are lists of artists and exhibitions held at the gallery, historical sketches, and address book, and the embosser of the seal of the Tanager Gallery.

Box 1, Folder 1	Historical Sketches and Ephemera, 1952-1979 Oversized material housed in Box 4, F1
Box 1, Folder 2	Lists of Artists and Exhibitions, circa 1950-1960 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 3	Address Book, circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 4	Day Book, 1953
Box 1, Folder 5	Day Book, 1956
Box 1, Folder 6	Day Book, 1958
Box 1, Folder 7	Day Book, 1959
Box 4, Folder 1	Tanager Gallery Seal, 1952 Oversized material from Box 1, F1

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Series 2: Financial and Legal records, 1952-1962

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1)

Found are account books, banking materials, certificates, materials relating to the closing of the gallery in 1962, invoices, two ledgers, loan materials, price lists, receipt books, and Department of Labor records. The ledger books show expenses and income for Tanager Gallery exhibitions, organized by date and divided by exhibition. Receipt books span December of 1959 to May of 1962 and record those works of art sold at the Tanager Gallery. Researchers will find the artist, buyer, artwork details, and price.

Box 1, Folder 8	Account Book, 1952-1959
Box 1, Folder 9-10	Banking Materials, 1959, 1962 <i>2 Folders</i>
Box 1, Folder 11	Cards, circa 1952- circa 1962
Box 1, Folder 12	Certificates, 1956-1957
Box 1, Folder 13	Closing Materials, 1962
Box 1, Folder 14	Insurance, 1958-1963
Box 1, Folder 15	Invoices, 1957-1959
Box 1, Folder 16	Ledger Book, 1956-1960
Box 1, Folder 17	Ledger Book, 1960-1962
Box 1, Folder 18	Loan Materials, 1959
Box 1, Folder 19	Notes, Drafts of Expenses, 1950s
Box 1, Folder 20	Post Office Materials, circa 1952- circa 1962
Box 1, Folder 21	Price Lists, Group Shows, circa 1952- circa 1962
Box 1, Folder 22	New York State Department of Labor Notices, 1959-1961
Box 1, Folder 23	Receipt Books, 1959 December-1960 October
Box 1, Folder 24	Receipt Books, 1960 October-1961 November
Box 1, Folder 25	Receipt Books, 1961 November-1962 March
Box 1, Folder 26	Receipt Books, 1962 March-1962 May
Box 1, Folder 27	Reconsignment, 1962
Box 1, Folder 28	Rental Materials, 1960
Box 1, Folder 29	Subpoena, 1960

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Series 3: Correspondence, 1952-1967

0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Correspondence is scattered and arranged by date. Many of the letters are copies of those sent by the Tanager Gallery to artists as invitations to exhibit as well as responses to incoming letters requesting information on artists and exhibitions. There are some letters from museums and few from artists. Much of the correspondence was written by Tanager's two secretaries, Perle Fine and Sally Hazelet Drummond.

Box 1, Folder 31	Correspondence, 1952
Box 1, Folder 32	Correspondence, 1953
Box 1, Folder 33	Correspondence, 1954
Box 1, Folder 34	Correspondence, 1955
Box 1, Folder 35	Correspondence, 1956
Box 2, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1957
Box 2, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1958
Box 2, Folder 3-4	Correspondence, 1959 <i>2 Folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1960
Box 2, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1961
Box 2, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1962
Box 2, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1967
Box 2, Folder 9	Correspondence, circa 1950s-1962

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Series 4: Artists Files, circa 1952-circa 1962

Artists files are from about 70 artists and consist of price lists and some biographies or resumes. Notable artists include: Anne Arnold, James Brooks, Charles Cajori, Herman Cherry, Lois Dodd, Sally Hazelet Drummond, Perle Fine, Helen Frankenthaler, Sidney Geist, Philip Guston, Hans Hofmann, Angelo Ippolito, Alex Katz, William King, Robert Rauschenberg, Larry Rivers, and Tom Wesselmann among many others. Also found is a folder of price lists relating to group exhibitions. One folder of materials includes a pricelist and a handwritten biography for an unidentified artist(s). Few of the materials are dated.

Box 2, Folder 10	A, circa 1952- circa 1962 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adams, Pat • Anderson, Lennart • Andrea, Gerald • Arnold, Anne • Avery, Milton
Box 2, Folder 11	B, circa 1952- circa 1962 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bourgeois, Louise • Brooks, James
Box 2, Folder 12	C, circa 1952- circa 1962 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cajori, Charles • Campbell, Lawrence • Carone, Nicholas • Cherry, Herman • Cornell, Joseph
Box 2, Folder 13	D, circa 1952- circa 1962 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dodd, Lois • Drexler, Lynn • Drummond, Sally Hazelet • Dugmore, Edward
Box 2, Folder 14	E, circa 1952- circa 1962 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elias, Arthur
Box 2, Folder 15	F, circa 1952- circa 1962 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferren, John • Fine, Perle • Frankenthaler, Helen • Freilicher, Jane
Box 2, Folder 16	G, circa 1952- circa 1962 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geist, Sidney • Goldberg, Michael • Greene, Balcomb • Grillo, John • Groell, Theophil • Guston, Philip
Box 2, Folder 17	H, circa 1952- circa 1962

- Hazelet, Sally (See Sally Hazelet Drummond)
 - Heliker, John
 - Hofmann, Hans
- Box 2, Folder 18 I, circa 1952- circa 1962
- Ippolito, Angelo
- Box 2, Folder 19 J, circa 1952- circa 1962
- Jensen, Alfred Julius
- Box 2, Folder 20 K, circa 1952- circa 1962
- Katz, Alex
 - Kienbusch, William
 - Kilstrom, Kenneth
 - King, William
 - Kohn, Gabriel
 - Kotin, Albert
- Box 2, Folder 21 L, circa 1952- circa 1962
- Laderman, Gabriel
 - Lassaw, Ibram
 - Leslie, Alfred
 - Loew, Michael
 - Lucks, Morton
- Box 2, Folder 22 M, circa 1952- circa 1962
- Marca-Relli
 - Marsicano, Nicholas
 - Matter, Mercedes
 - Matthiasdottir, Louisa
 - McLean, William
 - McNeil, George
- Box 2, Folder 23 N, circa 1952- circa 1962
- Nevelson, Louise
 - Noguchi, Isamu
- Box 2, Folder 24 P, circa 1952- circa 1962
- Pace, Stephen
 - Park, Charlotte
 - Pearlstein, Philip
- Box 2, Folder 25 R, circa 1952- circa 1962
- Rauschenberg, Robert
 - Reinhardt, Ad
 - Resnick, Milton
 - Rivers, Larry
 - Rocklin, Raymond
 - Rose, Leatrice
- Box 2, Folder 26 S, circa 1952- circa 1962

- Schloss, Edith
 - Sirugo, Salvatore
 - Solomon, Hyde
 - Spillenger, Ray
 - Stamos, Theodoros
 - Stout, Francis
- Box 2, Folder 27 T, circa 1952- circa 1962
- Trajan
- Box 2, Folder 28 V, circa 1952- circa 1962
- Vicente, Esteban
- Box 2, Folder 29 W, circa 1952- circa 1962
- Wesselmann, Tom
- Box 2, Folder 30 Y, circa 1952- circa 1962
- Yektai, M.
- Box 2, Folder 31 Group Shows, circa 1952- circa 1962
- "Founding 5"
 - "Christmas Group Show"
 - "Christmas Show" (1960)
 - "Group Show" (1960)
 - "Members Group Show"
 - "Small Paintings"
 - "Private Myths"
 - "Summer Group Show"
 - "Tenth Street 1952"
 - "Three-man Show" (1961)"
- Box 2, Folder 32 Unidentified Artists, circa 1952- circa 1962

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Series 5: Scrapbooks, circa 1962

0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Found are two scrapbooks of news clippings and articles about the Tanager Gallery and some exhibition announcements. Also included is a small folder of loose exhibition announcements that had been tucked into the scrapbook.

Box 2, Folder 33	Scrapbooks and Loose Materials, circa 1962 Oversized materials housed in Box 3
Box 3, Folder 1	Oversized Scrapbook, circa 1962 From Box 2, F33

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Series 6: Printed Material, 1952-1971

0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 2, 4)

Found are clippings, blank stationery, many exhibition announcements from the Tanager Gallery and some from other galleries, two exhibition catalogs from Tanager, lists, and press releases including drafts.

Box 2, Folder 34	Blank Stationery, circa 1952
Box 2, Folder 35-37	Clippings, 1956-1973 <i>3 Folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 38-40	Exhibition Announcements, Tanager Gallery, 1952-1962 <i>3 Folders</i> Oversized materials housed in Box 4, F2
Box 2, Folder 41-42	Exhibition Announcements, Other Galleries, 1962-1971 <i>2 Folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 43	Exhibition Catalogs, Tanager Gallery, 1956-1959
Box 2, Folder 44	Exhibition Catalogs, Markups and Drafts, 1959
Box 2, Folder 45	Journals, 1965
Box 2, Folder 46	List of Exhibitions, 1959
Box 2, Folder 47	Publicity Materials from Museums, 1960-1961
Box 2, Folder 48-50	Press Releases, 1952-1959 <i>3 Folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 51	Press Releases, Drafts, 1953-1959
Box 2, Folder 52	Press Releases, Not Tanager, 1958

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Series 7: Photographs, circa 1952- circa 1959

2 Folders (Box 2)

Found are five photographs, four from gallery openings and one of the exterior of the gallery taken by Rudy Burkhardt.

Box 2, Folder 53 of Gallery Openings, circa 1952

- Asher, Elise
- Bond, Nina
- Berger, Anita
- Dodd, Lois
- Groot, Nanno de
- Sarolea, Ann

Box 2, Folder 54 of Exterior of Gallery by Rudy Burckhardt, circa 1950s

- Dodd, Lois
- Drummond, Sally Hazelet
- Katz, Alex
- Sandler, Lucy
- Bond, Nina

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