



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Keith Warner Papers, 1935-1975, in the Archives of American Art

Megan Bean

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

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Keith Warner papers
<b>Date:</b>	1935-1975
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.warnkeit
<b>Creator:</b>	Warner, Keith, 1895-1959
<b>Extent:</b>	0.7 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	Collection is in English and French.
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of American art collector Keith Warner measure 0.7 linear feet and date from 1935 to 1975. Correspondence, collecting files, and artwork detail Warner's role as a collector of art in the mid-twentieth century. Present in the collection are materials related to Alexander Calder, Roland Dorcely, Stanton MacDonald-Wright, Piet Mondrian, Alfred Stieglitz, and Max Weber.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Keith Warner papers were donated in 1992 by Edna K. Allen, wife of Keith Warner.

### Available Formats

The collection was digitized in 2016 and is available on the Archives of American Art's website. Blank pages and duplicates have not been scanned.

### Processing Information

The Keith Warner papers were processed by J. Lundin and microfilmed onto reel 4995 in 1995. In 2016, the finding aid was written and collection prepared for digitization by Megan Bean, and the collection was scanned in 2016 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

### Preferred Citation

Keith Warner papers, 1935-1975. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Keith Warner (1895-1959) was an American art collector. Warner was born and lived in Gloversville, New York, and maintained a manufacturing business that took him to New York City intermittently. Warner began collecting Chinese porcelains after World War I, and a few years later his interest shifted to American abstract painting. Warner retired from business in 1944. His collection was sold gradually after his death, mostly to private collectors, though some works are in museums in the United States and Japan.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of American art collector Keith Warner measure 0.7 linear feet and date from 1935 to 1975. Correspondence, collecting files, and artwork detail Warner's role as a collector of art in the mid-twentieth century. Present in the collection are materials related to Alexander Calder, Roland Dorcely, Stanton MacDonald-Wright, Piet Mondrian, Alfred Stieglitz, and Max Weber.

Warner's relationships with artists are documented in extensive letters which make up the bulk of the collection. Subjects range from exhibitions, the art market, artists' methods and works, art criticism, and collecting to personal subjects. Letters from Roland Dorcely and Alexander Calder include illustrated letters and postcards. Letters from Calder discuss a mix of business and personal matters, including a discussion of the design of jewelry commissioned for Warner's wife, Edna. Letters from Dorcely document Warner's cultivation, criticism, and collection of Dorcely's work, as well as the hardships of Haitian artists and Dorcely's views on art. The letters are in French with some English translations.

Correspondence with Alfred Stieglitz documents his common endeavor with Warner in collecting the paintings of John Marin, and Stieglitz's gallery, An American Place. Letters associated with An American Place continue after Stieglitz's death in 1946. Found with Alfred Stieglitz's letters are two letters from Georgia O'Keeffe. Max Weber letters include comments on his painting and sculpting, his retrospective show at the Whitney, the art press, national politics, and also refer to Stieglitz and Marin. An extensive group of correspondence with Stanton MacDonald-Wright is mostly undated; MacDonald-Wright writes freely about Stieglitz, the "291" group of artists, and his partner in Synchronism, Morgan Russell. Also included are letters from Piet Mondrian related to collecting, as well as letters from unidentified correspondents.

Warner's collecting files consist of diverse materials concerning his research, writing, and relationships with artists whose paintings he collected, particularly Roland Dorcely and Stanton MacDonald-Wright. Included are biographical sketches; writings about and by the artists, including manuscripts and published materials; newspaper and magazine clippings; exhibition announcements and catalogs; and photographs of works of art. Writings by Roland Dorcely, on the subject of his artistic process and perspective, include handwritten essays in French as well as typed English translations. Published articles from *Script* magazine (1945-1946) by Stanton MacDonald-Wright document his career as an art critic. Writings on Alexander Calder and Paul Rosenburg, taken from Warner's journal on Calder, and on the early relationship of Alfred Stieglitz and Georgia O'Keeffe, documented on a visit with Stieglitz on May 3, 1944, are also present.

Artwork consists of work by Alexander Calder and Roland Dorcely. Calder's work includes sketches proposing mobiles with notations as to material, scale, and cost. Dorcely's work includes sketches in graphite and ink of abstract figures and objects.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 3 series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1940-1963 (0.4 linear feet; Box 1-2)
- Series 2: Collecting Files, circa 1940-1975 (12 folders; Box 2, OV 3)
- Series 3: Artwork, circa 1945-circa 1965 (2 folders; Box 2)

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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:

Art -- Collectors and collecting -- New York (State)  
Art -- Haiti  
Art criticism  
Art, Abstract -- Collectors and collecting  
Art, American  
Art, Modern -- 20th century -- Collectors and collecting  
Artists -- United States  
Synchromism (Art)

Types of Materials:

Illustrated letters  
Photographs  
Sketches

Names:

"291" (Gallery)  
American Place (Gallery)  
Calder, Alexander, 1898-1976  
Dorcely, Roland  
Macdonald-Wright, Stanton, 1890-1973  
Marin, John, 1870-1953  
Mondrian, Piet, 1872-1944  
O'Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986  
Rosenburg, Paul  
Russell, Morgan, 1886-1953  
Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946  
Weber, Max, 1881-1961  
Whitney Museum of American Art

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1940-1963

#### 0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

**Scope and Contents:** Correspondence consists of letters from artists Alexander Calder, Roland Dorcely, Stanton MacDonald-Wright and his wife Jeanne MacDonald-Wright, Piet Mondrian, and Max Weber. Letters from Alfred Stieglitz on the subject of John Marin and Stieglitz' gallery An American Place are also present. Letters received from artists often combine the personal and professional in content. Subjects range from exhibitions, the art market, artists' methods and works, art criticism, and collecting to personal subjects. Also included are letters from unidentified correspondents.

**Arrangement:** Letters are arranged by correspondent last name.

**Available Formats:** Correspondence has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1	<a href="#">Calder, Alexander, circa 1944-1951</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Calder, Alexander, 1944-1945</a>
Box 1, Folder 3	<a href="#">Calder, Alexander, 1945-1946</a>
Box 1, Folder 4	<a href="#">Calder, Alexander, 1946-1947</a>
Box 1, Folder 5	<a href="#">Calder, Alexander, 1948-1951</a>
Box 1, Folder 6	<a href="#">Dorcely, Roland, circa 1957-1958</a>
Box 1, Folder 7	<a href="#">Dorcely, Roland, 1959</a>
Box 1, Folder 8	<a href="#">Dorcely, Roland, 1960-1963</a>
Box 1, Folder 9	<a href="#">MacDonald-Wright, Stanton, circa 1940s</a>
Box 1, Folder 10	<a href="#">MacDonald-Wright, Stanton, circa 1940s</a>
Box 1, Folder 11	<a href="#">MacDonald-Wright, Stanton, circa 1940s</a>
Box 1, Folder 12	<a href="#">MacDonald-Wright, Stanton, 1944-1947</a>
Box 1, Folder 13	<a href="#">MacDonald-Wright, Jeanne, circa 1940s</a>
Box 1, Folder 14	<a href="#">Mondrian, Piet, 1943-1944</a>
Box 1, Folder 15	<a href="#">Stieglitz, Alfred, 1940-1944</a>

Box 2, Folder 1	<a href="#">Stieglitz, Alfred, 1944-1947</a> Notes: Folder contains letters on the subject of An American Place from others, including Georgia O'Keeffe, after the death of Alfred Stieglitz in 1946.
Box 2, Folder 2	<a href="#">Weber, Max, 1944-1947</a>
Box 2, Folder 3	<a href="#">Weber, Max, 1947-1949</a>
Box 2, Folder 4	<a href="#">Unidentified Correspondents, circa 1930</a>

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## Series 2: Collecting Files, circa 1940-1975

### 12 Folders (Box 2, OV 3)

**Scope and Contents:** Collecting files predominantly consists of materials related to artists Roland Dorcely and Stanton MacDonald-Wright, and include notes and writings by Warner; published articles and writings by the artists; newspaper and magazine clippings; exhibition announcements and catalogs; and photographs of works of art. Also included are notes for essays on the subject of Alexander Calder and Paul Rosenberg, as well as Alfred Stieglitz and Georgia O'Keeffe.

**Arrangement:** Collecting files are arranged by subject and material type.

**Available Formats:** This series has been partially scanned. Duplicates have not been scanned.

Box 2, Folder 5	Notes on Alexander Calder and Paul Rosenberg, circa 1950s Image(s): <a href="#">Notes on Alexander Calder and Paul Rosenberg: circa 1940-circa 1954</a>
Box 2, Folder 6	<a href="#">Writings about Roland Dorcely, circa 1957-1959</a>
Box 2, Folder 7	<a href="#">Writings by Roland Dorcely, circa 1957-circa 1963</a>
Box 2, Folder 8	<a href="#">Roland Dorcely Collectors List, circa 1957-circa 1963</a>
Box 2, Folder 9	<a href="#">Roland Dorcely Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, circa 1960-1975</a> Notes: Oversized materials housed in OV 3
Box 2, Folder 10	<a href="#">Roland Dorcely Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1958-1975</a> Notes: Oversized materials housed in OV 3
Box 2, Folder 11	<a href="#">Photographs of Works of Art by Roland Dorcely, circa 1958-1960</a> Notes: Includes photographs of works from Dorcely's <i>La Série des Défilés</i> .
Box 2, Folder 12	<a href="#">Stanton MacDonald-Wright Biographical Sketch, circa 1945</a>
Box 2, Folder 13	<a href="#">Script Magazine articles by Stanton MacDonald-Wright, 1945-1946</a>
Box 2, Folder 14	<a href="#">Stanton MacDonald-Wright Newspaper Clippings, circa 1940s</a>
Box 2, Folder 15	<a href="#">Quotes from Press Notices regarding Stanton MacDonald-Wright, circa 1940s</a>
Box 2, Folder 16	<a href="#">Notes on Alfred Stieglitz and Georgia O'Keeffe, 1944</a>
Box OV 3	Oversized Printed Materials scanned with Box 2, Folders 9-10

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## Series 3: Artwork, circa 1945-circa 1965

### 2 Folders (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes sketches by Alexander Calder and Roland Dorcely. Alexander Calder's artwork includes sketches of proposed mobiles and sculptures that include scale, materials, and cost. Roland Dorcely's artwork includes sketches in ink and pencil of abstracted figures and objects.

Arrangement: Artwork is arranged by creator last name.

Available: The series has been scanned in its entirety.

Formats:

Box 2, Folder 17      [Works of Art by Alexander Calder, circa 1945-circa 1950](#)

Box 2, Folder 18      [Works of Art by Roland Dorcely, circa 1955-circa 1965](#)

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