Records, 1954-1985, with related records from 1917

Finding aid prepared by Smithsonian Institution Archives

Smithsonian Institution Archives
Washington, D.C.
Contact us at osiaref@si.edu
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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title: Records
Identifier: Record Unit 401
Date: 1954-1985, with related records from 1917
Extent: 16 cu. ft. (16 record storage boxes)
Creator: Archives of American Art
Language: Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 401, Archives of American Art, Records

Access Restriction
Boxes 3-6 contain materials restricted indefinitely; see finding aid; Contact reference staff for details.

Historical Note

The Archives of American Art (AAA) was founded as an independent non-profit corporation in 1954. Edgar P. Richardson, then Director of the Detroit Institute of Arts, and businessman and art collector Lawrence Fleishman were its founders. AAA originally focused on collecting and microfilming information documenting artists’ lives and careers as reflected in the records of museums, galleries, family members, and collectors. Subsequently the Archives broadened its interests to include the visual arts in America from the eighteenth century to the present day.

From its founding in 1954 until 1960 the AAA operated from Detroit, headquartered at the Detroit Institute of Arts, but independently supported by gifts and grants. In 1960 the Archives moved its headquarters to New York City, retaining an office in Detroit. In 1963 the AAA opened a field office in Rome in order to tap the records of American artists' work in Rome and in Italy generally. In 1970 the AAA became a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution. In 1970-1971 field offices were established in Boston and San Francisco, and in 1984 in San Marino, California.

Edgar P. Richardson, the first Director, had many other commitments, especially to his work at the Winterthur Museum in Delaware. Increasingly, most duties fell to the Assistant Director, William E. Woelfenden, who served in that capacity from 1960 until 1964, when he officially became Director. Woelfenden remained Director until 1983, when he was succeeded by Richard N. Murray.
Descriptive Entry

This record unit consists of the correspondence of Edgar P. Richardson, Director, 1954-1964; his successor, William E. Woolfenden, 1964-1983; Richard N. Murray, 1983- , and other staff members; minutes and records of the Board of Trustees; manuscripts, correspondence, and other records of the Archives of American Art Journal; and the files of various projects in which the Archives participated. These include the correspondence of Sandra J. Levy, area director for the Texas project, 1979-1985; correspondence of Sharyn Udall, AAA representative, for the Southwest Project, 1969-1975; correspondence of Paul Cumming, Boston area office; and records related to the Treasury Relief Art Project and other Depression-era relief programs for artists, surveyed and filmed in 1963-1964. Correspondents include William E. Woolfenden, Edgar P. Richardson, Garnett McCoy, Sharyn Udall, Sandra J. Levy, Paul Cumming, Richard J. Nicastro, Sylvia Loomis, Gilbert H. Kinney, Regina Soria, and Eloise Spaeth.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
Art museums
Art, American
Museum archives

Types of Materials:
Manuscripts
Photographs

Names:
Archives of American Art
Archives of American Art. Southwest Project
Archives of American Art. Texas Project
Cummings, Paul
Detroit Institute of Arts
Fleischman, Lawrence A. (Lawrence Arthur), 1925-1997
Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum
Kinney, Gilbert H.
Levy, Sandra Curtis
Loomis, Sylvia Glidden
McCoy, Garnett
Murray, Richard N., 1942-2006
Nicastro, Richard J.
Richardson, Edgar Preston, 1902-1985
Soria, Regina, 1911-2006
Spaeth, Eloise
Treasury Relief Art Project
Udall, Sharyn RohlfSEN
Woolfenden, William E. (William Edward), 1918-1995
Preferred Titles:

Archives of American Art Journal (Serial)
## Container Listing

**Box 1**

- Texas Project, 1979-1985
- Sharyn Udall memos, 1983-1985
- Correspondence - Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Correspondence - Albuquerque Public Library
- Correspondence - Albuquerque United Artists at the Downtown Center for the Arts
- Correspondence - Garo Antreasian
- Correspondence - Henry Balink
- Correspondence - Fred Bartlett
- Correspondence - Larry Bell
- Correspondence - Tom Benrimo
- Correspondence - Tom Berg
- Correspondence - Oscar Berninghaus
- Correspondence - John Dawson (Arizona)
- Correspondence - Ted Egri
- Correspondence - Louie H. Ewing
- Correspondence - Nicolai Fechin
- Correspondence - Forrest Fenn
- Correspondence - Joseph A. Fleck
- Correspondence - The Gallery Wall, Inc.
- Correspondence - Woody Gwyn
- Correspondence - Arthur Haddock
- Correspondence - Juan Hamilton
- Correspondence - Harwood Foundation
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Box 1 of 16  Correspondence - Earl Stroh
Box 1 of 16  Correspondence - Beth Ames Swartz
Box 1 of 16  Correspondence - Tamarind Lithography Workshop
Box 1 of 16  Correspondence - Taos Society of Artists
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Correspondence - Walter Ufer
Correspondence - Robert White
Correspondence - Paul Brooks Willis
Correspondence - Woodrow Wilson Find Arts, Inc.
Correspondence - John Young-Hunter
Correspondence - Oral History - New Mexico
Correspondence - The McKissick Museums, University of South Carolina
Memos to/from Houston AAA
AAA - Forms and regulations
Inactive/Dead correspondence
Leads, Suggestions for collecting
Fundraising - Bubba Fundraising (FR) File
Fundraising - Rejects/FR
Fundraising - General, 1979-1981
Fundraising - Miscellaneous
Fundraising - Lists
Fundraising - Carolyn Farb, 1981
Fundraising - List of letters
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Fundraising - Seating tour

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Fundraising - Public relations
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Box 2 of 16  Fundraising - Thank you's
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Box 2 of 16  Fundraising - Expenses
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Box 2 of 16  Artists deceased index
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Box 2 of 16  Texas public relations

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Box 3 of 16  Quarterly report, 1981-1982
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Box 4 of 16  Donor and collection files (113 folders) [RESTRICTED]
Box 4 of 16  Galleries and Organizations - Lender Files (33 folders) [RESTRICTED]

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Box 5 of 16  Galleries and Organizations - Lender Files (43 folders) [RESTRICTED]
Box 5 of 16  Donor and Collection Working Files (83 folders) [RESTRICTED]

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Box 6 of 16  Donor and Collection Working Files (21 folders) [RESTRICTED]
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Box 6 of 16  Miscellaneous File - Things sent
Box 6 of 16  Miscellaneous File - Dallas
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William E. Woolfenden's Files, 1954-1983

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Volunteer - Mrs. Frederick E. Donaldson

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Projects - Decorative Arts - David Hand/Craig Miller

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Painting sale - Archives of American Art at J. L. Hudson Co., August 30, 1971

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Kootz - Paintings given Archives

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Syracuse University

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Spain: Its Art and Architecture

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Bibliography: Review and announcements (2 folders)

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AAA shipping and receiving

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Membership - mailing address plate changes (3 folders)

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Area chairman committee

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