A Finding Aid to the Max Kozloff Papers, circa 1950-2015, in the Archives of American Art

by Hilary Price

2016 May 9

Contact Information
Reference Department
Archives of American Art
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560
www.aaa.si.edu/askus
Table of Contents

Collection Overview................................................................................................................ 1
Administrative Information..................................................................................................... 1
Biographical Note..................................................................................................................... 1
Scope and Content Note........................................................................................................ 2
Arrangement............................................................................................................................. 2
Names and Subject Terms....................................................................................................... 2
Series Descriptions/Container Listing.................................................................................... 3
  Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1955-1970..........................................................3
  Series 2: Correspondence, 1961-2014........................................................................... 3
  Series 3: Interviews, 1993-2014.................................................................................. 5
  Series 4: Writings, circa 1950-2015........................................................................... 5
  Series 5: Printed Material, 1965-2015........................................................................... 7
Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Creator: Kozloff, Max
Title: Max Kozloff papers
Dates: circa 1950-2015
Quantity: 1.4 linear feet
Abstract: The papers of art critic and photographer Max Kozloff measure 1.4 linear feet and date from circa 1950-2015. The collection provides a glimpse into the work life of a prolific twentieth century American art critic through biographical material, correspondence with artists and critics, interviews, many unpublished writings, and printed material.

Language: Collection is in English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Max Kozloff donated his papers to the Archives of American Art in 2016.

Related Material
Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Max Kozloff conducted by Annette Leddy in 2014.

Processing Information
The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Hilary Price in 2016.

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.

Ownership & Literary Rights
The Max Kozloff papers 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.

Biographical Note
Max Kozloff (1933- ) is an art critic and photographer in New York City. He received his BA in Art History from the University of Chicago in 1953 and studied at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, from 1959-1963. Kozloff wrote the art column for The Nation from 1961-1968, was associate and contributing editor to Artforum from 1963-1974 and executive editor from 1974-1976. Kozloff has published numerous essays and books, among them, Renderings (1969), Jasper Johns (1972), The Privileged Eye (1987), New
York: Capital of Photography (2002), and The Theatre of the Face (2007). As a photographer, he has held exhibitions both in New York and internationally. Kozloff is the recipient of various awards and prizes including two NEA grants and a Guggenheim fellowship.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of art critic and photographer Max Kozloff measure 1.4 linear feet and date from circa 1950-2015. The collection provides a glimpse into the work life of a prolific twentieth century American art critic through biographical material, correspondence with artists and critics, interviews, many unpublished writings, and printed material.

Notable correspondents include David Antin, Allan Kaprow, Phil Leider, Dore Ashton, Jasper Johns, Robert Motherwell, Susan Sontag, Linda Nochlin, Miriam Shapiro, and others.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as five series:

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1950-1970 (2 folders; Box 1)
Series 2: Correspondence, 1961-2014 (0.6 linear feet; Box 1)
Series 3: Interviews, 1993-2014 (4 folders; Box 1)
Series 4: Writings, circa 1950s-2015 (0.6 linear feet; Box 1-2)
Series 5: Printed Material, 1965-2015 (8 folders; Box 2)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Archives of American Art under the following terms:

Subjects:
Art criticism--New York (State)--New York
Art critics--New York (State)--New York
Photographers--New York (State)--New York

Types of Materials:
Interviews

Names:
Antin, David
Ashton, Dore
Johns, Jasper, 1930-
Kaprow, Allan
Leider, Philip, 1929-
Motherwell, Robert
Nochlin, Linda
Shapiro, Miriam, 1951-
Sontag, Susan, 1933-2004
Series Descriptions/Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1955-1970

2 folders; Box 1

Biographical material dates from circa 1955-1970 and is awards and a few photographs of Max Kozloff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Series 2: Correspondence, 1961-2014

0.6 linear feet; Box 1

Correspondence dates from 1961-2014 and is predominately professional in nature, relating to Kozloff’s work as an art critic, author, and photographer. The series is mostly letters written to Kozloff, many in response to articles and reviews he wrote for *The Nation* and *Artforum*, however there are a few back and forth exchanges. Kozloff maintained a letter writing relationship with the photographer David Strick, exchanging ideas about art and politics. Appreciation letters are from Marcia Tucker, Leo Steinberg, Francesca Woodman, and others. Thank you notes are from Jasper Johns, Lucas Samaras, Robert Motherwell, Leo Steinberg, Robert Irwin, Fairfield Porter, and others. Outgoing letters are to *The Nation*, *New York Times*, Peter Plagens, Amy Goldin, Lucy Lippard, Joyce and Nikolas Kozloff, Willa Samors Lawall (former classmate at University of Chicago), and others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 20  Heron, Patrick, 1963 July 25
1 21  Hess, Thomas B., 1970-1971
1 22  Hills, Patricia, 1974 October 17
1 23  Hoelterhoff, Manuela to Charles Cowles, 1976 January 13
1 24  Hopps, Shirley, 1965 November 15
1 25  Incao, Philip F., 1962 April 20
1 26  Jeffrey, Ian, 1987-2010
1 27  Jeffrey, Ian (regarding photography), 1987, 2009
1 28  Johns, Jasper, 1965
1 29  Kaprow, Allan, 1967 July 15
1 30  Klein, William (regarding National Arts Club Gold Medal for Photography), 2004 May 3
1 31  Kunzle, David, 1979 March 4
1 32  Leider, Phil, 1967, 1970
1 33  Lopes-Rey, Jose, 1964 October 12
1 34  Mansfield, Robert, 1975
1 35  Meyer, Pedro, 1982-1987, circa 2000
1 36  Meyer, Pedro (regarding photography), 1984 January 23
1 37  Meyers, John, 1965 March 18
1 38  Miller, Edwin, 1969 April 25
1 39  Motherwell, Robert, 1969 March 27
1 40  Newman, Barnet to Carey McWilliams, Editor at *The Nation*, 1966 June 8
1 41  Nochlin, Linda, 1973 April 23
1 42  Pincus-Witten, Robert, 1965 January 18
1 43  Proweller, William, 1974 March 4
1 44  Reff, Ted, 1971 December 18
1 45  Rivers, Larry, 1965
1 46  Rubin, Arnold, 1976, 1977
1 47  Shapiro, Miriam, 1979 March 25
1 48  Slavin, Neal, 1974
1 49  Sontag, Susan, 1976 March 27
1 50  Steinberg, Leo, 1965, 1967
1 51-52 Strick, David, 1999-2014
1 53  Taylor, Joshua, 1963 September 9
1 54  Varnedoe, Kirk, 1978 September 2
1 55  Walch, Peter to the *New York Times*, 1975 December 23
1 57  Thank You Letters, 1962-2002
1 58  Letters Regarding Kozloff's Resignation from *Artforum*, 1977
Series 3: Interviews, 1993-2014

4 folders; Box 1


Box   Folder                           Description                                                                                           Date
---   ---                              ---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
1     62                              Max Kozloff Interview by Amy Newman, Transcript, 1993 June 22                                                                                   
1     63                              Max Kozloff Interview by Elaine O'Brien, Transcript, 1993                                                                                      
1     64                              Conversation Between Max Kozloff and Bill Beckley, Transcript, 2004                                                                               
1     65                              Max Kozloff Interview by Annette Leddy, Transcripts, 2014                                                                                   

Series 4: Writings, circa 1950-2015

0.6 linear feet; Box 1-2

Writings date from circa 1950-2015 and include published and unpublished works by Kozloff and a few writings by others. Found here are artist statements, book chapters and proposals including a memoir about art criticism in the 1960s, essays, lectures, and other writings. Artist statements were written for Kozloff’s photography exhibitions and include slides of his work and printed material. Some early essays are from his time as a student.

Box   Folder                           Description                                                                                           Date
---   ---                              ---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
1     66                              Artist Statements, 1978-2015                                                                                                                             
1     67                              The Theatre of the Face, 2007                                                                                                                            
1     70                              Prospectus, "New York, Capital of Photography," 1999                                                                                             
1     71                              "Argument for a Political Strike" (unpublished), 1969                                                                                               
1     72                              "As Luck Would Have It: The Element of Chance in Photography" (unpublished), 2010-2013                                                             
1     73                              "British Painting in 1963," 1963                                                                                                                             
1     74                              [Claude Cahun], 2008                                                                                                                                         
1     75                              [Color in Art], circa 1960                                                                                                                                          
1     76                              [Courbet's L'Atelier], 1964                                                                                                                                         
1     77                              "Critical Reflections," 1997                                                                                                                                         

Page 5
"The Digital Worm in the Photograph of the Apple," circa 1993
"Genre Slippage in Portrait Photography," 2008
"The Grandeurs and Miseries of the College Art Association" (unpublished), 1973
[George Inness], circa 1956
"Informal Study of Late Monet," 1950s
"La Dolce Vita and L'Avventura as Works of Art" (unpublished), 1961
"Liberalism and the Avant-Garde" (unpublished), circa 1960
[On a Group Portrait by Malick Sidibé], 2000s
"Two Vignettes of the New York Art Strike" (unpublished), 1970

Lectures

"The Alarming Thing About Surrealist Painting," Stony Brook, circa 1978
"American Art Criticism in the 60s: A Memoir," University of Virginia, Richmond, and Virginia Museum of Fine Art, 1990s
"Art in Chicago, the 1950s," Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 1991
"Art Criticism in the 70s," Stony Brook, 1979
"Ben Shahn and New York Street Photography" (incomplete), 2000s
"Diego Rivera," Grand Palais, Paris, circa 1976

Box  Folder
2 1  "The Further Adventures of Color Photography," The Getty, 1990s
2 2  "Genre Shifts in Photography," Art Gallery of Ontario, 1974
2 3  "The Interrogation of Photography by Art," Israel, 1991
2 4  "The Ironies of Conservatism" (possibly given at the Philadelphia Museum of Art), 1970s
2 5  "Lisette Model and Photography in New York City," Jeu de Paume, Paris, 2010
2 6  "Lou Faurer's New York," Chicago Art Institute, 2002
2 7  "The Medusa Syndrome," Columbia University, 1992
2 8  "On the Appetite for Color," Pratt Institute, 1985
2 9  "On Street Photography," Photographic Resource Center, Boston, 1995
2 10  "On Trust and Belief in Photography," University of New Mexico, 1978
2 11  "Photography and Comedy," Photographic Resource Center, Boston, 1970s
2 12  "Photography of Human Duress," Centre D'Hautes Etudes, Vevey, Switzerland, 1998
"Remarks on Style in Portraiture," Gulbenkian Foundation, 1988

"The Space of Photojournalism," Brown University, 1992

"The Tension Between Aesthetics and Morality," Yivo Institute of Jewish Record, 1970s

"Weegee and Arbus: Chutzpah in Two Movements," West End Synagogue, 2010

"When Words Fail," International Center for Photography Symposium, 1980s

Other Writings

"Argument Between Two Critics About the 'Offensive' of Art," 1993

Articles about Art in Cuba, Published in the Village Voice, 1977

Book Review, Bloomingdale's, Diana Vreeland, and the New Aristocracy of Taste in Reagan's America, by Debora Silverman, 1970s

Complaint About a Panel on Greenberg at College Art Association Conference, 1995

Contribution to a Panel on Art Criticism for the Brooklyn Rail, Edited by Irving Sandler, 2000s

Proposed Course at the School of Visual Arts, "Visual Perception," 1980s

Prospectus for a Course at the School of Visual Arts, "Documentary Tradition," 1990s

Proposed Course for Masters Program in Photography at the School of Visual Arts, "Thinking Vision," 1993

Excised Section on Bill Beckley from "Through the Narrative Portal," published in Artforum, 1986

In Memoria, John Coplans, 2004

Notes on Editorial Options of Artforum, 1974

Notes for a Series of Lectures, "The Relation Between Truth and Fiction in Photographic Culture," 2000s

Notes on Jewish Sensibility in New York Photography for Panel at the Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam, 2003

Précis of a Talk at College Art Association Conference, "Photojournalism and Truth," 1990s

Recommendations, 1970s-1990s

Reflections on Motivations of the Murders, September 11, 2001


Statement of Ad Hoc Group for Israeli Newspapers after Shatila Massacre, circa 1982

Writing by Ian Jeffrey, Reader's Report for Theatre of the Face, 2006

Writing by Philip Lopate about Kozloff, 2015

Series 5: Printed Material, 1965-2015

8 folders; Box 2

Printed material dates from 1965-2015 and is announcements, clippings, press releases, price lists, and a few folders that are related by subject. Announcements include flyers, posters, and brochures, and advertise for lectures, symposia, exhibitions, and other events that Kozloff participated in. Clippings are from newspapers and magazines.
and are reviews, interviews, and articles relating to Kozloff and his work. Printed material by subject, predominantly clippings, relates to art and politics, protests during the Vietnam War, the controversy over the December 1975 issue of *Artforum*, and two of Kozloff’s books.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Announcements, 1969-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Clippings, 1965-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Press Releases and Price List, 1968-1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>By Subject</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Art and Politics, 1970-1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>Artists Protest Against Vietnam War, 1967, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Controversy Over <em>Artforum</em>'s Issue on Art and Politics, 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>45</td>
<td><em>Jasper Johns</em>, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>46</td>
<td><em>Renderings</em>, 1969</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>