Letter from the Director

In fiscal year 2016 (October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016), the Archives of American Art was awarded the inaugural Don Tyson Prize from the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in September. The prize recognizes significant achievements in American art, as selected by a prestigious national jury of art historians and museum professionals. The Archives was honored for “advancing knowledge in the field of American art since [its] establishment in 1954.”

This acknowledgment of our work is heartening, as it arrived at the end of another successful year. Our collectors traveled across the country and back again, continuing to grow our holdings. Over the course of this fiscal year, we added 111 new collections or additions to our holdings. The Latino Collecting Initiative entered its second year and featured the acquisition of the papers of photographer Andres Serrano and artist/architect Moses Ros. This year we also acquired the papers of the late philanthropist, artist, collector, and art dealer James R. “Jimmy” Hedges III, and the records from his Rising Fawn Folk Art Gallery, showcasing more than 400 “outsider” artists, a term Hedges used interchangeably with “self-taught” and “folk.”

We continued to digitize our collections, making them available to anyone, anywhere, at any time, and added 190,135 new digital images to our website thanks to the generosity of our supporters, among them The Terra Foundation for American Art. Digitization support also came from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, which allowed us to process and digitize the collections of W.G. Constable and Wilhelm Reinhold Valentiner. European by birth, Valentiner and Constable had long and seminal careers as art historians and museum leaders in the United States. Their archives have extraordinary value for understanding the history of art history, and are now more easily available to the public through our website.

In October 2015 at the annual Archives of American Art Benefit, we honored a group of esteemed members of the American art world. Archives of American Art medals were presented to the Ford Foundation for its leadership in the “Grand Bargain” that saved the Detroit Institute of Arts, and to artist Robert Gober for his estimable body of work. William H. Trutnner, Curator Emeritus at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, was awarded the Lawrence A. Fleischman Award for Scholarly Excellence in the Field of Art History.
### Oral histories recorded
34

### Collections processed
104

### Collections acquired
111

### Reproduction requests fulfilled
371

### Linear feet of collections processed
1,228

### In-person visitors consulted
1,607

### Containers of primary documents
4,213

### Digital files created
1,901,135

### Sessions on the website
654,643

### Page views on the website
1,997,541

Our curatorial department put on four exhibitions at the Lawrence A. Fleischman Gallery in Washington, DC. *Little Black Books: Address Books from the Archives of American Art* showcased the address books of influential artists, divulging important connections and relationships between artists and their colleagues, dealers, family members, and friends. *Robert Motherwell: A Centennial Celebration* marked the centennial of Motherwell’s birth; the exhibition illuminated his many roles in the early years of Abstract Expressionism as well as the personal relationships that shaped his career and impact on the history of modern art in the twentieth century. The exhibition was guest-curated by Tim Clifford, co-author of *Robert Motherwell: 100 Years* (2015) and *Robert Motherwell, Paintings and Collages: A Catalogue Raisonné*, 1941–1991 (2012).

The exhibition *Finding: Source Material in the Archives of American Art* looked at the ways in which artists find, collect, and organize sources that impact and influence their works. The show included comic strips, newspaper clippings, photographs, scrapbooks and more. Our final exhibition, *Expanding the Legacy: New Collections on African American Art*, opened just before the close of this fiscal year and celebrated the 2016 opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian Institution. The Archives of American Art presented selections from recently acquired collections highlighting the cultural contributions and the personal stories of African Americans in the art world. These records reveal the ways in which artists, dealers, and scholars experienced and contended with racism, explored cultural identity and aesthetics, navigated the art market, and were shaped by—and helped shape—major social and political currents.

Although as a unit of the Smithsonian Institution, the Archives of American Art receives federal support, each year we must secure more than half our operating budget from private donors in order to make our work possible. Among the contributions we received in fiscal year 2016 was a generous gift from Joyce Menschel toward the oral history program. In addition, Lloyd Herman, the Founding Director Emeritus of the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, made a seed gift to the Archives to spark others to give to the important cause of raising the visibility of American studio craft within the field of American art history.

The Archives relies on the commitment of so many individuals—our tireless staff, our dedicated Board of Trustees, and individual and foundation donors. Together, you are what keeps us moving forward and growing every day. It is a joy to be able to acknowledge and thank you—for your time, advice, gifts, grants, and most of all, encouragement.

All these things allow us to continue acquiring and sharing the papers of artists, collectors, dealers, art historians, and critics, with a community of scholars, researchers, and anyone who is interested in American art, worldwide. For this, we thank you.

Kate Haw
Exhibitions

**Little Black Books: Address Books from the Archives of American Art**
August 7 to November 1, 2015
Lawrence A. Fleischman Gallery in the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture, Washington DC

**Robert Motherwell: A Centennial Celebration**
November 21, 2015 to March 27, 2016
Lawrence A. Fleischman Gallery in the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture, Washington DC

**Finding: Source Material in the Archives of American Art**
April 22 to August 21, 2016
Lawrence A. Fleischman Gallery in the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture, Washington DC

**Expanding the Legacy: New Collections on African American Art**
September 23, 2016 to March 21, 2017
Lawrence A. Fleischman Gallery in the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture, Washington DC

Events

October 25, 2015
At its annual benefit, the Archives awarded Archives of American Art Medals to the Ford Foundation and artist Robert Gober; and the Lawrence A. Fleischman Award for Scholarly Excellence in the Field of American Art History to William H. Truettner.

Clockwise from Top
Kate Haw, Martha Fleischman, and Barbara Fleischman.
Alice Walton and John Randal Tyson.
Photo credit: Michael Seto

November 10, 2015
Deputy Director Dr. Liza Kirwin hand-carried the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to the Monuments Men to the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas, and gave remarks at a reception honoring the legacy of the Monuments Men and celebrating the efforts of Rep. Kay Granger (R-Texas), who spearheaded the legislation for the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian award bestowed by Congress. The medal was directed to the Archives for safekeeping because of the work we have done to preserve and share the papers and oral history interviews of the Monuments Men.

January 26, 2016
The Archives organized a 101st birthday party for Robert Motherwell in the Kogod Courtyard of the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture. To celebrate the occasion, the Archives gave away 101 cupcakes and birthday cards which featured facts about Motherwell.

March 8, 2016
Deputy Director Dr. Liza Kirwin delivered the 10th annual Richard Murray Memorial Lecture for the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s docents in the McEvoy Auditorium. She spoke about artists-writers in the Archives of American Art, with a special emphasis on Richard Murray’s research interests.

December 5, 2015
Mary Savig, Curator of Manuscripts, gave a lecture on handmade holiday cards by American artists at the Rhode Island Historical Society.

Left to Right
Events

May 17, 2016
The Archives’ New York Research Center hosted a conversation between Annette Leddy, Gilbert and Ann Kinney New York Collector, and Catherine Morris, Curator of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum, about photographer Cosmos Andrew Sarchiapone. The event was followed by a viewing of selected items from the Cosmos archive.

July 15, 2016
The Archives hosted a conversation between artist Paul Ramirez Jonas and Dr. Josh T. Franco, Latino Collections Specialist, in the Lawrence A. Fleischman Gallery. They talked about Jonas’s recent donation of papers to the Archives, some of which were featured in the exhibition Finding: Source Material in the Archives of American Art.

June 18, 2016
Karen Weiss, Head of Digital Operations, and Deputy Director Dr. Liza Kirwin delivered a talk about the Archives’ collections at the Museum of Modern Art Tokyo (MOMAT). The talks, which were simultaneously translated into Japanese, were sponsored by a consortium of Japanese art museums and research institutes including MOMAT, the National Museum of Ethnology, the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo, and the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo.

September 14, 2016
The Archives hosted a conversation entitled “African American Art and Artists Today” at DC Moore Gallery in New York. The event featured artists Whitfield Lovell and Leslie Hewitt, and was moderated by Franklin Sirmans, Director of the Perez Art Museum Miami.

Left to Right:
Photo credit: C. Daniel Dawson
Ray Johnson note to Eva Lee, Great Neck, NY, 1969
September 15; Eva Lee Gallery records. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.
Reference Highlights

Selected publications that relied on the Archives’ collections


Publications

Archives of American Art Journal
Volume 55, Number 1, Spring 2016;
Volume 55, Number 2, Fall 2016.

Pen to Paper: Artists’ Handwritten Letters from the Smithsonian’s Archives of American Art
Edited by Mary Savig
June 2016.
Loan Highlights

The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC
June 4- September 8, 2016. William Merritt Chase: A Modern Master
ITEMS LENT A letter from William Merritt Chase’s students at the Arts Students League and Art Notes by Chase

Center Pompidou, Paris, France
June 22, 2016-October 2016. The Beat Generation
ITEMS LENT Photographs and documents from the Wallace Berman papers and Bob Thompson papers

Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
ITEMS LENT 34 documents from The Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago records

Clockwise from Top Left


Acquisition Highlights

Artists Talk on Art records, 1975–2015
Dore Ashton papers, circa 1928–2014 (addition)
Charles “Chaz” Bójórquez papers, 1966–2009
Ben Buchanan photographs, 1985–2015

Jaime Davidovich papers, 1954–2010
Roy De Forest papers, circa 1960–2007 (addition)
Nancy Goldring papers, circa 1950–1980
Chaim Gross papers, 1929–1991 (addition)
Joseph H. Hirshhorn papers regarding Elmer MacRae, 1958–1975
Moritz and Sophie Jagendorf letters, 1917–1967

Max Kozloff papers, circa 1950–2015
David Levinthal papers, 1967–2015
James Magee papers, 1978–2010
Duane Michals papers, circa 1970–2010
Kenjiro Nanao papers, 1960–2013
Moses Ros papers, 1975–2012
Nan Rosenthal papers, circa 1960–2014
Andres Serrano papers, 1979–2012
Kathy Vargas papers, 1980–2015

Dennis Adrian
Ed Bereal
Ross Bleckner
Rackstraw Downes
Joy Episalla
Gary Garrels
Antonio Homem
Barbara Kruger
Mary Miss
Irving Petlin
Robert Pincus-Witten
Jim Shaw
Michelle Stuart
Carrie Yamaoka
Tomás Ybarra-Frausto

Oral History Highlights

Gary Garrels OH interview transcript, page 41.

“We got like 25, 30 people together, and... that big meeting was at the New Museum, and I can’t remember if it was the second or third meeting but [we] decided to do—to launch something called A Day Without Art...”
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*Deceased

P. 16-17: Left to Right
Robert Motherwell on
the beach, circa 1945 / unidentified photographer.
Jackson Pollock and
Lee Krasner papers.
Archives of American Art,
Smithsonian Institution.
Newspaper comic clippings,
1999 / unidentified creator.
Ray Yoshida papers.
Archives of American Art,
Smithsonian Institution.
Inkjet print of astronaut
Buzz Aldrin walking on the
moon in 1969, ca. 2002 /
unidentified photographer.
Paul Ramirez Jonas papers.
Archives of American Art,
Smithsonian Institution.
Ana Mendieta postcard to
Judith Wilson, 1981 December
Archives of American Art,
Smithsonian Institution.

P. 18-19: Left to Right
Ray Johnson mail art to John
Held, 1981 April 7. John Held
papers relating to Mail Art.
Archives of American Art,
Smithsonian Institution.
Estampas de la Revolución
Mexicana, 85 Grabados de
Los Artistas del Taller de Grafica
Popular, 1947. Marta Adams
papers. One print from a
portfolio of 84 engraving
prints by various Mexican
artists depicting scenes of
the Mexican Revolution.
Archives of American Art,
Smithsonian Institution.
Alfred Joseph Frueh to
Giuliette Fanciulli, 1913
Jan. 1. Alfred J. Frueh
papers, 1904-1993.
Archives of American Art,
Smithsonian Institution.

P. 20-21: Left to Right
Frida Kahlo, 1941 / Emmy Lou
Packard, photographer.
Emmy Lou Packard papers.
Archives of American Art,
Smithsonian Institution.
Hedda Sterne with her cat,
circa 1940 / Evelyn Hofer,
photographer. Hedda Sterne
papers. Archives of American
Art, Smithsonian Institution.
Clipping From Glasgow
Evening Times, W. G. Constable
papers, 1905-1983, bulk 1920-
1976. Archives of American
Art, Smithsonian Institution.
George Grey Barnard
working on his sculpture
Lincoln in Thought, ca. 1915
/ Underwood & Underwood
Studios, photographer.
George Grey Barnard papers.
Archives of American Art,
Smithsonian Institution.

P. 22: Clockwise from Top
Michael Bidlo Christmas
card to Leo Castelli, 1987.
Leo Castelli Gallery records.
Archives of American Art,
Smithsonian Institution.
Marisol recent sculpture
exhibition announcement for
Stable Gallery, New York, NY,
1962 / unidentified creator.
Stable Gallery records.
Archives of American Art,
Smithsonian Institution.
Alfred Joseph Frueh to
Giuliette Fanciulli, 1913
Jan. 1. Alfred J. Frueh
papers, 1904-1993.
Archives of American Art,
Smithsonian Institution.
Joachim Strange mail art to
papers relating to Mail Art.
Archives of American Art,
Smithsonian Institution.
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Our Mission

The Smithsonian’s Archives of American Art personalizes our nation’s art, shaping how art history is written and how art is viewed. Join us in our effort to leverage public dollars with private gifts that will help us attract, inspire, and serve the public. Now, as never before, you can make an impact on what is collected, preserved, and made available to the world.

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