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## **Papers of Michael and Dorothy Blankfort, 1961-1995. BLA.001.001**

Finding aid prepared by Mali Griffen and Heather Cleary in September 2001.

EAD encoding made possible with a grant from the Getty Foundation as a part of the initiative Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945-1980.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art Balch Art Research Library

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### **Note**

Additional encoding by Jessica Gambling.

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**Title:** Papers of Michael and Dorothy Blankfort

**Identifier/Call Number:** BLA.001.001

**Contributing Institution:** Los Angeles County Museum of Art Balch Art Research Library

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 5.0 Linear feet, 12 boxes

**Date (inclusive):** 1961-1995

**creator:** Blankfort, Dorothy

**Arrangement note**

This collection is arranged alphabetically. Items that were originally filed in the "Misc." folder have been interfiled; these are denoted by an asterisk (\*) in the folder list.

**Biographical/Historical note**

Michael and Dorothy Blankfort began collecting art in the late 1950s. The couple focused on contemporary art in Los Angeles, New York, and Europe. They were both involved with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) in various capacities. In 1961, they were founding members of LACMA's Modern and Contemporary Art Council (MCAC); Dorothy chaired MCAC from 1974-1976 as well as participating in and chairing the Acquisitions, Education and Membership committees; and Michael served on the Board of Trustees from 1971-1982. Upon their deaths, the couple left a generous bequest to LACMA.

Michael Blankfort (1907-1982) worked as a college professor, psychologist, and writer. He wrote 13 novels, several short stories, plays, and screenplays. In 1950, he was nominated for an Oscar for the film "Broken Arrow"; his name, however, was used as a front for the blacklisted screenwriter, Albert Maltz. From 1967-1969 he served as President of the Writers Guild of America West. From 1969-1971 he served as a governor of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Dorothy Stile Blankfort (1910-1998) worked as a literary agent.

**Scope and Contents note**

The 12 boxes (5 linear feet) that comprise this collection contain correspondence, clippings, greeting cards, checks, receipts, photographs, transparencies, and other realia in connection with the art collection of Michael and Dorothy Blankfort. The files concern items in their personal collection; gifts and loans to galleries and museums; correspondence from friends; clippings of newspaper and magazine articles, both about the artists in their collection as well as art history; and correspondence to institutions. The items range in date mostly from 1961-1995.

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**Preferred Citation note**

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**Processing Information note**

Processed by Mali Griffen and Heather Cleary; processing completed in September 2001; input into Archivists' Toolkit by Joel Parham, March 2011.

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**Bibliography**

The Michael and Dorothy Blankfort Collection, Maurice Tuchman and Anne Carnegie Edgerton, with an introduction by Michael Blankfort. Los Angeles, Calif.: Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1982.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Blankfort, Michael, 1907-1982 -- Correspondence

Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Modern and Contemporary Art Council.

Art donors

Art, Modern--20th century

Art--Collectors and collecting

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Clippings (information artifacts)

Correspondence

Ephemera

Financial records

Photographs

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Box 1, Folder 1	<b>A -- Misc., including: Nicol Allen; Benny Andrews; Philip Augerson</b>
Box 1, Folder 2	<b>Albers, Josef</b>
Box 1, Folder 3	<b>Alf, Martha</b>
Box 1, Folder 4	<b>Amlash (Iranian, etc.)</b>
Box 1, Folder 5	<b>Appraisal lists (of Blankfort Collection)</b>
Box 1, Folder 6	<b>Appraisal on 1988 donation to Los Angeles County Museum of Art</b>
Box 1, Folder 7	<b>Appraisals by Silverman</b>
Box 1, Folder 8	<b>Architecture</b>
Box 1, Folder 9	<b>Arikha, Avigdor</b>
Box 1, Folder 10	<b>Arman</b>
Box 1, Folder 11	<b>Art Institute of Chicago</b>
Box 1, Folder 12	<b>Articles (Art)</b>
Box 1, Folder 13	<b>Asher, Betty (1962) letters</b>
Box 1, Folder 14	<b>Auctions, including: Ames, Bowinkel, Raboff, Parke-Bernet</b>
Box 1, Folder 15	<b>Art and Technology Publicity, May 1971</b>
Box 2, Folder 1	<b>B -- Misc., including: Francis Bacon; Jennifer Bartlett; William Baziotis; Bill Beckley; Irving Blum; George Brecht; Patrick Henry Bruce; Alberto Burri</b>
Box 2, Folder 2	<b>Berlant, Anthony</b>
Box 2, Folder 3	<b>Beuys, Joseph</b>
Box 2, Folder 4	<b>Blankfort, Mr. and Mrs. Michael</b>
Box 2, Folder 5	<b>Blankfort Collection</b>
Box 2, Folder 6	<b>Blankfort Collection -- Donations, 1961-1985</b>
Box 2, Folder 7	<b>Blankfort Collection -- Donations, 1986-1991</b>
Box 2, Folder 8	<b>Blankfort Collection -- Formerly Owned Items</b>
Box 2, Folder 10	<b>Blankfort Collection -- Los Angeles County Museum of Art</b>
Box 2, Folder 9	<b>Blankfort Collection -- Letter of Intent</b>
Box 2, Folder 11	<b>Blankfort Collection -- Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art</b>
Box 3, Folder 2	<b>Blankfort Collection -- Writings on art</b>
Box 3, Folder 1	<b>Blankfort Collection -- Loan Agreements</b>
Box 3, Folder 3	<b>Brandstatter, Yehoshua</b>
Box 3, Folder 4	<b>Browne, Byron</b>
Box 3, Folder 5	<b>C -- Misc., including: Paul Cezanne; Marc Chagall; Peter Clothier; Gifford Cochran; Harold Cohen; John Constable</b>
Box 3, Folder 6	<b>California State Colleges</b>
Box 3, Folder 7	<b>Caroompas, Carol</b>
Box 3, Folder 8	<b>Cascella, Andrea</b>
Box 3, Folder 9	<b>Christie's</b>
Box 3, Folder 10	<b>Christo *</b>
Box 3, Folder 11	<b>Cincinnati Art Museum</b>
Box 3, Folder 12	<b>Claremont Colleges</b>
Box 3, Folder 13	<b>Cleveland Museum of Art</b>
Box 3, Folder 14	<b>Coit, Madelin</b>
Box 4, Folder 1	<b>Conservation and Restoration</b>
Box 4, Folder 2	<b>Coplans, John</b>
Box 4, Folder 3	<b>Copley, William *</b>
Box 4, Folder 4	<b>Costumes</b>
Box 4, Folder 5	<b>D -- Misc., including: Denyll Dariusi; Jean Dubuffet</b>
Box 4, Folder 6	<b>Dalwood, Hubert</b>
Box 4, Folder 7	<b>Davy, Woods</b>

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Box 4, Folder 8	<b>Dawn Gallery</b>
Box 4, Folder 9	<b>Dine, Jim *</b>
Box 4, Folder 10	<b>Donations 1986, 1987, 1988 (none to Los Angeles County Museum of Art 1989)</b>
Box 4, Folder 11	<b>Duchamp, Marcel</b>
Box 4, Folder 12	<b>E -- Misc., including: Anne Edgerton; El Greco</b>
Box 4, Folder 13	<b>Erte *</b>
Box 4, Folder 14	<b>Estorick, Eric</b>
Box 4, Folder 15	<b>Everts, Connor (Donations to Museum of Modern Art, New York)</b>
Box 4, Folder 16	<b>Exhibition of Blankfort Collection, March 1982</b>
Box 5, Folder 1	<b>F -- Misc., including: Fellows of Contemporary Art; Rosamund Felson Gallery; Betty Friedman</b>
Box 5, Folder 2	<b>Ferus Gallery</b>
Box 5, Folder 3	<b>Fischl, Eric *</b>
Box 5, Folder 4	<b>Frankenthaler, Helen *</b>
Box 5, Folder 5	<b>Frazier, Charles R.</b>
Box 5, Folder 6	<b>Fresno Arts Center</b>
Box 5, Folder 7	<b>G -- Misc., including: J. Paul Getty Museum; Mrs. Charles Gimpel; Jean Gimpel; Yuval Golman; Leon Golub; Ted Gonzalez; Joe Goode; Scott Grieger; Stanley and Elyse Grinstein</b>
Box 5, Folder 8	<b>Gabrielson, Walter</b>
Box 5, Folder 9	<b>Gauguin, Paul *</b>
Box 5, Folder 10	<b>Gechtoff, Sonia</b>
Box 5, Folder 11	<b>Goodman, James</b>
Box 5, Folder 12	<b>Goodnough, Robert</b>
Box 5, Folder 13	<b>Gorky, Arshile</b>
Box 5, Folder 14	<b>Guggenheim Museum</b>
Box 5, Folder 15	<b>Guston, Philip</b>
Box 5, Folder 16	<b>H -- Misc., including: Richard Hamilton; Guy Harloff; Lily Harmon; Marsden Hartley; June Harwood; Barbara Haskell; Victor Henderson; Victor Herstein; Henry Hopkins; Walter Hopps; the Houston trip, May 1988</b>
Box 5, Folder 17	<b>Hendler, Maxwell</b>
Box 5, Folder 18	<b>Herms, George</b>
Box 5, Folder 19	<b>Hispanic Art</b>
Box 5, Folder 20	<b>Hockney, David *</b>
Box 5, Folder 21	<b>B. C. Holland Gallery</b>
Box 5, Folder 22	<b>Hunt, Bryan</b>
Box 5, Folder 23	<b>I -- Misc., including: Impressionists; Institute for Art and Urban Resources; iris.time unlimited; Iris Clert; Israti</b>
Box 5, Folder 24	<b>Israeli Artists (includes appointment book, March - October 1956)</b>
Box 6, Folder 1	<b>Israel Museum</b>
Box 6, Folder 2	<b>Israel Museum, American Friends of the</b>
Box 6, Folder 3	<b>J -- Misc., including: Aldredo Jaar; University of Judaism</b>
Box 6, Folder 4	<b>Sidney Janis Gallery</b>
Box 6, Folder 5	<b>The Jewish Museum</b>
Box 6, Folder 6	<b>Johnson, Lester</b>
Box 6, Folder 7	<b>July 1981 Patron Award</b>
Box 6, Folder 8	<b>K -- Misc., including: Ellsworth Kelly; Frederick J. Kiesler; Jiri Kolar; Joseph Kosuth</b>
Box 6, Folder 9	<b>Paul Kantor Gallery</b>
Box 6, Folder	<b>Kienholz, Edward</b>
Box 6, Folder 11	<b>Kitaj, R. B., 1963-1964 1963-1964</b>
Box 6, Folder 12	<b>Kitaj, R. B., 1965-1967 1965-1967</b>
Box 7, Folder 1	<b>Kitaj, R. B., 1967-1980 1967-1980</b>
Box 7, Folder 2	<b>Kitaj, R. B., 1981 1981</b>
Box 7, Folder 3	<b>Klein, Yves, 1961-1965 1961-1965</b>
Box 7, Folder 4	<b>Klein, Yves, 1967-1982 1967-1982</b>
Box 7, Folder 5	<b>Kosso Eloul</b>
Box 7, Folder 6	<b>Kovarsky, Yehoshua</b>

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Box 7, Folder 7	<b>L -- Misc., including: Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE); Don Lagerberg; Wolfgang Laib; Thomas W. Leavitt; Fernand Leger; David Lemon; A. F. Levinson; Sol LeWitt; Gary Lloyd; Morris Louis; Martin Lubner</b>
Box 8, Folder 1	<b>Los Angeles -- Los Angeles County Museum of Art opening, 1965 1965</b>
Box 8, Folder 2	<b>Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1961-1975 1961-1975</b>
Box 8, Folder 3	<b>Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1977-1995 1977-1995</b>
Box 8, Folder 4	<b>Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Modern and Contemporary Art Council</b>
Box 8, Folder 5	<b>Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Modern and Contemporary Art Council -- Art Here and Now</b>
Box 8, Folder 6	<b>Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Modern and Contemporary Art Council -- Acquisitions</b>
Box 8, Folder 7	<b>Los Angeles Fine Arts Squad and Terry Schoonhoven (Solo)</b>
Box 8, Folder 8	<b>La Jolla Art Center (La Jolla Museum of Art)</b>
Box 8, Folder 9	<b>LA Louver Gallery</b>
Box 8, Folder 10	<b>Lichtenstein, Roy</b>
Box 8, Folder 11	<b>Long Beach Museum of Art (City of Long Beach, California)</b>
Box 8, Folder 12	<b>Lebrun, Rico</b>
Box 9, Folder 1	<b>Lynch, Alan</b>
Box 9, Folder 2	<b>Lytton Center</b>
Box 9, Folder 3	<b>M -- Misc., including: Loren Madsen; William Malherbe; Gerhard Marcks; Brice Marden; Marino Marini; Andre Masson; Medali; Zvi Meirovitch; Judith Miller; Miro; George Miyasaki; Patrick Mohr; Moshe Mokady; Henry Moore; Jim Morphesis; Elizabeth Murray</b>
Box 9, Folder 4	<b>Man Ray</b>
Box 9, Folder 5	<b>Marin, John</b>
Box 9, Folder 6	<b>Marlborough Gallery</b>
Box 9, Folder 7	<b>Michael Blankfort -- Los Angeles County Museum of Art</b>
Box 9, Folder 8	<b>McCollum, Allan</b>
Box 9, Folder 9	<b>McCracken, John</b>
Box 9, Folder 10	<b>McGarell, James</b>
Box 9, Folder 11	<b>Melville, Herman *</b>
Box 9, Folder 12	<b>Metropolitan Museum of Art</b>
Box 9, Folder 13	<b>Miller, George</b>
Box 9, Folder 14	<b>Morro, Juana de Madrid</b>
Box 9, Folder 15	<b>Mural Conservancy</b>
Box 9, Folder 16	<b>Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago</b>
Box 9, Folder 17	<b>Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles</b>
Box 9, Folder 18	<b>Museum of Modern Art, New York City</b>
Box 9, Folder 19	<b>N -- Misc., including: Otto Natzler; Ernst Nay; Joshua Neustein; Kim Novak</b>
Box 9, Folder 20	<b>Naumann, Bruce</b>
Box 9, Folder 21	<b>Nevelson, Louise</b>
Box 9, Folder 22	<b>Newport Harbor Art Museum</b>
Box 9, Folder 23	<b>Newspace Gallery</b>
Box 9, Folder 24	<b>O -- Misc., including: Georgia O'Keeffe</b>
Box 10, Folder 1	<b>Oakland Art Museum, Oakland, California</b>
Box 10, Folder 2	<b>Oklahoma Art Center</b>
Box 10, Folder 3	<b>Oldenburg, Claes, 1965-1966 1965-1966</b>
Box 10, Folder 4	<b>Oldenburg, Claes, 1967-1969 1967-1969</b>
Box 10, Folder 5	<b>Oldenburg, Claes, 1970-1995 1970-1995</b>
Box 10, Folder 6	<b>Otis Art Institute</b>
Box 10, Folder 7	<b>P -- Misc., including: Denise M. Palm; Jules Pascin; I. M. Pei; Richard Pettibone; Mark John Pollard; Jackson Pollock; Maurice Prendergast</b>
Box 10, Folder 8	<b>Pasadena Art Museum</b>
Box 10, Folder 9	<b>Philadelphia Museum of Art</b>
Box 10, Folder 10	<b>Phillips, Joann and Gifford</b>
Box 10, Folder 11	<b>Picasso, Pablo</b>
Box 10, Folder 12	<b>Pop Art</b>
Box 10, Folder 13	<b>Pomona College Gallery</b>

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Box 10, Folder 14	<b>Probst, Joachim</b>
Box 10, Folder 15	<b>Probst, Joachim (Greer)</b>
Box 10, Folder 16	<b>R -- Misc., including: Arnulf Rainer; Robert Rauschenberg; Roland Reiss; Vincent Robbins; Sue Ann Robinson; Richard Rosenblum; Susan Rothenberg; Rotraut; Guy de Rougemont; Ruchards Ruben; Edward Ruscha</b>
Box 10, Folder 17	<b>Raboff, Ernest</b>
Box 10, Folder 18	<b>Richmond Art Center</b>
Box 10, Folder 19	<b>Rivera, Manuel</b>
Box 10, Folder 20	<b>Rivers, Larry</b>
Box 10, Folder 21	<b>Robles, Glenn</b>
Box 10, Folder 22	<b>Rosenberg, Harold</b>
Box 11, Folder 1	<b>S -- Misc., including: Peter Saul; Kurt Schwitters; Richard Serra; Maura Sheehan; Betty Sheinbaum; Itzhak Michael Shillo; Simon Rodia; Mario Sironi; Barbara T. Smith; Kenneth Snelson; Sual Steinberg; Antonio Suarez; California Surrealism (Marcel Duchamp)</b>
Box 11, Folder 2	<b>Samaras, Lucas</b>
Box 11, Folder 3	<b>San Francisco Museum of Art and San Francisco Art Institute</b>
Box 11, Folder 4	<b>Saura, Antonio</b>
Box 11, Folder 5	<b>Schiele, Egon</b>
Box 11, Folder 6	<b>Sculpture</b>
Box 11, Folder 7	<b>Secunda, Arthur</b>
Box 11, Folder 8	<b>Shaffer, Richard</b>
Box 11, Folder 9	<b>Skirball Museum</b>
Box 11, Folder 10	<b>Smith, Hassel</b>
Box 11, Folder 11	<b>Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam, Holland)</b>
Box 11, Folder 12	<b>Stella, Frank</b>
Box 11, Folder 13	<b>Strombotne, James</b>
Box 11, Folder 14	<b>T -- Misc., including: Robert Therrien; Ann Thornycroft; Harry Thubron; Jean Tinguely; William Tunberg; William Turnbull</b>
Box 11, Folder 15	<b>Tamarind Facts</b>
Box 12, Folder 1	<b>Tamarind (additional)</b>
Box 12, Folder 2	<b>Tate Gallery, London</b>
Box 12, Folder 3	<b>Terra Museum</b>
Box 12, Folder 4	<b>Tobey, Mark</b>
Box 12, Folder 5	<b>Toledo, Francisco</b>
Box 12, Folder 6	<b>Tuchman, Maurice</b>
Box 12, Folder 7	<b>Twonbly, Cy</b>
Box 12, Folder 8	<b>Tworokov, Jack -- Donation to Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Contemporary Art Council Auction</b>
Box 12, Folder 9	<b>University of California</b>
Box 12, Folder 10	<b>University of Illinois, Krannert Art Museum</b>
Box 12, Folder 11	<b>University of New Mexico</b>
Box 12, Folder 12	<b>University of Redlands</b>
Box 12, Folder 13	<b>University of Southern California</b>
Box 12, Folder 14	<b>University of Texas</b>
Box 12, Folder 15	<b>V -- Misc., including: Vincent Van Gogh; Jacques Villon; Manuel Viola</b>
Box 12, Folder 16	<b>Vuillard, Edouard</b>
Box 12, Folder 17	<b>W -- Misc., including: Andy Warhol; William Wegman; Frederick Wight; William T. Wiley; Witold-K.; Adam Wolpert</b>
Box 12, Folder 18	<b>Walker Art Center</b>
Box 12, Folder 19	<b>Washington Gallery of Modern Art</b>
Box 12, Folder 20	<b>Wayne, June</b>
Box 12, Folder 21	<b>"West Coast Artists" (and "L.A.???"); "California" ("Depleted" June 21, 1989 Ellie and Peter)</b>
Box 12, Folder 22	<b>White, Charles</b>
Box 12, Folder 23	<b>White, John</b>
Box 12, Folder 24	<b>Whitney Museum of Art</b>
Box 12, Folder 25	<b>Womanspace</b>

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