
Annette Leddy
Descriptive Summary

Title: Sam Francis papers

Date (inclusive): 1916-2010 (bulk 1950-1994)

Number: 2004.M.8

Creator/Collector: Francis, Sam

Physical Description: 238.73 Linear Feet (298 boxes, 58 flatfile folders, 3 rolls, 25 videocassettes, 9 DVDs, 15 films, 4 audio reels)

Repository:
The Getty Research Institute
Special Collections
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles 90049-1688
reference@getty.edu
URL: http://hdl.handle.net/10020/askref
(310) 440-7390

Abstract: California born artist Sam Francis was a second generation Abstract Expressionist painter who incorporated influences of Jungian psychology, Buddhism, and Japanese aesthetics into the urban and angst-ridden painting style of the New York School. After living abroad in Paris and Japan, he settled in Los Angeles, where he founded a fine art print press, the Litho Shop, a book press, Lapis Press, and painted prolifically until his death in 1994. The papers document his exhibitions, business ventures, friendships, five marriages, and childhood.

Request Materials: To access physical materials on site, go to the library catalog record for this collection and click "Request an Item." Click here for access policy.

Language: Collection material is in English

Biographical/Historical Note

Sam Francis was born in 1923 in San Mateo, California. He studied botany and psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, but dropped out before graduating to enlist in the Army during World War II. Injured in a training flight crash in 1944, he was a convalescent for several years, during which time he began to paint as a form of distraction. When he recovered he returned to college, studying painting under Bay Area artists David Park and Clifford Still.

Francis moved to Paris in the 1950s, where he had his first solo exhibition at the Galerie Nina Dausset. Shortly thereafter, he joined Martha Jackson Gallery, and was featured in the landmark 1956 12 Americans show at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. In the late 1950s he painted a mural for the Sogetsu School in Tokyo, Japan, initiating a lifelong relationship with people and art institutions in that country. In the early 1960s he permanently settled in Los Angeles, where he remained a prolific painter until the end of his life. He founded a fine art printing press, the Litho Shop, in 1970, and a book publishing business, Lapis Press, in 1984, the latter with Jan Butterfield and Jack Stauffacher. He became a key figure in the incipient Los Angeles art scene, known for his support of other artists, and was a founding member of the Museum of Contemporary Art. At the same time, he had frequent exhibitions and major retrospectives at museums in Europe, Japan and the U.S. Both famous and unusually wealthy for a California painter, he felt also the burden of responsibility his achievement brought and was known to remark that he was "tired" of being Sam Francis.

A second generation Abstract Expressionist, Francis brought to the New York style of painting the influences of Jungian psychology, Buddhism and Japanese aesthetics. His work evolved from the monochrome abstractions of the 1950s to color-splattered canvases with large fields of white. While generally acknowledged as an important post-war painter, critical acclaim focuses on his 1950s paintings, a series titled Blue Balls (created in response to a bout with renal tuberculosis) and a series painted for his fourth wife, Mako Idemitsu.

Francis was married five times and had four children. He died in 1994 at the age of 71.

Access

Open for use by qualified researchers with the following exceptions. Audio visual materials are unavailable until reformatted. Box 193 is sealed until 2086.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2004m8

**Acquisition**
Gift of the Estate of Samuel L. Francis in 2004.

**Processing History**
Jan Bender and Annette Leddy processed the Sam Francis papers and Annette Leddy prepared the finding aid in 2011. Tori Maches under the supervision of Laura Schroffel transferred digital content on March 7, 2017. Further processing is required on remaining digital content.

**Digitized Material**
Selected Audio Recordings have been digitized: [http://hdl.handle.net/10020/2004m8av](http://hdl.handle.net/10020/2004m8av)
Selected material from Series VIII. Artwork has been digitized. Access is available on-site only: [http://hdl.handle.net/10020/2004m8s8](http://hdl.handle.net/10020/2004m8s8)

**Separated Materials**
More than 300 books were transferred to the Research Library. They can be found by searching the library catalog for the Sam Francis source collection.

**Scope and Content of Collection**
The Sam Francis papers span the artist's entire life and include family and personal material as well as correspondence with friends and art institutions around the world. Francis' art-related businesses, the Litho Shop and Lapis Press, are well documented. There are also numerous prints, products, and art making tools.

Series I includes correspondence with artists, curators and dealers, including Joan Mitchell, Bruce Conner, Pontus Hulten, and Martha Jackson. There are also letters between Francis and his parents and between Francis and each of his wives. Series II. Personal includes family photographs of his parents and stepmother, as well as documents and manuscripts belonging to them. There are photographs of Francis at every stage of his life, as well as numerous photographs of his wives and four children. There is also some audiovisual documentation of Francis' family, including a video tape by fourth wife Mako Idemitsu, now an important video artist, of the two sons she had with Francis.

Series III. Lapis Press documents the projects, both realized and unrealized, that engaged the press, including manuscripts for books of poetry, philosophy, biography and fiction. Awards and reviews, business files, and a selection of unique proofs and paste-ups are included in this series.

Series IV. Business files includes a range of projects Francis worked on that are not included in Lapis Press files, such as printing projects for the Litho Shop, the performance piece Single Wing Turquoise Bird, Francis' design for Swatch watches, and the Jeffrey Perkins documentary, The Painter Sam Francis. There are financial papers and ledgers from intermittent years. The Sam Francis Estate has added to this series posthumous material particularly related to the Catalog Raisonne.

Series V concerns Francis's involvement in Jungian philosophy and particularly James Kirsch, one of whose books was published by Lapis Press. Series VII is a small collection of Artist files, including manuscripts and films.

Series VI. Printed matter comprises a very comprehensive collection of announcements, brochures, and posters from Francis' exhibitions, while Series VIII. Artwork includes transparencies of etchings, paintings and lithographs, numerous exhibition installation shots, products Francis designed, and tools he employed in his artmaking.

**Arrangement**

**Subjects - Topics**
Artists -- California
Jungian psychology
Small presses -- California -- Los Angeles
Abstract expressionism

**Genres and Forms of Material**
Audiotapes
Correspondence
Prints -- 20th century
Proofs (printed matter)
Diaries
Series I. **Correspondence, 1937-2008**

Physical Description: 20.43 Linear Feet (49 boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Contains correspondence with Artists and friends, family, museums, and gallery owners.

Arrangement
This series is arranged in five subseries. Correspondence was divided into subseries by the Sam Francis estate, and that arrangement has been largely retained. Additional correspondence files are in Series III. Lapis Press, and Series IV. Business files.

Series I.A. **Artists and friends, 1949-2003**

Physical Description: 3.75 Linear Feet (9 boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Correspondence with friends and colleagues, some of whom were also collectors, or business associates, and range in content from the professional to the intimate. Files at the end of the subseries contain correspondence pertaining to the end of Francis’ life.

Arrangement
Files have been kept as they were arranged by Sam Francis, in alphabetical order, with certain individual artists given separate folders. The repository has called out additional names in folders under each letter, but in no case have all correspondents been listed.

box 1, folder 1
**A, 1972-1993**
Scope and Content Note
Including Karl Appel and Chuck Arnoldi.

box 1, folder 2-3
**B, 1970-1996**
Scope and Content Note
Including Kurt Blum, John Bennett, Robert Buck, Larry Bell, and J.B. Blunk.

box 1, folder 4
**Barundun, Silvio, 1962-1991**

box 1, folder 5
**C, 1975-1997**
Correspondence
Scope and Content Note
Including William Copley, Ry Cooder, Dan Cytron, Alexandra Christoph, and Helga and Roy Curry.

box 213, folder 2
**Jane Braswell Crawford photographs, undated**
Connor, Bruce, 1969-1987
Correspondence, 1969-1987
Photographs, 1986

Scope and Content Note
Including Jay DeFeo.

E, 1961-1986
Scope and Content Note
Including Bill Elliott.

F, 1965-1994
Scope and Content Note
Including Gordon Onslow-Ford, Gilda Franz, Betty Freeman, Sidney Felsen and Bernard Forrest.

Francken, Ruth, 1969-1979

G, 1957-1993
Scope and Content Note
Including Joe Goode and Bernard Giovagnoli.

Doc Groupp, 1961-1972

Scope and Content Note
Including Al Held.

Hiltermann, B.H.R., 2002-2003
Correspondence
Photographs

Hosiasson, Philippe, 1961-1964

Hulten, Pontus, 1963-1997

Scope and Content Note
Including Daria Iacone, and Toshi Ichiyanagi.

Iacone photographs
Idemitsu, Tako, 1959-1085
Isozaki, Arata, 1964-1993
Jaffee, Shirley, 1964-1972
Jensen, Alfred, 1958-1964

Kogelnik, Kiki, 1965-1987
Correspondence
Photographs

K, 1976-1994
Scope and Content Note
Including James Kirsch and Lilly Keller.
### Series I. Correspondence, 1937-2008

#### Series I.A. Artists and friends, 1949-2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box Folder</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Scope and Content Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5, folder 7</td>
<td>Leslie, Alfred</td>
<td>1961-1987</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5, folder 8</td>
<td>M, 1956-1994</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Including Yves Michaud, Michio Matsumoto, Lee and Luchita Mullican, and Dorothy Miller.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5, folder 9</td>
<td>Martin, Fred</td>
<td>1949-1959</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, folder 1</td>
<td>Meyer, Franz</td>
<td>1950-1967</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mitchell, Joan, circa 1980</td>
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<tr>
<td>6, folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213, folder 7</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, folder 3</td>
<td>N, 1971-1994</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Including Hans Namuth and Sybille Nova.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, folder 4</td>
<td>O, 1984-1992</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Including Sadao Ogawa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, folder 5</td>
<td>P, 1968-1994</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213, folder 8</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, folder 6</td>
<td>Jeff Perkins photographs, undated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, folder 7-8</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photographs, various</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213, folder 9</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, folder 9</td>
<td>Saegessar, Marguerite, 1989-1993</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6, folder 10</td>
<td>Saint Phalle, Niki de 1987</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, folder 11</td>
<td>Sweeney, James Johnson, 1967-1990</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, folder 12</td>
<td>T, 1964-1993</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Including Dorothea Tanning, Michel Tapie, Shuzo Takiguchi, and Garner Tullis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, folder 1</td>
<td>Tanaka, Atsuko, 1988-1999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213, folder 10</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, folder 2-5</td>
<td>Ting, Walasse, 1958-1999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213, folder 11</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, folder 6</td>
<td>V, 1981-1994</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Including Eleonora Vallanti, and DeWain Valentine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, folder 7</td>
<td>Van Der Post, Laurens, 1991-1993</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7, folder 7</td>
<td>Von Huene, Stephan, 1981-1987</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213, folder 12</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Series I. Correspondence, 1937-2008

**W, 1972-1994**

**Scope and Content Note**
No Subnote Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>box 7, folder 9</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scope and Content Note**
Including Marcia and Frederick Weisman, Elfie Weinstock, Michael Whitney, and Larry Weiss.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>box 213, folder 13</td>
<td>Michael Whitney photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 7, folder 10</td>
<td>Wagner, George, 1989-1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 8, folder 1</td>
<td>X,Y,Z, 1979-1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 8, folder 2-4</td>
<td>Yoshiaki, Tono and Usami, 1953-1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 8, folder 5-6</td>
<td>Unidentified, 1954-1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 8, folder 7</td>
<td>Assorted acquaintances, 1964-1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 8, folder 8</td>
<td>Postcards, 1962-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 9, folder 1-4</td>
<td>Cards (birthday, Christmas, and assorted), circa 1970 - circa 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 9, folder 5-6</td>
<td>Cards from Litho Shop employees, 1980-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 9, folder 7</td>
<td>Faxes for Sam when sick, 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 9, folder 8</td>
<td>Condolence letters, 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 196*, folder 2</td>
<td>Collage letter (author unidentified), undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flatfile 55**</td>
<td>Thank you card from MOCA on large piece of foam core, 1993</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Series I.B. Family, 1937-1995

**Physical Description:** 1.66 Linear Feet (4 boxes)

**Scope and Content Note**
Correspondence between Sam Francis and his father, stepmother, siblings, daughter, wives, and other relatives. Courtship letters from Francis to Vera Miller, who would become his first wife, offer a portrait of the artist as a young man. Divorce papers, income tax returns, and other official documents have been removed from these files and are restricted until 2086.

**Arrangement**
Arranged in rough chronological order. Manuscripts accompanying the correspondence have been filed with family papers in Series II. Personal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>box 10, folder 1-4</td>
<td>Sam Francis to Vera Miller (first wife), 1937-1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 196*, folder 8</td>
<td>Poem for Vera Miller, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 11, folder 1</td>
<td>Virginia Francis (stepmother), 1942-1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 11, folder 2-4</td>
<td>Duplicates of correspondence between Virginia Francis, Sam Francis (senior), and Sam Francis, 1950-1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 12, folder 1</td>
<td>Muriel Goodwin (second wife), 1955-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 12, folder 2</td>
<td>Teruko Yokoi (third wife), 1961-1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 12, folder 3-4</td>
<td>Masako Idemitsu (fourth wife), 1964-1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 12, folder 5</td>
<td>Margaret Smith (fifth wife), 1985-1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 213, folder 14-15</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 213, folder 14-15</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 13, folder 1</td>
<td>Assorted relatives, 1965-1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 13, folder 2</td>
<td>George Francis (brother), 1968-1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 13, folder 3</td>
<td>Nancy Frances Moser (sister), 1973-1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 13, folder 4-5</td>
<td>Kayo Francis (daughter), 1971-1994</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series I. Correspondence, 1937-2008
Series I.C. Museums, 1960-2008

Series I.C. Museums, 1960-2008

Physical Description: 9.17 Linear Feet (22 boxes)
Scope and Content Note
Correspondence regarding museum exhibitions or acquisitions of Francis’ work. The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, with which Francis had a long relationship, occupies several boxes. Also amply represented are the Bundestag, Bonn, and the Jeu de Paume, Paris. Along with object lists and exhibition proposals, these files sometimes contain installation diagrams, loan agreements, and checklists.

Arrangement
Arranged in alphabetical order by the museum name.

box 14, folder 1-7
A, circa 1960- circa 1998
box 15, folder
B, 1963-1996
1-10
box 213, folder 16
Brooklyn Museum photographs
box 16-17
box 18, folder
C-G, 1961-2008
1-22
box 19, folder
1-13
box 213, folder 17
Hiroshima Museum photographs
box 20, folder 1-6
Jeu de Paume, Paris, 1995-1996
box 21, folder 1-9
L, 1967-2000
box 213, folder 18
LACMA photographs
box 213, folder 19
Louisiana photographs
box 22, folder 1-7
M, 1976-2002
box 23-28
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, 1980-2001
box 213, folder 20
Correspondence
box 29, folder
Photographs
1-13
box 30, folder 1-8
N-O, 1963-2003
box 213, folder 21
P-R, 1964-1997
box 31-32
Correspondence
box 213, folder
Rahn photographs
22-23
box 34, folder 1-4
S, 1964-1996
box 33, folder 1-4
Correspondence
box 213, folder
Photographs, various
22-23
box 34, folder 1-4
T, 1972-1992
box 35, folder 1-5
box 213, folder 24
box 35, folder 6
Correspondence
Photographs, various
Photocopies of selected museum correspondence, 1956-2002
### Series I.D. **Galleries, 1954-2005**

**Physical Description:** 5.42 Linear Feet (13 boxes)

**Scope and Content Note**

Correspondence with Sam Francis' various dealers around the world, and with galleries that had reason to contact him, generally regarding sales. There are especially large multiple files from Martha Jackson Gallery (New York), Kornfeld Gallery (Bern), Delaive Gallery (Amsterdam), and Nanteshi Gallery (Tokyo). In addition to letters, some of the files contain inventory lists, sales receipts, invoices, and other documents that are also found in Series IV. Business files.

**Arrangement**

Arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the gallery, or by the last name of the gallerist, depending on how the gallery is commonly known.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>1-14</td>
<td>A, 1970-2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>1-17</td>
<td>A-B, 1960-2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>1-19</td>
<td>C-E, 1961-2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>1-12</td>
<td>E-F, 1969-2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>1-22</td>
<td>G-I, 1969-2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>1-16</td>
<td>J-Ko, 1954-1997</td>
</tr>
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<td>44</td>
<td>1-15</td>
<td>Ko-Ku, 1988-2004</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>1-9</td>
<td>L-M, 1963-2002</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>1-17</td>
<td>M-N, 1980-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>1-18</td>
<td>N-R, 1972-2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>1-19</td>
<td>S, 1970-2003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Photographs, circa 1960-2000**

Scope and Content Note

Including images from ACE, Delaive, Gray, Kornfeld, Minami, Proarta, Samuels, and Wirtz.

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### Series I.E. **Collectors, 1960-2005**

**Physical Description:** 0.42 Linear Feet (1 box)

**Scope and Content Note**

Letters from collectors of Sam Francis' work, including Robert Chen, Joseph Hirshhorn, Edwin Janss, and John Rouge.

**Arrangement**

Organized in alphabetical order by the collector's last name.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>1-24</td>
<td>A-Z, 1960-2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Requests for Sam Francis' signature, 1970-1990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series II. Personal, 1916-2000

Physical Description: 25.72 Linear Feet (44 boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Included are photographs, video and film of Francis and his family. There are family papers, and a smattering of financial documentation. Of note is a video made by Mako Idemitsu, Francis’ fourth wife, now a well-known video artist. Included also are some poetry and dream journals by Francis. Box 193 contains restricted material from 1950-1994 which will remain sealed until 2086.

Arrangement
Arranged in two subseries, one for Sam Francis and another for family and friends.

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Series II.A. Assorted, 1930-1995

Physical Description: 15.5 Linear Feet (19 boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Included are some poetry and dream journals by Francis. Box 193 contains restricted material from 1950-1994 which will remain sealed until 2086.

Arrangement
Arranged by media.

box 50, 204*

Writings, 1967-circa 1994
Scope and Content Note
Including dream journals, poetry, reflections, and doodles.

box 51, 281*-282*  
box 52  
box 267, item C2-C10

Calendars, awards, lists, and miscellaneous, 1961-1991

Medical and financial, 1974-1994

Audio cassettes, 1994-1995, undated
Scope and Content Note
Including the Remembrance Meeting at MOCA, Howard Fox’s interview with Margaret Smith Francis after Sam’s death, and Sam’s astrological reading.

Photographs, 1930-1994
Scope and Content Note
Photographs of Sam Francis, ranging from childhood snapshots, to views of the artist in his studio, to posed portraits. Photographers include Meibao Nee, Peter Friedli, Jerry Sohn, Vera Isler, Nico Delaive, Shima Bukuro, Jim Arkatov, Brian Forrest, and Francis’ fourth wife, Mako Idemitsu. Includes grammar school class portrait from 1937 (Box 196*, f. 1)

box 53-55, 194*, 207*, 215  
box 216-221  
flatfile 58**

Portraits, 1941-1994
In studio, 1952-1990

Portrait drawing of Sam by Walasse Ting, undated

Restricted material, 1950-1994
Scope and Content Note
Sealed until 2086.
Series II. Personal, 1916-2000

Series II.B. Family and friends, 1916-2000

**Physical Description:** 10.22 Linear Feet (25 boxes)

**Scope and Content Note**

Of note is a video made by Mako Idemitsu, Francis' fourth wife, now a well-known video artist.

**Arrangement**

Arranged in rough chronological order.

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**box 56**

**Samuel Augustus Francis (father), 1937-1947**

**Scope and Content Note**

Book manuscript about U.S. military strategy during World War II, by Sam Francis' father.

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**box 57**

**Virginia Francis (stepmother), 1952-1991**

**Scope and Content Note**

Including her journals, correspondence, photographs of Sam Francis Sr. in his youth, and assorted papers.

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**box 58**

**Margaret Smith, 1989-1994**

**Scope and Content Note**

Miscellaneous papers belonging to Francis' fifth wife, including insurance documents, receipts, and brochures about her art exhibitions.

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**Photographs, 1916-2000**

**Family, 1916-1962**

**Scope and Content Note**

Including views of father, mother, stepmother, brother, and other close relatives.

---

**box 60, 214**

**Wives and children, 1950-2000**

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes views of Vera Miller, Muriel Goodwin, Mako Idemitsu, Kayo Francis, Osamu Francis, Shingo Francis, Margaret Smith, and Augustus Francis.

---

**box 61-64, 222-228, 283* **

**Friends, 1952-1992**

**Scope and Content Note**

Including Kurt and Erika Blum, Jan Butterfield, John Cage, Bruce Connor, Patricia Faure, Nico Delaive, Martha Jackson, Shirley Jaffe, Ed Kienholz, Phillip and Paula Kirkeby, James Kirsch, Kiki Kogelnick, Ebehard Kornfeld, Carl Meier, and Liga Pang. Arranged in alphabetical order by the friends' last names, with a separate sequence for studio visits, and another for group shots with Sam and unidentified friends.

---

**box 196**

**box 196*, 229-231**

**Portraits of artists, undated**

**Litho Shop staff, 1991**

**Audio visual, 1967-1994**

**box 270, item V1**

**Video of Osamu and Shingo by Mako Idemitsu Francis, 1967-1971**

**Films of wives and children, 1970s**

**Scope and Content Note**

Including also a small Super 8 film of Osamo and Shingo, 1971, and trips to Disneyland and Nevada.

---

**box 272, item V19-V20**

**Friends, circa 1970-1994**

**Scope and Content Note**

Including VHS tapes of Kornfeld's birthday and Ebi's birthday.
Series III. **Lapis Press, 1943-2002, undated**

Physical Description: 26.14 Linear Feet (48 boxes)

**Scope and Content Note**

Material concerning Francis' book press, which published art-related literature, psychology, and theory, a portion of which were works in translation.

**Arrangement**

Arranged in five subseries.

---

Series III.A. **Projects, 1943-2000**

Physical Description: 5.84 Linear Feet (14 boxes)

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes manuscripts by authors, some of which were published, along with some correspondence related to the submissions.

**Arrangement**

Arranged in alphabetical order by the authors' last names.

**box 65**

**A-B, 1971-1989**

**Scope and Content Note**

Including Alchemy, American Film Foundation, Bob Arnold, Antonin Artaud, Jan Butterfield, Irene Borger, Bruce Boone, Silva Barandon, and Yves Bonnefoy.

**box 66**

**B-C, 1957-1990**

**Scope and Content Note**

Including Sinclair Beilis, Brancusi, Jacques Carrio, and Dennis Cooper.

**box 67**

**C-D, 1973-1994**

**Scope and Content Note**

Including Alan Chadwick, Cid Corman, and Bruce Connor.

**box 68**

**D-F, 1961-1997**

**Scope and Content Note**

Including Doug Davis, Les Ferris, Kathleen Fraser, and Michael Friedman.

**box 69**

**F-G, 1981-1988**

**Scope and Content Note**

Including James Farwell and Amy Gerstler.

**box 70**

**G, 1985-2000**

**Scope and Content Note**

Including Robert Gluck and Pierre Guyotat.

**box 71**

**H-J, 1966-1988**

**Scope and Content Note**

Including Rebecca Horn, Pontus Hulten, Robert Irwin, Ed Janss and Arata Isozaki.

**box 72**

**J-K, 1965-1989**

**Scope and Content Note**

Including Rachel Jacobs, Edith Jenkins, Hayao Kawai, and Fujiyo Koyama.
Box 73  **L-M, 1943-1991**  
Scope and Content Note  
C.A. Meier, Dean Metzger, and Mike Morrow.

Box 74  **M-S, 1959-1995**  
Scope and Content Note  
Including Yves Michaud, Nancy Mozur, Noguchi, Ooka, Gordon Onslow-Ford, Carolee Schneemann, Robert Shapazian.

Box 75  **Niki de Saint-Phalle, 1985-88**  
Scope and Content Note  

Box 76  **S-T, 1982-2000**  
Scope and Content Note  
Including Robert Thierron, James Turrell, Dorothea Tanning, and Michael Taylor.

Box 77  **Yasutaka Tsutsui, 1991-1995**  
Scope and Content Note  

Box 78  **W, 1989-1998**  
Scope and Content Note  
Including Jane Wheelwright and Christopher Wool.

Series III.B. **Business, 1975-2002**  
Physical Description: 6.67 Linear Feet (16 boxes)  
Scope and Content Note  
Assorted financial papers from the press from intermittent years.  
Arrangement  
Arranged in rough chronological order by year.

Box 79-80  **Memoranda and Minutes, 1986-1996**  
Box 81-82  **Contracts, 1985-1992**  
Box 83  **Gemini G.E.L., 1971-2002**  
Box 84-85  **Ledgers, 1975, 1979, 1989, 1991**  
Box 86-90  **Invoices, 1988-1998**  
Box 91-92  **Distributors, 1986-2000**  
Box 93-94  **Direct Sales, 1993-1994**

Series III.C. **Awards and Reviews, 1976-1994**  
Physical Description: 1.67 Linear Feet (4 boxes)  
Scope and Content Note  
Material showing the acclaim that greeted many of the Lapis Press publications.  
Arrangement  
Arranged in chronological order by year.

Box 95-98  **Assorted, 1976-1994**

Physical Description: 10.92 Linear Feet (11 boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Includes selected Lapis publications, often in final proofs, along with the press's first publication.

Arrangement
Arranged in chronological order.

box 99
First publication, 1983

box 100
Aphorisms, 1984

box 101
Saturated Blue, 1994-1996

box 102-103
Tablets, undated

box 104
One Cent Life, undated

box 105
Of, undated

Series III.E. Photographs and audio visual, circa 1976- circa 1996

Physical Description: 1.04 Linear Feet (3 boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Assorted photographs from Lapis publications and a video tape of an interview on The Today Show about the press's AIDS book.

Arrangement
Arranged in rough chronological order.

box 106
Black-and-white

box 232, 233
Color

box 270, item V6-V8
Video about Lapis Press AIDS book (The Today Show), 1987

Series IV. Business files, 1960-2008, undated

Physical Description: 27.27 Linear Feet (60 boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Files comprising virtually all projects that Francis was engaged in except for Lapis Press Projects and exhibitions. The Samuel Francis Estate files, including financial material and the catalog raisonné, have been incorporated into this series.

Arrangement
Arranged in four subseries, and within each sub-series in rough chronological order.

Series IV.A. Projects, 1960-2004

Physical Description: 7.09 Linear Feet (17 boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Files about projects, often of a collaborative nature, generally involving other artists, writers, or institutions.

Arrangement
Arranged in rough chronological order.

box 108
circa 1960 - circa 1969

Scope and Content Note
Including projects with Print Council of America, Tamarind Institute, and New Arts Society.
Box 109: circa 1970 - circa 1979
Scope and Content Note
Including projects with Single Wing Turquoise Bird, Venezuela Bienal, Michael Blackwood Films, Phillip Glass, and Weinstock Department Store.

Box 110: Peter Selz book project, 1974-1981
Scope and Content Note
For Sam Francis, 1976

Box 111: circa 1980 - circa 1984
Scope and Content Note
Including projects with Welton Beckett, Vice President Mondale, Federal Reserve Bank, Olympics Los Angeles, and Art for Nuclear Freeze.

Box 112: Manny Silverman Gallery, 1982-2002
Box 113: circa 1985 - circa 1986
Scope and Content Note
Including projects with Cathedrale de Nevers, Michel Waldberg, Yves Michaud, World Print Council, World Wilderness Council, and Daniel Papierski Print.

Box 114: circa 1987 - circa 1989
Scope and Content Note
Including projects with Bibliothèque Nationale, Artforum, Art Against Aids, and Petersburg Press.

Box 115: circa 1990 - circa 1991
Scope and Content Note
Including projects with Seoul Art Festival, American Indian Heritage Foundation, Art Music Barcelona, Nick Wilder, and Musee Nichido.

Box 117: circa 1993
Scope and Content Note
Including projects with Paul La Bell, George Wagner, Vorwerk Carpets, and wine labels.

Box 118: circa 1994
Scope and Content Note
Including projects with Graphique de France, Grafiska Verkstad, Mendocino Art Center, Daco Verlag Monotype, and Mark Whitney.

Box 119: circa 1995 - circa 1999
Scope and Content Note
Including Clos Pegase Winery, Beverly Hills Public Library, Society for the Arts in Healthcare, Tracy Shiffman, and Jean Paul Riopelle.

Box 107: Artist print projects, 1995-2002
Scope and Content Note
Litho Shop print projects with artists including Marina Abramovich, Vija Celmins, Rebecca Horn, Anish Kapoor, Guillermo Kuitca, Ed Moses, Giuseppe Penone, Martin Puryear, David Reed, Niki de Saint-Phalle, Robert Therrien, and Christopher Wool.
Series IV.A. Projects, 1960-2004

- Jeffrey Perkins video project, 2000-2004
  Scope and Content Note
  For his 85 minute video, The Painter Sam Francis, 2008. Includes transcripts of some interviews he did for the film.

- Slides and color prints from project files, undated

Series IV.B. Finances, 1966-2008

Physical Description: 5 Linear Feet (12 boxes)
Scope and Content Note
Including assorted material to do with profits from Francis' art, including appraisals and auction sales, along with reports from business ventures, especially the wind farm.
Arrangement
Arranged by record type and in rough chronological order within each category.

- Correspondence, circa 1966-circa 2004
  Scope and Content Note
  Including memoranda, phone messages, emails, assorted correspondence and administrative documents roughly arranged in chronological order.

- Appraisals, 1975-2008
- Inventories, 1971-2004
- Auction house reports, 1994-2002
- Donations, 1996-2003
- Publishers and printers, 1976-2008
- Wind farm business, circa 1983-circa 1993
- Papers
- Photographs
- Miscellaneous, 1970-2001

Series IV.C. Catalogue Raisonnée, circa 1960-2008

Physical Description: 9.59 Linear Feet (23 boxes)
Scope and Content Note
An incomplete collection of research and documents used in the preparation of Francis' Catalogue Raisonnée.
Arrangement
Arranged in two groupings, research and documents, and within each grouping in rough chronological order.

- Research, 1992-2008
- Documents of etchings, screenprints, and lithographs, circa 1960- circa 1999

Series IV.D. Miscellaneous circa 1974-2008, undated

Physical Description: 5.59 Linear Feet (8 boxes)
Scope and Content Note
Videotapes, audiotapes, computer files, and film, some unidentified, others regarding Francis.Unavailable for viewing or listening until reformatting is complete.
Arrangement
Materials are grouped by media type.
Videos about Sam Francis and his art, 1974-1999

Arrangement
Videos arranged chronologically.

box 271, item V9

**Nico Delaive 1990**
Scope and Content Note
1 videocassette (VHS). Cassette notes: "Venice studio-- Sam and Ting painting ca. 1989-90."

box 271, item V10

**Nico Delaive 1990**
Scope and Content Note

box 271, item V11

**Nico Delaive 1990**
Scope and Content Note
1 videocassette (VHS). Cassette notes: "Palo Alto. Framing discussion."

box 271, item V12

**Nico Delaive 1990**
Scope and Content Note
1 videocassette (VHS). Cassette notes: "Exhibition in Amsterdam April 1990 c/o Galerie Delaive."

box 271, item V13

**Nico Delaive 1990**
Scope and Content Note
1 videocassette (VHS). Cassette notes: "Touring Pt. Reyes Ranch. First 10:00 min. only."

box 271, item V18

**Sam Francis New Prints, Long Fine Art New York, January 5-February 26. 1994**
Scope and Content Note
1 videocassette (VHS).

box 271, item V15

**Jeu de Paume, December 1995 1995**
Scope and Content Note
1 videocassette (VHS).

box 271, item V16

**Sam Francis: A Quick Look. Art/World Productions. 1999**
Scope and Content Note
1 videocassette (VHS).

box 271, item V2, V4

**Michael Blackwood Productions, Inc. undated**
Scope and Content Note
1 videocassette (PAL). Run time 53:00.

box 271, item V3

**Michael Blackwood Productions, Inc. undated**
Scope and Content Note
1 videocassette (VHS). Run time 52:40.

box 272, item V21

**The Litho Shop. Sam Francis. undated**
Scope and Content Note
"Ashland Studio by Mark Whitney." 16mm pos. transfer, RT 2:30.

box 273, item V26

**Unidentified Umatic videotape, undated**
### Series IV. Business files, 1960-2008, undated

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<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Video catalog of the Ohara museum of art, undated</td>
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<td>271</td>
<td>V14</td>
<td>Video documentary on Jean-Paul Riopelle, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>269</td>
<td>V14</td>
<td>DVDs about Sam Francis and his art, 1999-2008</td>
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<td>274</td>
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<td>274</td>
<td>F2</td>
<td>Unidentified Super 8 films, undated</td>
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<td>268</td>
<td>R1,</td>
<td>Unidentified audio recordings, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>275</td>
<td>CM82</td>
<td>DVDs about Sam Francis and his art, 1999-2008</td>
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### Series IV.D. Miscellaneous circa 1974-2008, undated

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>274</td>
<td>F1-F5</td>
<td>DVDs about Sam Francis and his art, 1999-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>274</td>
<td>F6-F15</td>
<td>Unidentified Super 8 films, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>268</td>
<td>R1,</td>
<td>Unidentified audio recordings, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>275</td>
<td>F6-F15</td>
<td>Unidentified audio recordings, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>272</td>
<td>V17,</td>
<td>Video catalog of the Ohara museum of art, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>272</td>
<td>V22-V24</td>
<td>Video documentary on Jean-Paul Riopelle, undated</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Series V. Jung Institute, 1929-1997, undated

#### Physical Description:
3.34 Linear Feet (8 boxes)

#### Scope and Content Note
Material about Jungian philosophy and the Jung Institute, in which Francis was active for much of his adult life.

#### Arrangement
Assorted materials are arranged in chronological order, and articles are arranged in alphabetical order by the author's last name.

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<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Articles, A-K, 1929-1985</td>
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<tr>
<td>138, folder 1-4</td>
<td>Articles by Hilde Kirsch, 1972-1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138-140</td>
<td>Articles by James Kirsch, 1931-1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>196*, folder 6</td>
<td>Photographic portrait of James Kirsch, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>141</td>
<td>Articles, Kirst-Z, 1943-1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>272, item V17, V22-V24</td>
<td>Documentaries about Jung, 1983-1997</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Series VI. Printed matter, 1950-2010

#### Physical Description:
39.22 Linear Feet (23 boxes, 3 flat file drawers, 3 rolls)

#### Scope and Content Note
This series offers a comprehensive collection of announcements, brochures, and posters about Francis' exhibitions, and also a selection of articles about his work.

#### Arrangement
Arranged in two subseries, and within those, in chronological order.

#### Series VI.A. Articles and reviews, 1951-2000

#### Physical Description:
2.92 Linear Feet (7 boxes)

#### Scope and Content Note
A comprehensive collection of reviews of Francis' art exhibitions.

#### Arrangement
Arranged in chronological order.

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<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>1951-1989</td>
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<td>143</td>
<td>1960-1969</td>
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</table>
Series VI. Printed matter, 1950-2010

Series VI.A. Articles and reviews, 1951-2000

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<tr>
<th>Box</th>
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<td>1970-1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>1974-1979</td>
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<td>146</td>
<td>1980-1984</td>
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<td>147</td>
<td>1985-1989</td>
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<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>1990-2000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Series VI.B. Announcements and brochures, 1950-2003, undated

Physical Description: 36.3 Linear Feet (16 boxes, 3 flat file drawers, 3 rolls)

Scope and Content Note
A comprehensive collection of announcements and brochures for Francis' solo and group shows.

Arrangement
Arranged in chronological order.

Large binders prepared by estate, 1950-2010

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<tr>
<th>Box</th>
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<td>153</td>
<td>Group shows, 1950-2010</td>
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</table>

Solo shows, 1950-2006

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>154</td>
<td>1950-1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>155</td>
<td>1970-1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>156</td>
<td>1980-1989</td>
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<td>157</td>
<td>1990-1999</td>
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<td>158</td>
<td>2000-2006, undated</td>
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</table>

Group shows, 1952-2003, undated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>160</td>
<td>1975-1985</td>
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<td>161</td>
<td>1986-2003, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>162</td>
<td>Photocopies of brochures, circa 1970-circa 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>163-164</td>
<td>Miscellaneous printed matter, circa 1970-circa 1994</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Flatfile 5**-20**

Posters for museum and gallery exhibitions, 1961-2002

Flatfile 54**

Poster for Jeffrey Perkins film, 199?

Roll 1**

Banner for Chicago Art Expo, 1989

Roll 2**-3**

Posters, undated

Series VII. Artist files, circa 1960-2002, undated

Physical Description: 13.87 Linear Feet (7 boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Works, including photographs, posters, and drawings, by artists whom Francis knew.

Arrangement
Arranged in alphabetical order by the artist's last name.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>165</td>
<td>A-E, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>268</td>
<td>Ron Cooper recording, 1977</td>
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</tbody>
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Series VII. Artist files, circa 1960-2002, undated

Series VIII.A. Works on paper, circa 1960-circa 1994

- flatfile 53**
  Brush and ink drawings done with wife Muriel Goodwin, undated

- flatfile 56**
  Large drawing of a face, undated

- box 203*
  Pasadena box collophon, 1963

- box 278***
  Painting on board, undated

- flatfile 21**,52**
  Proofs of prints, 1960-1994, undated

- box 279***
  Works on paper (5), undated

Series VIII.B. Photographs of artwork and exhibitions, circa 1955-2003

Physical Description: 10.29 Linear Feet(27 boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Assorted photography of Francis' work, and a selection of exhibition installation shots.

Arrangement
Arranged in rough chronological order.

- box 241-242, 250-253
  Transparencies of paintings, etchings and lithographs, circa 1955-circa 1965

- box 244
  Special projects, 1960-1984

- box 245
  Book project with Pontus Hultén, 1960-1987

- box 246
  California Box Project, 1963-1964

- box 284*
  Color photographs of prints, undated

- box 247, 254-246, 261
  Exhibition and studio installations, 1957-1974

- box 195*, folder 1
  Tokyo mural, 1957

- box 261
  Pasadena Art Museum, 1964

- box 255
  Studio, Santa Monica, 1966

- box 195*, folder 2
  Sky painting, 1966

- box 261
  Andre Emmerich Gallery, New York, 1969

- box 261
  Art Institute of Chicago, 1970

- box 255
  Studio, Tokyo, 1970-1971

- box 261
  The Zurich Gallery, 1970-1971

- box 261
  Andre Emmerich Gallery, New York, 1971

- box 255
  Studio, Paris, 1972

- box 261
  Stanford University Art Gallery, Palo Alto, 1972

- box 261
  Albright-Knox, Buffalo, New York, 1972

- box 255
  Studio, Santa Monica, 1972-1973

- box 235
  Studio, Bern, 1973

- box 261
  Galerie Jean Fournier, Paris, 1973

- box 261
  Andre Emmerich, New York, 1973

- box 261
  Nicholas Wilder Gallery, Los Angeles, 1973

- box 247
  36 KAOs (Faces), Tokyo, 1973-1977

- box 261
  Minami Gallery, Tokyo, 1974

- box 261
  Louisiana Museum, Denmark, 1974

- box 254
  Studio, Tokyo, 1974

- box 256
  Studio, Tokyo, 1974

- box 275, item CM1-CM81
  Digital images of artwork 1997

  Scope and Content Note
  73 computer discs (floppy disk) : 3 1/2 in. 3 computer discs (zip disk) : 3 1/2 in. 5 computer discs (CD-R) : digital ; 4 3/4 in.

- box 248-249, 257-266, 195*
  Exhibition and studio installations, 1975-2003
Series VIII.C **Products, undated**

- **Physical Description:** 12.12 Linear Feet (12 boxes)
- **Scope and Content Note**
  - Including products bearing Francis artwork.
- **Arrangement**
  - Grouped according to like size and media.

<table>
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<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>177</td>
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<td>180</td>
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<td>184</td>
<td>Billboard</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Series VIII.D **Art materials, undated**

- **Physical Description:** 19.75 Linear Feet (7 boxes, 2 triple oversize objects)
- **Scope and Content Note**
  - Including printing plates, brushes, and other tools.
- **Arrangement**
  - Grouped according to like size and media.

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<th>Box</th>
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<th>Undated</th>
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<tr>
<td>201*-202*</td>
<td>Metal printing plates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1**</td>
<td>Notes on lithographs in progress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3**-4**</td>
<td>Transfer plates and test prints</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>277 A*** and B***</td>
<td>Paint brushes, undated</td>
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<td>280***</td>
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