
Sheila Prospero
Descriptive Summary
Title: Knoedler Kasmin Limited records
Number: 2010.M.71
Creator/Collector: Knoedler Kasmin Limited
Physical Description: 45.7 Linear Feet (75 boxes, 2 flat file folders)
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: The Knoedler Kasmin Limited records document the business of the London gallery under the partnership of gallerist John Kasmin with New York's Knoedler & Co. from 1977 to 1992. The gallery exhibited mostly abstract painting and sculpture and represented well-known contemporary artists such as Stephen Buckley, Anthony Caro, David Hockney, Sam Francis, Helen Frankenthaler, Robert Motherwell and Frank Stella. The bulk of the collection consists of exhibition announcements, clippings and photographic documentation of artists' work in the form of prints, transparencies, slides and negatives. Also included are business records such as inventory lists, sales invoices and administrative and operational documents.
Request Materials: Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the catalog record for this collection. Click here for the access policy.
Language: Collection material is in English
Biographical / Historical Note
The Knoedler Kasmin Limited gallery operated in London from 1977 to 1992 as a partnership between gallerist John Kasmin and New York's Knoedler & Co. The gallery exhibited mostly abstract painting and sculpture and represented well-known contemporary artists such as Stephen Buckley, Anthony Caro, David Hockney, Sam Francis, Helen Frankenthaler, Robert Motherwell and Frank Stella.
Prior to the opening of the gallery, John Kasmin (British, 1934- ), backed by the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, a young Guinness heir, formed Kasmin Limited in 1961 and created his eponymous gallery on New Bond Street two years later. Kasmin represented artists including Hockney, Caro, Howard Hodgkin and Gillian Ayres, as well as American artists Frankenthaler, Jules Olitski and Morris Louis. Kasmin Limited became known for its associations with Hockney and the American color field painters championed by Clement Greenberg. The gallery closed in 1972 due to a downturn in the economy and a shift in the Marquess's interests. Kasmin continued to work with artists, selling work privately and organizing exhibitions in other galleries.
Five years later, Kasmin entered into an equal partnership with Knoedler Inc. of New York to operate a joint gallery out of the Knoedler premises on Bond Street opposite the Sotheby's headquarters. At the time, Knoedler Inc. was under the ownership of business tycoon Armand Hammer and was directed by Kasmin's friends, John Richardson and Lawrence Rubin. Seeking to promote the Knoedler name in London beyond the sale of old master paintings, Richardson and Rubin were able to attract Kasmin with a large line of credit from a U.S. company and near-complete freedom in choosing what art to display.
Knoedler Kasmin Limited gallery launched at 143 New Bond Street and then moved to a larger space at 22 Cork Street, where it remained until July 1992. Kasmin continued to work with artists he had represented at Kasmin Limited, along with new artists including Motherwell, Francis, Joel Shapiro, Nancy Graves and Jennifer Bartlett, as well as younger artists Peter Kinley, Tim Scott, and Bhupen Khakhar. The gallery also participated in art fairs at Basel, Paris, Madrid, Chicago and Bologna.
Kasmin ended the Knoedler Kasmin partnership in 1992, having decided to move away from representing living artists. He has since dedicated himself to collecting ancient Eastern and Islamic sculpture, ceramics, textiles and calligraphy.
Access
Open for use by qualified researchers.
Publication Rights

http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2010m71

Preferred Citation

Acquisition Information
Gift of John Kasmin in 2010.

Processing History
Processed by Sheila Prospero under the supervision of Andra Darlington in 2012.

Related Archival Materials

Separated Materials
78 monographs and 15 serials were transferred to the library. These publications may be found by searching the Library Catalog for the Knoedler Kasmin Limited Collection.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Knoedler Kasmin Limited records document the business of the London gallery from 1977 to 1992 under the partnership of gallerist John Kasmin with New York's Knoedler Inc. The archive highlights the gallery's emphasis on abstract painting and sculpture and provides extensive information on notable contemporary artists such as David Hockney and Frank Stella.

Series I forms the bulk of the archive and consists of files on the artists whose work the gallery exhibited, including British artists Hockney, Stephen Buckley, Anthony Caro, Howard Hodgkin and Gillian Ayres, as well as American artists Stella, Helen Frankenthaler, Jules Olitski and Robert Motherwell. The series contains mostly exhibition announcements, clippings and photographic images of artists' works in the form of prints, transparencies, slides and negatives. Some files also include correspondence, business papers and exhibition catalogs. Filed at the end of the series (box 11) are unidentified color slides and transparencies.

Featured in Series II is a small section of papers and photographs related to group and special exhibitions at the gallery as well as art fairs in which the gallery participated. Included in this series are exhibition lists, announcements and correspondence. The photographic material consists of both black-and-white and color prints, transparencies and negatives documenting exhibition installation shots and artists' works.

Series III contains administrative records and operational documents for the gallery, including documentation of the gallery's incorporation in 1977 and closure in 1992. Records include lease documents, architectural plans, daybooks and clippings, as well as insurance claims and correspondence following a flood at the gallery in February 1984.

Series IV consists of inventory lists and invoices for artwork sold at Knoedler Kasmin Limited gallery between 1977 and 1992. The gallery's inventory is also documented in stock books and a small number of photographs of works sold before 1990. A large number of invoices for art sold at the gallery forms the major portion of the series.

Arrangement

Subjects - Names
Ayres, Gillian
Buckley, Stephen
Caro, Anthony
Hodgkin, Howard
Hockney, David
Frankenthaler, Helen
Francis, Sam
Olitski, Jules
Motherwell, Robert
Kasmin, John
Stella, Frank
Subjects - Corporate Bodies
Knoedler Kasmin Limited

Subjects - Topics
Art dealers -- England -- London
Art galleries, Commercial -- England -- London
Art, Modern -- 20th century
Art, Modern -- Collectors and collecting

Genres and Forms of Material
Photographs, Original
Slides (photographs)
Printed ephemera
Transparencies
Black-and-white prints (photographs)
Color prints (photographs)

Contributors
M. Knoedler & Co.
Knoedler Kasmin Limited
Kasmin, John

Physical Description: 24.2 Linear Feet(44 boxes, 1 flat file folder)

Scope and Content Note
The artist files form the bulk of the archive and document the artists the gallery represented including British artists David Hockney, Stephen Buckley, Anthony Caro, Howard Hodgkin and Gillian Ayres, as well as American artists Frank Stella, Helen Frankenthaler, Jules Olitski and Robert Motherwell. This section contains mostly exhibition announcements, clippings and photographic images of artists' works in the form of prints, transparencies, slides and negatives. Some files also include correspondence, business papers and exhibition catalogues. Filed at the end of the series (box 11) are unidentified color slides and transparencies. For more photographs of artists' works, see box 66 and 67 in Series IV.

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by artist with unidentified slides and negatives at the end.

box 1, folder 1
Arnold, Eve, 1987
Scope and Content Note
Exhibition announcements.

Ashbaugh, Dennis, 1980-1981
Papers, 1980-1982
box 1, folder 2
General, 1980-1981
Clippings (portfolio), 1980-1982
Photographs, 1980-1981
box 12
box 1, folder 3
Color transparencies, 1980-1981
box 7
box 1, folder 4
Avedisian, Edward, 1965-1966
Scope and Content Note
Exhibition announcements.

Ayres, Gillian, between 1980-1991
Papers, 1982-1991


box 1, folder 5-11  General, 1982-1991
  Scope and Content Note
  Includes exhibition announcements, clippings, business papers, invoice book and one black-and-white photograph.

box 12  Clippings (portfolio), 1983-1987
box 7  Color photographs, slides and negatives, 1980s
  Papers, 1964-1991
box 1, folder 12  Color transparencies and black-and-white negatives, undated
Bartlett, Jennifer, 1989-1990
box 1, folder 13  Exhibition announcements, 1989-1990
  Photographs, 1989
  Scope and Content Note

box 1, folder 14  Black-and-white prints
box 7  Color prints
  Scope and Content Note
  Folder 11 also includes black-and-white photographs.

box 26  Clippings (portfolios), 1972-1988
  Scope and Content Note
  See also box 25, folder 12.

box 43*, folder 1-2  Posters, 1979-1985, undated
box 13-14  Photographs, 1968-1989, undated
  Color, 1968-1989
  Prints, Polaroids, negatives, slides and transparencies, 1976-1989
  Scope and Content Note
  Also includes black-and-white negatives.

box 17-18  Black-and-white prints, 1972-1987, undated
  Binders, 1977-1987
  Scope and Content Note
  Photographs have been removed from original binder for conservation purposes.

box 19-24  Loose, 1972-1987, undated
box 25, folder 1  undated
box 2, folder 1-4  General, 1978-1991
box 12  Clippings (portfolio), 1978-1987
flatfile 1**  Exhibition poster, 1990
  Scope and Content Note
  For solo exhibition at Gallery Kasahara, Osaka.

Photographs, 1971-1989, undated
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>43*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Color prints, Polaroids, transparencies, slides and negatives, 1971-1986</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>Carter, John, 1991 Scope and Content Note Exhibition announcement.</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>Davis, Ron, 1968-1971 Scope and Content Note Color photographs and transparencies.</td>
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<td>Dzubas, Friedel, 1975-1983 Scope and Content Note Exhibition announcements.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Goodnough, Robert, circa 1970 Scope and Content Note Color transparencies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Gottlieb, Adolph, 1986 Scope and Content Note Exhibition catalogue.</td>
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<td>Grosz, George, undated Scope and Content Note One black-and-white photograph.</td>
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<td>Color prints, transparencies and one slide, 1987-1989, undated</td>
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<td>27, folder 1-6</td>
<td>Ephemera, 1978-1989</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Personal and business correspondence, 1971-1998</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>General, 1978-1984</td>
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<td>29A, folder 1-4</td>
<td>Clippings, 1977-1992</td>
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<td>30-34</td>
<td>Portfolio, 1977-1991</td>
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<td>43*, folder 4</td>
<td>Printed fabric, undated</td>
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<td>flatfile 1**</td>
<td>Various, 1978-1981, undated</td>
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<td>35-36</td>
<td>Exhibition poster: <em>Paintings and Drawings for 'Parade</em>', 1981</td>
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<td>Hodgkin, Howard, 1962-1989</td>
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<td>Photographs, 1962-1989</td>
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<td>4, folder 4</td>
<td>Black-and-white prints, 1979, 1981</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Color prints and slides, 1978-1980</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Holland, Tom, 1986-1988</td>
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<td>4, folder 5</td>
<td>Janowich, Ron, 1988</td>
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<td>4, folder 6</td>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Exhibition announcement.</td>
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<td>Kar, Ida, 1982-1983</td>
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<td>Exhibition announcements, 1982</td>
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<td>Clippings (portfolio), 1982-1983</td>
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<td>Exhibition announcements, 1970-1992</td>
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<td>Clippings (portfolio), 1982-1983</td>
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<td>Kinley, Peter, between 1977-1988</td>
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<td>Man Ray, 1981, undated</td>
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<td>Exhibition announcement, 1981</td>
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<td>Black-and-white photographs, undated</td>
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<td>Martinez, Ginetta, 1984-1986</td>
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<td>Matisse, Henri, undated</td>
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<td>Black-and-white photographs.</td>
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<td>McNeil, George, 1985-1989</td>
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<td>Papers, 1985-1989</td>
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<td>Color photographs, 1985</td>
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<td>5, folder 5</td>
<td>Motherwell, Robert, 1977-1984</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Papers, 1977-1984</td>
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<td>5, folder 6</td>
<td>Color transparency, circa 1978</td>
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<td>Muller, Richard, undated</td>
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<td>One color transparency.</td>
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<td>5, folder 7-8</td>
<td>Olitski, Jules, 1978-2007</td>
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<td>Also includes one black-and-white photograph.</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Clippings (portfolio), 1978</td>
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<td>Color print, transparencies and one slide, undated</td>
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<td>Owen, Frank, between 1980-1986</td>
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<td>Papers, 1981-1986</td>
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<td>General, 1981-1986</td>
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<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
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<td>Also includes two black-and-white photographs.</td>
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<td>Clippings (portfolio), 1983</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Color slides and transparencies, between 1980-1984</td>
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<td>Porter, Katherine, 1988</td>
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<td>Exhibition announcement.</td>
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<td>Prangenberg, Norbert, between 1978-1989</td>
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<td>Papers, 1981-1989</td>
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<td>Clippings (portfolio), 1983</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Photographs, between 1978-1985</td>
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<tr>
<td>5, folder 12</td>
<td>Black-and-white prints, between 1978-1982</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Color prints, contact sheets, transparencies and one Polaroid, between 1978-1985</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Price, Kenneth, circa 1967</td>
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<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
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<td>One color transparency.</td>
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<td>6, folder 1-2</td>
<td>Scott, Tim, 1978-1982</td>
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<td>Papers, 1978-1982</td>
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<td>Black-and-white photographs, between 1978-1980</td>
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<td>6, folder 3-4</td>
<td>Prints and contact sheets, 1978-1980</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Negatives, circa 1979</td>
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<td>6, folder 5</td>
<td>Shapiro, Joel, 1985</td>
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<td>6, folder 6</td>
<td>Smith, Matthew, 1976, undated</td>
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<td>Exhibition catalogue, 1976</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| 6   | 7      | Photographs, undated  

Black-and-white prints  
Color transparencies  

Smith, Richard, 1963-1990  
Papers, 1979-1990  
Photographs, 1963-1986  

Stella, Frank, 1961-1991  
Papers, 1961-1991  
Photographs, 1970-1990  
Black-and-white prints, 1981-1990  

Vilaincourt, Leon, 1982  
General papers  
Clippings (portfolio)  

Unidentified slides and negatives of artworks, undated

### Series II. Exhibition files, 1972-1992, 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| 44  | List of shows, circa 1986-1989  
Binder, circa 1986  
Scope and Content Note  
Contains list of works exhibited at the gallery from December 1977-1986 and organized by artist.  

45  | Papers, circa 1989  
Exhibition announcements, 1978-1992  
Business correspondence, 1972-1987, 2004  
Scope and Content Note  
Also includes exhibition announcements from various galleries.  

Photographs, 1977-1991  
Black-and-white prints, 1977-1986  
Scope and Content Note  
Also includes photographs of a summer party at the gallery in 1983.  

46  | Color prints, transparencies and negatives, 1977-1991  

### Series III. Gallery administration, 1963-2006

**Physical Description:** 4.3 Linear Feet (3.5 boxes, 1 flat file folder)

**Scope and Content Note**

This series contains administrative papers and operational documents for the gallery and provides historical information dating from the incorporation of Knoedler Inc. with Kasmin to papers regarding the gallery's closure in 1992. These documents include lease papers, architectural plans, daybooks and clippings. Another significant portion of the series is material related to damage from a flood at the gallery in February 1984, consisting mostly of insurance claims and correspondence.

**Arrangement**

Arranged by subject or by document type.

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#### Lease, 1981-1993

**Scope and Content Note**

For 22 Cork Street location.

- **box 45, folder 10-13**
- **flatfile 2**

#### Papers, 1981-1993

**Scope and Content Note**

Architectural drawings, 1981, 1984

- **box 45, folder 14-15**

#### Garage Art Limited, 1973-1975

**Scope and Content Note**

Business papers related to the purchase of the gallery by John Kasmin and Terence Conran.

- **box 45, folder 16**
- **box 45, folder 17**

#### Deed, 1982

**Scope and Content Note**

New gallery name report, 1992

- **box 47**

#### Flood records, 1984-1987

**Scope and Content Note**

Claims and correspondence related to flood damages at the gallery on February 10, 1984. Also contains black-and-white photographs.

- **box 48**

#### Clippings, 1963-2006

- **box 49, folder 1-2**
- **box 49, folder 3**
- **box 49, folder 4-5**
- **box 49, folder 6**

#### Hockney Polaroid Requests book, circa 1981

**Scope and Content Note**

Contains names and addresses of potential buyers interested in a Hockney Polaroid composite. Book was also used as a "Daily Events" logbook.

- **box 50**

#### Cash daybook, 1991-1992

- **box 50**

#### Purchase daybook, 1989-1992

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Series IV. Gallery inventory, 1977-1992

Physical Description: 15.8 Linear Feet (24.5 boxes)

Scope and Content Note

This series consists of inventory lists and invoices of art work sold at Knoedler Kasmin Limited gallery between 1977-1992. A record of the gallery's inventory is documented in stock books as well as a small number of photographs of artists' works sold before 1990. A large number of invoices for art sold at the gallery form the majority of the section.

Arrangement

Arranged by subject or by document type.

box 49, folder 7-9

Price lists, 1978-1990

Invoices, 1977-1992

box 51-52

1977

box 52-53

1978

box 52-55

1979

box 54-56

1980

box 55-57

1981

box 57-58

1982

box 58-59

1983

box 59-60

1984

box 59-60

1985

box 60-62

1986

box 61-63

1987

box 63-64

1988

box 64-65

1989

box 65

1990-1992

box 65, folder 24

Miscellaneous, 1987-1991

Photographs, undated

Scope and Content Note

Stock sold before 1990. Photographs of artists' works.

box 66, folder 1-19

Black-and-white prints, undated

box 67

Color prints, transparencies, negatives, and one Polaroid, undated

box 66, folder 20

Stock list, 1990-1992

Stock books, 1977-1992

Scope and Content Note

Organized by inventory number.

box 68


box 69


box 70

K2540-K3021, September 1984-November 1987

box 71

K2540-K3116, November 1987-November 1988

box 72

K3117-K3327, December 1988-November 1991

box 68

5652-6236, 1974-1979

box 73

6554-6687, March 1980-February 1988

box 74

6923-7219, March 1988-February 1992