Finding aid for the Everett Ellin papers, 1928-2013

Julie Park
Descriptive Summary

Title: Everett Ellin papers
Date (inclusive): 1928-2013
Number: 2015.M.22
Creator/Collector: Ellin, Everett
Physical Description: 6 Linear Feet (14 boxes; 5 audiocassettes; 4 audio discs; 1 computer disc; 3 videocassettes)
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: Everett Ellin was the polymathic owner of two well-regarded art galleries in Los Angeles during the late 1950s and the early 1960s. He invigorated the local art scene by bringing major artists from New York to Los Angeles. He also created a vital link between technology and museums by founding the Museum Computer Network. After leaving the art world, he worked as an entrepreneur in energy management and medical imaging technology, as an inventor of media devices, an executive for SONY, and as a business consultant. The papers document Ellin's professional life, including his work with the Everett Ellin Gallery, French & Company, and the Museum Computer Network. A small quantity of personal papers is also present.

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 Note

Everett Ellin was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1928 and died in 2011 in Diana, Texas. While he is most known in the art world as a Los Angeles dealer of contemporary art, his BS in Industrial and Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan (1949) and JD from Harvard Law School (1952) allowed him to follow diverse career paths before and after he ran the Everett Ellin Gallery (1957-1958) and Everett Ellin Gallery, Inc. (1960-1963). Ellin is regarded as one of the key local gallery owners responsible for animating the mid-century Los Angeles art scene by showcasing contemporary art from New York. Before opening the gallery, Ellin served as a US Air Force officer in the Korean War, assisted the Vice President of the William Morris Agency, clerked for a justice of the California Supreme Court, and served as Deputy House Counsel for Columbia Pictures. In 1959 he opened the Everett Ellin Gallery on Santa Monica Boulevard, a move which developed out of his experience of writing gallery contracts for his girlfriend and future wife, the painter Joan Jacobs, and her artist friends. In this first iteration of his gallery, he showed California abstract expressionist artists, including Bruce Beasley, to whom he gave his first show.

Ellin's hunger to see the world of abstract expressionism in its native environment led him to take a job in New York as Director of the Contemporary Art Department at French & Company. Recommending him for the job was Clement Greenberg, "the mastermind and spiritual leader of the gallery," as Ellin put it in the Smithsonian Interview. Greenberg also served as his mentor during his directorship. It was this experience at French and Company that brought him into direct contact with the most high-profile figures in contemporary art at the time, including David Smith, whose successful show at the gallery was organized by Ellin. When French and Company changed leadership in 1960, he returned to Los Angeles to open his second gallery, Everett Ellin Gallery Inc., on Sunset Boulevard, where he organized a version of his David Smith show. His time in New York also allowed him to bring the works of Jean Arp, Helen Frankenthaler, several Dadaists, Arshile Gorky, and Jasper Johns (in a retrospective show among others), to Los Angeles.

After closing his second gallery in 1963, Ellin was hired by Frank Lloyd to work at the Marlborough Gallery upon its opening, where he organized a Jackson Pollock retrospective exhibition. This was followed by a post at the Guggenheim Museum as Officer-in-Charge of Public Affairs, a position that required him to build attendance numbers at the museum and increase its publicity. His success in increasing museum attendance to reach "the millions" resulted in his promotion to Assistant Director. He left the Guggenheim not long after he became interested in "bringing the electronic age to museums" after reading Marshall McLuhan. His article "Museums as a Medium" reveals the formation of the ideas that led him to leave the Guggenheim to create the Museum Computer Network, an initiative funded by the Mellon Foundation and hosted by the...
Museum of Modern Art from 1968 to 1970. A pioneering digital humanist, Ellin was perhaps the first to think of digitizing museum images and textual records to make them widely accessible. The Museum Computer Network is still a thriving organization today.

Ellin's work in promoting the digitization of museum information can be viewed as the transition point between his work in the art world and his subsequent work in decidedly non-art-related areas, such as medical digital imaging technology. Following the direction illuminated by reading McLuhan, and building on his college degree in industrial and mechanical engineering, Ellin left the art world at the end of his period as Executive Director of the Museum Computer Network to pursue a multifarious and largely entrepreneurial career as a developer and inventor of different media technologies, an executive at Sony Corporation, a management consultant, a professor of marketing, business and technology, and a regional/urban planner. In his later years he was regularly sought after to give lectures at museums about Jackson Pollock, his work as a consultant, and the art world in general.


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Preferred Citation
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2015m22

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Acquired in 2015

Processing Information
Processed by Julie Park under the supervision of Kit Messick, Fall 2018.

Related Archival Materials
Two published works have been transferred next hit to the library's general collection and may be found by searching the Library Catalog for Everett Ellin.

Scope and Content of Collection
The collection contains both personal papers and material relating to Ellin's professional activities, particularly as related to the operation of the Everett Ellin Gallery. Also present is material related to his directorship of the contemporary art gallery of French & Company, his work as Public Affairs Officer at the Guggenheim Museum, and as founder of the Museum Computer Network. Ellin's other professional endeavors are documented in business files, correspondence, clippings and offprints, and audio and video recordings. A small quantity of personal papers and photographs is also present.

Arrangement

Subjects - Names
Smith, David
Ellin, Everett

Subjects - Corporate Bodies
Museum Computer Network
French & Company (New York, N.Y.)
Everett Ellin Gallery

Subjects - Topics
Art galleries, Commercial -- California -- Los Angeles
Art dealers -- California -- Los Angeles
Finding aid for the Everett Ellin papers, 1928-2013

Art dealers -- Archives

Contributors
Ellin, Everett
Everett Ellin Gallery
Everett Ellin Gallery

Series I. Personal papers, 1928-2013

Physical Description: 2.5 Linear Feet(4 boxes)

Scope and Content Note
Contains vital and legal documents including diplomas and certificates, academic transcripts, curricula vitae, financial records, obituaries, school activities, and personal and family photographs.

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

School and military records, 1928-1969

- Box 1, Folder 1: Early school and personal records, 1928-1945
  - University of Michigan, 1946-1949
  - Military duty, 1948-1952
  - Harvard Law School, 1949-1952
- Box 1, Folder 5: Diplomas and certificates, 1950-1969
  - 1950-1951
- Box 1, Folder 8: Correspondence, approximately 1952-2009
  - 1950-1969
- Box 11, Folder 1: Passports, 1953-1974
- Box 1, Folder 10: Photographs, 1957, 2008-2011
  - Family, approximately 1957
  - Color slides, 1968
  - Renate Nunn, 2008-2011
- Box 10: CVs, resumes and profiles, approximately 1971-2006
  - Material relating to New York properties, 1974-1976
- Box 2, Folder 1: Personal miscellany, approximately 1968-2003
  - Scope and Content Note
    - Includes a fitness report, slides of the moon, and a publication by Ellin’s newphew, political scientist Mitchell A. Orenstein.
- Box 2, Folder 4: Financial records, 1998-2006
- Box 2, Folder 11: Community work in Longview, Texas, approximately 1999-2002
- Box 2, Folder 3: Harvard Magazine article, 2002
  - Condolences and memorial, 2011-2012
  - Condolence letters to Renate Nunn, 2011-2012
  - Photographs of memorial service, 2012
- Box 2, Folder 13: Recording of memorial service, 2012
  - Scope and Content Note
    - 1 audio disc: digital, mono; 4 3/4 in. On disc: Everett’s Memorial with some of William’s Sound Rec. 9-29-2012.
Series II. **Gallery and museum files, 1957-2008**

**Physical Description:** 3.75 Linear Feet (9 boxes)

**Scope and Content Note**
Contains artists’ files, catalogs, publicity, lectures, notebooks and interviews related to Ellin's art career, including his eponymous galleries on Santa Monica and Sunset Boulevards, and work for the Museum Computer Network.

**Arrangement**
Arranged chronologically.

**Artists files, 1959-2008**

- Box 4, Folder 8
  - Barnett Newman, 1959-2004

- Box 4, Folder 9
  - John Graham, 1966
    - Scope and Content Note
      - With text by Ellin.

**Jackson Pollock, approximately 2001-2002**

- Lectures, approximately 2001-2002
  - Cleveland Museum of Art, undated
    - Scope and Content Note
      - 1 computer disc (floppy disk) : 3 1/2 in.
      - Born digital material unavailable until reformatted

- Box 13, item CM1
  - "Jackson Pollock Revisited July 19, 2001; Charlie Wyle/Dr. Everett Ellin," 2001
    - 1 audiocassette: analog, 1 7/8 lps; 3 7/8 x 2 1/2 in., 1/8 in tape.

- Box 12, item C11
  - "Jackson Pollock Revisited 7.19.01; Wylie/Ellin--Horchow", 2001
    - 1 audiocassette: analog, 1 7/8 lps; 3 7/8 x 2 1/2 in., 1/8 in tape.

- Item 12, item C13-C14
  - "Jackson Pollock Revisited By Everett Ellin January 25, 2002; Cleveland Musem of Art", 2002
    - 1 audiocassette: analog, 1 7/8 lps; 3 7/8 x 2 1/2 in., 1/8 in tape.

- Box 14, Item V1
  - "Pollock Revisited", approximately 2002
    - 1 videocassette (VHS) (120 min.): sound, color; 1/2 in.

- Box 14, Item V2
  - "Jackson Pollock Revisited; By Everett Ellin; January 25, 2002," 2002
    - 1 videocassette (VHS) (120 min.): sound, color; 1/2 in.

**Robert Motherwell, 2004-2008**

- Box 5, Folder 10
  - Everett Ellin Gallery, approximately 1957-2004
  - 9083 Santa Monica Boulevard, approximately 1957-1966
    - Scope and Content Note
      - Includes photographs, promotional material, and clippings.

**David Smith, 1957-2006**

- Box 3, Folder 3
  - Everett Ellin Gallery exhibition catalogs, 1957-1982
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, folder 4</th>
<th>Other exhibition catalogs, 1957-1982</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalogs from various American exhibitions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 5</th>
<th>Publicity material, 1959-2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes clippings, exhibition checklists, photographs, and contemporary notes and images of Smith's work annotated by Ellin.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 10</th>
<th>Color slides, 1960-1961</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twelve slides in sleeve.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 6</th>
<th>Joan Jacobs, approximately 1959-1962 Papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various papers relating to Joan Jacobs, her work, and her exhibition at Everett Ellin Gallery, including news clippings, posters, exhibition checklists, marriage certificate, and wedding invitation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 9</th>
<th>Color slides and negatives of paintings undated 86540 Sunset Boulevard, approximately 1960-1963</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes posters and photographs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 11, Folder 3</th>
<th>Oversize material, Slides and negatives of paintings, approximately 1961-1965</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 8</td>
<td>Black and white negatives of paintings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9</td>
<td>Color slides and negatives of paintings;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five identified as Clayton Pinkerton, one more with duplicate possibly by him (1961 Pinkerton show at Ellin Gallery); two strips of unidentified gallery paintings; one sleeve of color negatives of two Clyfford Still paintings, one Willem de Kooning (Stenographer) and two John Graham paintings; separate sleeve of color negatives of Adolph Gottlieb, de Kooning (Stenographer) and two unidentified paintings.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 1</th>
<th>Arshile Gorky exhibition catalog, 1962</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 2</td>
<td>Jasper Johns exhibition catalog, 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 3</td>
<td>Jean Tinguely exhibition ephemera, 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 4</td>
<td>Notebook, approximately 1962-1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed notes on contemporary artists, including price lists, and material concerning deals with other dealers including Leo Castelli and Virginia Dwan.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 5</th>
<th>Jean Arp, approximately 1963 Exhibition catalog</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 10</td>
<td>Color slides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six slides</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 6</th>
<th>Bruce Beasley artist file, 1963-2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Box 4, Folder 7  
**Research file, 2003-2004**  
Scope and Content Note  
Contains research on the Everett Ellin Gallery collected by Ellin. Material has largely been collected from the internet.

**French & Company, 1959-1960**  
**David Smith artist file, 1959-1960**  
Scope and Content Note  
Includes catalogs from two exhibitions, notes, and an offprint discussing Smith's work.

**Box 4, Folder 11**  
**Hiring announcement, 1960**  
**Adolph Gottlieb, 1960**  
**Catalog**  
**Color slides**  
Scope and Content Note  
Twelve slides.

**Box 4, Folder 13**  
**Morris Louis artist file, 1960**  
Scope and Content Note  
Includes price list.

**Box 4, Folder 14**  
**Guggenheim, 1964-2001**  
Scope and Content Note  
Clippings and information about the Guggenheim, as well as a 1968 photograph of Ellin with Kirk Douglas at the museum.

**Box 4, Folder 15**  
**Museum Computer Network, approximately 1966-2004**  
**Publications, 1966-1969**  
Scope and Content Note  
Belmont Report includes writing by Ellin (marked by lines and tabs).

**Box 5, Folder 1**  
**Conference activities, approximately 2000-2004**  
**Conference Talk "MCN--Everett Speaking in Toronto, Canada; October 2002", 2002**  
Scope and Content Note  
1 audio disc: digital, mono; 4 3/4 in.

**Box 5, Folder 2**  
**Notes, correspondence, slides, consulting work, approximately 1990-2008**  
Scope and Content Note  
Three unidentified black-and-white slides of art work.

**Box 10**  
**Color art history study slides, approximately 1990**  
**Writings and lectures, approximately 1965-2008**  
**Notebook, approximately 1998-2001**  
Scope and Content Note  
Notebook incompletely filled out with some art-related notes interspersed with notes on inventions and ideas for new projects.

**Box 5, Folder 7**  
**Clement Greenberg research, 2002-2005**  
**Museums in the USA, 2004**  
**Getty Research Institute: Modern Art in LA, 2004**  
**Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Art Oral History Interview, 2004-2007**  
**“Study Guide to Art History,” 2005**
Box 13, Item D3  "All Art Talk," approximately 2006
Scope and Content Note
1 audio disc: digital, mono; 4 3/4 in.

**Everett Ellin interview about David Smith with Galleries Guggenheim, approximately 2006**

Box 12, Item C7  Cassette
Scope and Content Note
1 audiocassette (90 min.): analog, 1 7/8 lps; 3 7/8 x 2 1/2 in., 1/8 in tape.

Box 13, Item D2  Compact disc
Scope and Content Note

Box 6, Folder 3  "Art world contacts" and "Diary", undated
Scope and Content Note
Diary includes word processed list of meetings with dealers, collectors and artists Ellin met with over the course of 1962-1963, including Ellin's notes for each meeting. Also included are documents downloaded from websites. Though content dates from the 1960s, the documents were created at a later date.

Series III. Other professional files, 1952-2008
Physical Description: 1.66 Linear Feet (4 boxes)
Scope and Content Note
Series III. contains materials pertaining to Ellin's other professional endeavors, including his work as an inventor, engineer, medical imaging technology developer, and consultant.
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Box 6, Folder 4  Legal career, approximately 1952-1999
Box 6, Folder 5  Letterhead and business cards, approximately 1971-2000
SONY, 1972-1974
Box 6, Folder 6  Papers, 1972-1974
Scope and Content Note
Includes advertisements, product leaflet and brochures, black-and-white photographs of company visit to Japan.

Box 10  Color photographs of trip to Japan, approximately 1972-1974
Box 6, Folder 7  Inventions, technology initiatives and entrepreneurship, approximately 1973-1996
Box 12, Item C1  Invention drawings, approximately 1973-1996
Word Processing Institute, 1973
Scope and Content Note
1 audiocassette (90 min.): analog, 1 7/8 lps; 3 7/8 x 2 1/2 in., 1/8 in tape. On cassette: Word Processing Institute 12/4/73.

Box 12, Item C2  Everett speaking; demonstration tape recording on Audioopticon, 1973
Scope and Content Note
1 audiocassette (60 min.): analog, 1 7/8 lps; 3 7/8 x 2.

Box 12, Item C3  Answers of E. Ellin; designing business answering phone, approximately 1973
Scope and Content Note
1 audiocassette (30 min.): analog, 1 7/8 lps; 3 7/8 x 2 1/2 in., 1/8 in tape.
Box 12, Item C4

Entrepeneurship class, 1976
Scope and Content Note
1 audiocassette (60 min.): analog, 1 7/8 lps; 3 7/8 x 2 1/2 in., 1/8 in tape. On cassette: 1/16/76.

Box 6, Folder 8
Box 6, Folder 9
Box 7

University of Maine Product Creation Conference proceedings, 1977
Energy management, approximately 1979
A Region's Struggling Savior: Small Business in New England, 1979
Scope and Content Note
Includes essay by Ellin: 208-239

Box 7, Folder 1
Box 12, Item C4

Writings and notes, 1979-2003
"PBS Trains + a minute of Everett classroom talk", approximately 1970s
Scope and Content Note
1 audiocassette (90 min.): analog, 1 7/8 lps; 3 7/8 x 2 1/2 in., 1/8 in tape.

Box 7, Folder 2

Enerflux, approximately 1980-1982
Scope and Content Note
Encompasses Ellin's work as a technology consultant on energy analysis and management.

Box 7, Folder 3

Santa Fe Historic Design Board, approximately 1984-1991
Design board clippings, approximately 1984-1991
Correspondence, statements, minutes, research, approximately 1986-1990
"Automobile talk w. Everett and House in New Mexico talk--Everett questions", approximately 1984
Scope and Content Note
1 audiocassette (60 min.): analog, 1 7/8 lps; 3 7/8 x 2 1/2 in., 1/8 in tape.

Box 8, Folder 3

Scantech, approximately 1984-1993
Correspondence and clippings, approximately 1984-1993
Scope and Content Note
Correspondence includes letter from Senator Jeff Bingaman commending Ellin's achievement as technology developer for Scantech

box 14, Item V3

"Going for it; Everett Ellin; Scantech," approximately 1990
Scope and Content Note
1 videocassette (VHS) (60 min.): sound, color; 1/2 in.

Imrex, 1996

Box 8, Folder 3

Corporate information, 1996
Scope and Content Note
Contains correspondence, business plan, certificate of incorporation, and project proposal for an airport bag-matching system.

Box 10

Passport photograph, 1996

Medical Imaging, 1996-2008
Box 12, Item C8

"Radiography of new machines /Varian--Everett Talking", 1994
Scope and Content Note
1 audiocassette (90 min.): analog, 1 7/8 lps; 3 7/8 x 2 1/2 in., 1/8 in tape

Box 8, Folder 4

Correspondence, briefs, agreements and invoices, 1996-2008
Box 10  Color photographs, approximately 1996
  Scope and Content Note
  Six photographs of Ellin viewing and using medical imaging equipment.

Box 8, Folder 5-6  Articles by Ellin, 1997
Box 8, Folder 7  General publicity, 1999-2008
Box 10  News stories about Ellin in local and national press, approximately 1999-2008
Box 10  Color photograph of Ellin sitting in plane, 1999
  Scope and Content Note

Box 8, Folder 8  Pacific Photonics and Team daVinci, approximately 2000-2004