

Lawrence Wolfson Papers

ALSC MS 0001



Kathy Winsor Bohlman

June 2021

Arts Library Special Collections
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<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library Special Collections
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180 York Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203-432-1712
haasalsc@yale.edu
<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

CALL NUMBER: ALSC MS 0001

CREATOR: Wolfson, Lawrence

TITLE: Lawrence Wolfson papers

DATES: 1950-2015

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.46 linear feet (6 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Materials in English and German.

SUMMARY: Papers include sketches and other manuscript material created by Lawrence Wolfson while a student in the Master of Fine Arts program in Graphic Design at Yale University between 1973 and 1975, as well as a final project artists' book created at RISD in 1972-1973 and submitted as part of the portfolio for his application to Yale. The represented Yale courses include drawing, typography, design, and studio photography. Among his instructors were Inge Druckrey, Norman Ives, Armin Hoffman, Herbert Matter, Samia Halaby, Paul Rand, and Alvin Eisenman.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.ms.0001>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/arts.ms.0001>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Lawrence Wolfson (Yale 1975), 2017, 2023-2024.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright is retained by the creator(s) of this collection for materials they have authored or otherwise produced. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Lawrence Wolfson Papers (ALSC MS 1). Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library Special Collections, Yale Library.

Biographical / Historical

Lawrence Wolfson (born 1951) grew up on Long Island. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1973 and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Yale, in 1975.

Wolfson worked for several years as a Senior Designer at the New York design firm, Pentagram, before founding his own firm, Lawrence Wolfson Design, in 1986.

Content Description

Papers include sketches and other manuscript material created by Lawrence Wolfson while a student in the Master of Fine Arts program in Graphic Design at Yale University between 1973 and 1975, as well as a final project artists' book created at RISD in 1972-1973 and submitted as part of the portfolio for his application to Yale. The represented Yale courses include drawing, typography, design, and studio photography. Among his instructors were Inge Druckrey, Norman Ives, Armin Hoffman, Herbert Matter, Samia Halaby, Paul Rand, and Alvin Eisenman.

Also included is Wolfson's collection of posters and other ephemera – representing the graphic design work of Armin Hofmann, Wolfgang Weingart, Ken Komai, Willi Kunz, Dan Friedman, and others. Soon after graduating from Yale, Wolfson travelled to the Kunstgewerbeschule in Basel, Switzerland to visit Armin Hofmann and meet Weingart. He amassed the bulk of this collection of broadsides and other publications during this trip.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in two series. I. Student work, 1972-1975. II. Graphic design collection, 1960-2015.

Collection Contents

Series I: Student work, 1972–1975

Organized by place or course instructor

	Rhode Island School of Design course	1972–1973
b. 6	Untitled artists' book RISD work used as part of the portfolio for the application to the Yale graphic design program.	1972–1973
	Paul Rand design course	
b. 1, f. 1	Book design of essay by Sergei Eisenstein	1973–1975
	Alvin Eisenman design course	
b. 1, f. 2	Type layout studies using a typewriter and photostat map, "A Guide to Direct Transportation to and from New Haven"	1973–1975
	Inge Druckrey design course	
b. 3, f. 19	Object studies, pencil on paper; composition study, freehand painted composition, Plaka paint on paper, 4 pieces	
b. 2, f. 14	Object study – b & w photograph in different lighting situations, printed on card, 3 pieces	
b. 2, f. 13	Object studies - Plaka paint on paper, 6 pieces	
b. 2, f. 15	Composition studies, Plaka paint on board – "Composition in five columns", "Composition in a grid"	
b. 2, f. 17	Final graphic translation of the object, Plaka paint on board	
	Herbert Matter studio photography course	
b. 2, f. 12	8 black and white photographs (most 5 x 7") mounted on card	
	Samia Halaby drawing course	
b. 3, f. 20	"Interior study," "Planes in space," pencil on paper. 5 pieces	
	Armin Hofmann color and typography course	
b. 4, f. 29	Color family on different backgrounds, Plaka paint on board, 3 pieces 11 x 11"	
b. 2, f. 18b. 4, f. 32	Black and white and color family applied to Art/Architecture symbol, Plaka paint on board, 5 pieces	
b. 3, f. 20	Sketches for symbol for the Art and Architecture Schools, pencil on paper.	
	Norman Ives typography/letterform design course	
b. 4, f. 31	Letterform design, Plaka paint on board, 3 pieces, 11 x 11"	

Series II: Graphic design collection, 1950–2015

Organized by designer.

Wolfgang Weingart		
b. 1, f. 6	Educational Concepts / School of Design, Basel, Switzerland	1972–1975
b. 1, f. 7	Thoughts on the study and making of visual signs	1985
b. 3, f. 21	Order form for 9 collages	1975
b. 3, f. 21	Order form for 12 Kalenders	1974–1975
b. 3, f. 22	Posters: Documentation, edition of 50-90 each, Blatt 16, Blatt 17, Blatt 18, Blatt 19, Blatt 20	1960–1970
b. 3, f. 23	Posters: Documentation, edition of 50-90 each, Blatt 21, Blatt 6, Blatt 7, Blatt 9, Blatt 10	1960–1970
b. 3, f. 24	Posters: Documentation, edition of 50-90 each, Blatt 11, Blatt 12, Blatt 13, Blatt 14, Blatt 15	1960–1970
b. 5, f. 7	TM Cover Design Competition poster	1975
Ken Komai		
b. 3, f. 21	Poster	1975
Dan Friedman		
b. 3, f. 21	Poster for Yale Symphony	1973
Willi Kunz		
b. 1, f. 8	New year's card signed by WK, lecture postcard, gallery map	1986–2015
b. 1, f. 9	Canyon de Chelly pamphlet	
b. 1, f. 10	12 Typographical Interpretations	1972
b. 1, f. 11	Ives-Silliman pamphlet, Kunstgewerbemuseum Zürich exhibition catalog	1974
b. 3, f. 25	Posters: designed for Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, 8 pieces.	n.d.
b. 3, f. 26	Posters: designed to advertise programs offered by Columbia University School of Architecture and Planning (3)	
b. 3, f. 26	Posters: designed for photographer, Fredrich Cantor (3).	
b. 3, f. 27-30	Posters: designed for Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture and Planning for lectures and exhibitions, 29 total	1986–2004
Inge Druckrey		
b. 1, f. 3	Yale School of Art brochure-poster designed by Inge Druckrey	1974
Armin Hoffman		

Armin Hoffman (continued)

b. 1, f. 4	AGS Basel School of Design	1981-1985
b. 1, f. 5	The Basel School of Design and Its Philosophy	1986
Container Corporation of America		
b. 5, f. 2	1952-53 portfolio This portfolio lacks "The Declaration of the Rights of Man" by W. H. Allner, and "Epictetus" by Jean Varda.	1952-1953
b. 5, f. 3	1954-56 portfolio This portfolio lacks "Goethe" by Antonio Frasconi; "Epictetus" by Leo Lionni; "Mr. Justice Holmes" by Jack Gregory; "Jane Addams" by George Giusti; "Benedict Spinoza" by Richard Lindner; "Adam Smith" by Arthur Williams; "William Graham Sumner" by Joseph Gering; "Plato" by Egbert Jacobson and Adrian Lozano.	1954-1956
b. 5, f. 4	1956-58 portfolio This portfolio lacks Bhagavad-Gita" by Mohan B. Samant, and has an extra copy of "Horace Mann" by Lester Beall.	1956-1958
b. 5, f. 5	1960-63 portfolio This portfolio is complete.	1960-1963

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Genres / Formats

Sketches

Subjects

Graphic design

Graphic design (Typography)

Names

Druckrey, Inge

Friedman, Dan

Komai, Ken

Kunz, Willi

Weingart, Wolfgang, 1941-

Acquired From

Wolfson, Lawrence , donor