

# Lang, Chloe and Tom Leback Theresa Pollak collection

Chloe Lang and Tom Leback Theresa Pollak collection

1962-2003



## Title Statement

Lang, Chloe and Tom Leback Theresa Pollak collectionA Guide to the Chloe Lang and Tom Leback Theresa Pollak collection, 1974-2003 M 581

**Subtitle:** A collection in Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, M 581

**Author:** Keahi Adolpho

## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** VCU James Branch Cabell Library

Special Collections and Archives 901 Park Avenue

Richmond, Virginia 23284

Business Number: (804) 828-1108

libsca@vcu.edu

URL: <https://www.library.vcu.edu/research-teaching/special-collections-and-archives/locations/#cabell>



2025. By Virginia Commonwealth University. CC-BY-NC 4.0

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-12-06 07:02:00 -0500.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

M 581

**Unit ID**

/repositories/5/resources/659

**Unit Date**

1962-2003

**Unit Date**

1974-2003

**Mixed Materials**

1 (box)

**Language**

English

**Creator**

Lang Leback, Chloe

**Creator**

Leback, Tom

**source**

Leback, Tom

**Extent**

0.42 Linear Feet One letter document box.

**Repository**

VCU James Branch Cabell Library

## Administrative Information

**Access restrictions**

The collection is open to research.

**Use Restrictions**

There are no restrictions.

**Acquisition Information**

Gift of Chloe Lang Leback and Tom Leback, 2025-04-22.

**Preferred Citation**

Chloe Lang and Tom Leback Theresa Pollak collection, 1974-2003, Collection # M 581, Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

## Biographical / Historical Information

Theresa Pollak (1899-2002) was a Virginia artist and art educator who was instrumental in the founding of Virginia Commonwealth University's School of the Arts. Born in Richmond, Virginia, Pollak was a nationally recognized painter whose art works have been exhibited in institutions such as the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Museum of Fine Art in Boston, and the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D. C. More importantly, Pollak is credited with the introduction of modern art to Richmond.

Born August 13th, 1899, Pollak graduated from Westhampton College of the University of Richmond. In 1920 she was accepted at the Art Students League of New York, and with the support of Dr. Orie Latham Hatcher, who helped her get a tuition scholarship, she was able to continue her work at the League after graduating from Westhampton in 1921. During Pollak's stay in New York, one of her drawings was awarded the first prize at the Studio club of New York (1926). She continued her training with post-graduate work at the Fogg Museum of Harvard University, and later she studied at the Hans Hoffmann School of Painting in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

In 1928 Pollak became the first full time art teacher at Richmond Professional Institute (RPI), at that time a division of William and Mary College. Two years later she also helped start an art program at Westhampton College. In 1935 she began teaching full time at RPI and devoted much of her other time to her own work. A year after RPI merged in 1968 with the Medical College of Virginia to become Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Pollak retired from the school. In 1971, the newly completed fine arts building on what is now the Monroe Park campus of VCU was named in her honor. Her forty-one year teaching career influenced generations of Virginia artists.

A noted Virginia artist with paintings in the permanent collections of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the University of Virginia, Mary Baldwin College, and in numerous private collections, Pollak's paintings are part of the Permanent Research Collection at Virginia Commonwealth University's Anderson Gallery. She died at the age of 103 on September 18th, 2002.

## Content Description

Collection contains personal correspondence from Theresa Pollak to Tom Leback and Chloe Lang Leback,

photos, fabric patches, collected news clippings about Theresa Pollak, and two copies of the book *European Drawings* by Theresa Pollak. Collection also includes one drawing of Chloe Lang by Theresa Pollak.

## Related Materials

Theresa Pollak papers

Chloe Lang and Tom Leback also donated artwork by Theresa Pollak, which is part of the VCU Libraries Anderson Gallery collection.

List of artwork by Theresa Pollak donated by Lang and Leback in the Anderson Gallery collection:

## Keywords

Women painters -- Virginia -- Richmond

Painters -- Virginia -- Richmond

Women artists -- Virginia -- Richmond

Artists -- Virginia -- Richmond

Personal correspondence

Correspondence

clippings (information artifacts)

textile patches

Photographs

Pollak, Theresa, 1899-2002

Lang Leback, Chloe -- Correspondence

Leback, Tom -- Correspondence

Richmond Professional Institute -- Faculty

Virginia Commonwealth University. School of Art -- Faculty

Leback, Tom

## Arrangement

Letters are arranged chronologically. Collection folders are arranged alphabetically.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Correspondence

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/78363

**Unit Date** 1974-1978

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

### Correspondence

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/78364

**Unit Date** 1980-1984

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

### Correspondence

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/78365

**Unit Date** 1985-1989

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Correspondence****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/78366**Unit Date** 1990-1999**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Correspondence****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/78367**Unit Date** 2001-2003, undated**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**European Drawings book****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/78368**Unit Date** 1962**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**News clippings****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/78369**Unit Date** 1980-1998**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Patches****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/78370**Unit Date** undated**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Photos****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/78371**Unit Date** 1985-1990**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)