

Finding Aid to the Records of the Artist and the Quilt, 1973-2003 Archives of Women Artists

Finding Aid Prepared by and Collection Processed by:
Chris Burroughs, (June, 2014)

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Overview

Repository Information:

National Museum of Women in the Arts,
Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center
1250 New York Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
Email: lrc@nmwa.org
Phone: 202-783-5000

Title:

The Records of the Artist and the Quilt

Provenance:

The collection was presented as a gift of Charlotte Robinson on Sept. 20, 2005.

Collection Dates:

Inclusive Dates: 1973-2003
Bulk Dates: 1981-1985

Physical Description:

7 boxes (approx. 2.8 linear feet)

Summary:

The National Museum of Women in the Arts is the primary repository for the *Records of the Artist and the Quilt*, a traveling exhibit that displayed quilts created from the paintings of various artists. The collection includes materials documenting the development, creation, and exhibition of the project, most notably correspondence between the exhibit curators and artists/quilters, photographs and slides of the artwork and quilts, and exhibit specifications. Also included are financial documents, promotional materials for the exhibit and other related exhibitions, and a quilt-covered scrapbook that includes personal stories about quilts from several individuals. Materials in the collection range in date from the 1973 until 2003, with the majority of items dating from 1981 to 1985.

Finding Aid URL:

<https://nmwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Finding-Aid-to-Records-of-the-Artist-and-the-Quilt-Finding-Aid.pdf>

Administrative Information**Access Information:**

Unrestricted

Preferred Citation:

Item, Date, Series, The Records of the Artist and the Quilt, Archives of Women Artists, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center.

Publication and Photocopies Note:

Permission from the National Museum of Women in the Arts required for publication and reproduction of original materials. Photocopies of original materials can be made for a fee and at the discretion of the library director.

Processed by:

Chris Burroughs, June 2014

Processing Note:

The collection was processed and a finding aid was written in June 2014 by Chris Burroughs. Some organization of the collection had been completed before its reorganization in 2014. Reorganization was deemed necessary as there were no clear series delineations, with similar materials scattered throughout the boxes.

A stack of additional receipts and invoices was found in the spring of 2021. Those materials were incorporated into Series 4. An additional box was added, box 3a, to accommodate the newly-found materials.

The foam core photo montage, mentioned in the preliminary inventory, was deconstructed in June 2021. The choice was made to remove the images from the poster due to their poor condition, the presence of toxic materials and the challenge in storing them properly when on foam core. The images were filed into the existing photograph collection.

Historical Note

The Artist and the Quilt was a project that was first conceived by several of the participating artists in 1975, with artist Charlotte Robinson serving as project coordinator, as a way of celebrating United Nations International Women's Year. The proposed traveling exhibition was a collaboration between well-known artists and quilt makers that included 20 quilts as well as original art work designed for each piece. Due to a lack of funding, the project was put on hold for approximately two years, until a 1977 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts allowed for the project to continue as planned. For the project, eighteen artists were chosen to create works that seventeen quilters would copy as quilts. Once completed, the exhibition consisted of twenty quilts, 18 paintings and a "process wall," demonstrating the production of six quilts.

The exhibition was opened in San Antonio in September 1983 and traveled to venues in Winston-Salem, NC.; New Brunswick, NJ; Philadelphia; Newport News, VA; Louisville, KY; Indianapolis; Huntington, WV; Washington, DC; Los Angeles; Columbus, OH; Tampa, FL; Peoria, IL; Albany, NY; New York City; Duxbury, MA; Hamilton, NY; Owensboro, KY; and Shreveport, LA for the next three years. After exhibition, the collection was purchased by Philip Morris Companies Inc. (now Altria Group, Inc.). A pictorial book and a short film on the project for public broadcasting stations document the exhibition.

Artists included in the exhibition were: Alice Baber, Lynda Benglis, Isabel Bishop, Elaine Lustig Cohen, Harmony Hammond, Mary Beth Edleson, Dorothy Gillespie, Marcia King, Joyce Kozloff, Marilyn Lanfear, Ellen Lanyon, Alice Neel, Betty Parsons, Faith Ringgold, Robinson, Miriam Schapiro, Betye Saar, and Rosemary Wright. Quilters in the exhibition were: Amy Chamberlin, Bob Douglas, Chris Wolf Edmonds, Theresa Helms, Marie Ingalls, Angela Jacobi, Chloe Gurkin, Sharon McKain, Edith Mitchell, the Mitchell Family, Patricia Newkirk, Judy Mathieson, Bonnie Persinger, Willi Posey, Marilyn Price, Nancy Vogel, and Wenda F. Von Weise.

Scope and Content Note

The Records of the Artist and the Quilt include materials documenting the development, creation, and exhibition of the project, notably correspondence between the exhibition curators and artists/quilters, exhibition documents, and photographs and slides of the artwork and quilts. Also included are financial documents, promotional materials for the exhibit and other related exhibitions, and a quilt-covered scrapbook that includes personal stories about quilts from a variety of persons. Materials in the collection range in date from the 1973 until 2003, with the majority of items dating from 1981 to 1985.

Organization and Arrangement Information

Arrangement Note:

The collection is divided into 7 series:

Series 1: Correspondence

Series 2: Exhibition Materials

Series 3: Promotional Materials

Series 4: Financial

Series 5: Photographic Materials

Series 6: Oversized Quilted Objects

Series 1, Correspondence, includes letters between the *Artist and the Quilt* representatives such as Charlotte Robinson, Ann Van Devanter, and Marilyn Lanfear and artist/quilters and exhibition site staff. The items range in date from 1981 to 2003. The bulk of the items are exhibition planning materials dated 1982-1983.

Series 2, Exhibition Materials, includes additional material relating to the exhibition planning, including loan agreements and exhibit proposals; specifications, handling and shipping instructions for exhibit materials; quilter and museum director surveys; examples of borrowing conditions provided by the Trust for Museum Exhibitions; drawings of a quilt design; and an appointment binder that includes various exhibit notes, exhibition schedules, shipping receipts, income statements, and contact information for artists, quilters, and exhibition sites. Materials range in date from 1979 to 1989, with the bulk of the materials dated 1982-1984.

Series 3, Promotional Materials, includes various published items referring to the *Artist and the Quilt* exhibition. The materials included newspaper and magazine clippings, entire periodicals, newsletters, press releases, promotional materials for the *Artist and The Quilt*, a draft copy of a book about the project, scripts for a public broadcasting film about the exhibit, press kits about the exhibit, and promotional materials related to other art exhibitions. The materials range in date from 1978 to 1986, with the bulk of the materials dated 1983-1986.

Series 4, Financial, contains financial papers regarding the project, including a budget and invoices, receipts related to the exhibition, National Endowment for the Arts grant information, Washington, D.C. mayor's discretionary fund information, and correspondence from the Internal Revenue Service. 1973-1984, with bulk dates of 1983 to 1984.

Series 5, Photographic Materials, includes black and white, and color photographs of the quilts and art pieces that were created, as well as photographs from exhibit openings and of people associated with the exhibit. In addition to photographs, there are negatives of the quilts and events, as well as slides of the same. The materials range in date from 1977 to 1985, with bulk dates of 1981 to 1983.

Series 6, Oversized Quilt Objects, consists of a quilting memories book created by members of the Greater San Antonio Quilt Guild, Inc. The book has a quilted cover with loose pages in between with handwritten and typed stories, as well as photographs. The book is dated circa 1983. The quilt piece is a single quilt measuring just over 11 inches square with the word "coverlet" sewn into it. The piece has the names Bettie Ward Johnston and Eula Mae Deaver written on the back, and is dated 1983, and may have been a piece that was made too late to exhibit.

Names and Subject Terms

Art quilts—United States—20th century—Exhibitions.

Quilts—United States—20th century—Exhibitions.

Art, American—20th century—Exhibitions.

Women artists—United States—20th century—Exhibitions.

Baber, Alice.

Benglis, Lynda.

Bishop, Isabel.

Chamberlin, Amy.

Cohen, Elaine Lustig.

Deaver, Eula Mae.

Douglas, Bob.

Edelson, Mary Beth.

Edmonds, Chris Wolf.

Gillespie, Dorothy.

Gurkin, Chloe.

Hammond, Harmony.

Helms, Theresa.

Ingalls, Marie

Jacobi, Angela

Johnston, Bettie Ward

King, Marcia

Kozloff, Joyce

Lanfear, Marilyn

Lanyon, Ellen

Mathieson, Judy

McKain, Sharon
 Mitchell, Edith
 Mitchell family
 Neel, Alice
 Newkirk, Patricia
 Parsons, Betty
 Persinger, Bonnie
 Posey, Willi
 Price, Marilyn
 Ringgold, Faith
 Robinson, Charlotte
 Saar, Betye
 Schapiro, Miriam
 Van Devanter, Ann
 Vogel, Nancy
 Von Weise, Wenda F.
 Wright, Rosemary

Container Inventory

Boxes marked OVR are oversized.

Series 1: Correspondence

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	1	McNay Institute, 1982-1983
1	2	North Carolina Museum of Art, 1979-1982, n.d.
1	3	Philip Morris, 1983
1	4	Voorhees-Zimmerli Museum, 1983-1984
1	5	WGBU television, 1981-1983, n.d.
1	6	Water Tower Art Association, 1984
1	7	Women's Art Journal, 1981
1	8	Miscellaneous museums, 1979-1984
1	9	Miscellaneous—general, 1981-1984, 2003, n.d.

Series 2: Exhibition Materials

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	10	Loan agreements, contracts addendum, 1983-1984, n.d.
1	11	Museum directors/quilters surveys, 1979, 1981
1	12	Exhibit specifications, 1982-1983
1	13	Appointment binder, 1982-1987
1	14	Trust for Museum Exhibitions borrowing conditions, 1989
1	15	Drawings—quilt design, n.d.

Series 3: Promotional Materials

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	16	Newspaper/Magazine clippings, 1978-1982
1	17	Newspaper/Magazine clippings, June-August, 1983
1	18	Newspaper/Magazine clippings, September 1983
1	19	Newspaper/Magazine clippings, October-November, 1983
2	1	Newspaper/Magazine clippings, December-Fall/Winter, 1983
2	2	Newspaper/Magazine clippings, January-March/Spring, 1984
2	3	Newspaper/Magazine clippings, June-July, 1984
2	4	Newspaper/Magazine clippings, August-Winter, 1984
2	5	Newspaper/Magazine clippings, 1985
2	6	Newspaper/Magazine clippings, 1986—n.d.
2	7	Periodicals, 1982
2	8	Periodicals, September 1983
2	9	Periodicals, October-November, 1983
2	10	Periodicals, March, June 1984
2	11	Periodicals, Spring, Summer/Winter, 1984
2	12	Periodicals, 1985
2	13	Newsletters, 1979, 1981-1986
2	14	Press releases, 1982-1985, n.d.
2	15	Promotional materials—The Artist and the Quilt, 1983-1987, n.d.
3	1	Film materials—The Artist and the Quilt, 1986, n.d.
3	2	Book draft—The Artist and the Quilt, 1983
3	3	Press kits—The Artist and the Quilt, other, 1982-1984
3	4	Promotional materials—other, 1977, 1980, 1982-1985

Series 4: Financial

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
3	5	Budget, invoices, 1983-1984
3	5a	Budget, invoices, n.d.
3	5b	Receipts, 1980-1982
3	5c	Receipts, 1982
3a	1	Receipts, 1983 and n.d.
3a	2	Receipts, 1983-1984, n.d.
3a	3	Grant materials, 1981-1982
3a	4	Internal Revenue Service materials, 1973, 1975, 1983-1984

Series 5: Photographic Materials

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
3a	5	Negatives (35 mm), San Antonio exhibit opening, 1983
3a	6	Negatives (35 mm; b&w) with contact sheets, 1981-1982, n.d.
3a	7	Negatives (35 mm, color) with contact sheets, n.d.

3a	8	Negatives (35 mm; b&w), contact sheets, 1979, 1981-1982, n.d.
4	1	Negatives (varying sizes, color and b&w), n.d.
4	2	B&W photos, quilts, 1979-1982, n.d.
4	3	B&W photos, quilts, 1977, 1980-1983
4	4	B&W photos, hands for hand quilt, 1980
4	5	B&W photos, artists and others, 1981-1983
4	6	B&W photos, San Antonio exhibit opening, 1983
4	7	Color photos, artists and others, 1979, 1981, n.d.
4	8	Color photos, miscellaneous, 1980-1981, 1985
4	9	Slides, essays and lectures, c. 1981-1982
5	1	Slides, quilts and artists, c. 1981-1982 (one of two)
5	2	Slides, quilts and artists, c. 1981-1982 (two of two)
5	3	Slides, New York Times Magazine, 1982
5	4	Slides, Texas opening, 1983
5	5	Slides, quilts, 1979-1982, n.d.
5	6	Slides, various people, 1981-1983, n.d.

Series 6: Oversized Quilted Objects

	Box #	Item Title
OVR	6	Quilt book, 1983
OVR	7	Quilt piece, 1983