



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Adela Akers Papers,
1960-2009, in the Archives of American Art

Erin Kinhart

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Adela Akers papers
Identifier:	AAA.akeradel
Date:	1960-2009
Extent:	2.6 Linear feet
Creator:	Akers, Adela, 1933-
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of fiber artist and educator Adela Akers measure 2.6 linear feet and date from 1960 to 2009. Her career as an artist and her tenure at the Tyler School of Art, Temple University, are documented through scattered biographical material; correspondence; subject files on galleries, projects, weaving technique, research, workshops, and fiber arts organizations; writings; exhibition announcements, clippings, and other printed material; photographs; and artwork, including one sketchbook.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2009 and 2011 by Adela Akers.

Related Material

Also found at the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Adela Akers, 2008 Mar. 4-6, conducted by Mija Riedel.

Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level in 2012 by Erin Kinhart.

Preferred Citation

Adela Akers papers, 1960-2009. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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Biographical Note

Adela Akers (1933-) is a fiber artist and educator living and working in Guerneville, California.

Akers was born in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, and was raised in Havana, Cuba. She came to the United States as a student in 1957 and studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Cranbrook Academy of Art. In 1965 she served as a weaving advisor in Peru for the Alliance for Progress and was an artist in residence at Penland School of Crafts from 1968-1970. From 1972 to 1995 Akers was a professor and chair of fiber arts at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University in Philadelphia. Her weavings consist of zigzags, checkerboard patterns, and simple geometric shapes.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of fiber artist and educator Adela Akers measure 2.6 linear feet and date from 1960 to 2009. Her career as an artist and her tenure at the Tyler School of Art, Temple University, are documented through scattered biographical material; correspondence; subject files on galleries, projects, weaving technique, research, workshops, and fiber arts organizations; writings; exhibition announcements, clippings, and other printed material; photographs; and artwork, including one sketchbook.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1970s, 1991-1998 (Box 1; 3 folders)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, 1985-1987 (Box 1; 3 folders)
 - Series 3: Subject Files, 1960-2007 (Box 1; 0.6 linear feet)
 - Series 4: Writings, 1973-1995 (Box 1; 3 folders)
 - Series 5: Printed Material, 1962-2009 (Box 1-2, 6; 6 folders)
 - Series 6: Photographic Materials, 1960-2008 (Box 2-3; 0.4 linear feet)
 - Series 7: Artwork, circa 1960s-1980s (Box 3-6, OV 7; 1.1 linear feet)
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Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Educators -- California
Fiber artists -- California
Weaving -- Technique

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Sketchbooks

Names:

Tyler School of Art

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1970s, 1991-1998

3 Folders (Box 1)

Found here are scattered employment records from Akers's tenure in the Craft Department at Tyler School of Art, one award certificate, and several draft versions of her resume.

Box 1, Folder 1	Employment Records, Tyler School of Art, 1991-1997
Box 1, Folder 2	Resume, 1970s
Box 1, Folder 3	Temple University Faculty Award for Creative Achievement, 1995, 1998

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1985-1987

3 Folders (Box 1)

Correspondence documents Akers's professional dealings with art galleries, museums, organizations, and services, from 1985-1987. Researchers should note that additional correspondence is included in Series 3: Subject Files.

Correspondence is arranged in rough chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 4-6 Correspondence, 1985-1987
3 Folders

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Series 3: Subject Files, 1960-2007

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1)

Found here are subject files which Akers maintained to document her work with galleries and fiber arts organizations, exhibitions, lectures and workshops, and commissioned projects. Also found are files on weaving technique and research on other fiber artists. Files may include correspondence, notes, printed material, agreements, lists of artwork, and a few scattered photographs.

Files are arranged alphabetically. Akers's original folder titles were maintained.

Box 1, Folder 7	Adelle M. Fine Arts, 1978-1989
Box 1, Folder 8	Advanced Weaving, circa 1987
Box 1, Folder 9	American Craft Museum, 1985-1993
Box 1, Folder 10	The Art Exchange, 1989-1994
Box 1, Folder 11	Arts Benicia, 1996-1997
Box 1, Folder 12	Columbus Cultural Arts Center, 1988-1989
Box 1, Folder 13	Connecticut Commission on the Arts, 1984-1989
Box 1, Folder 14	Crieger Associates, 1982-1989
Box 1, Folder 15	Double Weave, 1960-1970s
Box 1, Folder 16	Felting, circa 1970s-1993
Box 1, Folder 17	Fiberworks, Center for the Textile Arts, 1979-1981
Box 1, Folder 18	Fiberworks Symposium, 1978-1979
Box 1, Folder 19	Galman Lepow Associates, 1989-1993
Box 1, Folder 20	Guatemala, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 21	Helen Drutt Gallery, 1987-1992
Box 1, Folder 22-23	Lectures and Workshops, circa 1979, 1967-1971 <i>2 Folders</i>
Box 1, Folder 24	Library Tapestry, 2000

Box 1, Folder 25-26	Lonny Gans and Associates, 1982-1990 <i>2 Folders</i>
Box 1, Folder 27	NEA International Fellowships, 1995-1996
Box 1, Folder 28	Netting, circa 1980s-1990s
Box 1, Folder 29-30	Patrick King Contemporary Art, 1981-1991 <i>2 Folders</i>
Box 1, Folder 31	Plaiting, circa 1970s-1980s
Box 1, Folder 32	Rhode Island School of Design, 1980-1981
Box 1, Folder 33	Study Leave Research, Neda Al-Hilali, circa 1982
Box 1, Folder 34	Study Leave Research, Francoise Grossen, 1976-1978
Box 1, Folder 35	Study Leave Research, Cynthia Schira, 1988
Box 1, Folder 36	Study Leave Research, Joanne Segal Brandford, circa 1979
Box 1, Folder 37	Temple University Research Grants, 1975-1994
Box 1, Folder 38-39	Thirteen Moons Gallery, 2002-2007 <i>2 Folders</i>
Box 1, Folder 40	Tyler School of Art Grant Reports, 1979-1989
Box 1, Folder 41	University Hospital of Cleveland, 1990-1991
Box 1, Folder 42	Weaving Techniques, circa 1970s

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Series 4: Writings, 1973-1995

3 Folders (Box 1)

Writings consist of loose notes on weaving and one weaving notebook. Both contain notes, diagrams, illustrations, and lists. The weaving notebook also includes attached fiber samples.

The weaving notebook was removed from a three-ring binder and the original order of the pages has been maintained.

Box 1, Folder 43	Notes, 1973-1984
Box 1, Folder 44-45	Weaving Notebook, 1985-1995 <i>2 Folders</i>

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1962-2009

6 Folders (Box 1-2, 6)

Printed material consists of exhibition catalogs and announcements, news clippings and magazines containing mentions of Akers, and one publication regarding Akers's work for the Alliance for Progress program in Peru.

Box 1, Folder 46	Catalogs, 1968, 1994-2006
Box 2, Folder 1	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1986-2009
Box 2, Folder 2	Magazines, 1966-2006
Box 2, Folder 3-4	News Clippings, 1962-1995 <i>2 Folders</i>
Box 6, Folder 2	"Adela Akers and the Weavers of Huhi", 1966

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Series 6: Photographic Materials, 1960-2008

0.4 Linear feet (Box 2-3)

Photographs depict Adela Akers working in her studio, an exhibition installation and opening at Shop One Gallery, artworks in progress, and weavings by Akers. Also found are digital photographs, negatives, transparencies, and slides of her artwork.

Box 2, Folder 5	Photographs of Adela Akers, 1960-1990
Box 2, Folder 6	Photographs of Home and Studio, 1972-1981
Box 2, Folder 7	Photographs of Shop One Gallery, 1971
Box 2, Folder 8	Photographs of Works in Progress, 2007-2008
Box 2, Folder 9-11	Photographs of Artwork, 1967-1990 <i>3 Folders</i>
Box 2, Folder 12	Digital Photographs of Artwork, 2004-2007 six data disks
Box 2, Folder 13	Negatives and Transparencies, circa 1970s-1980s
Box 3, Folder 1-3	Slides, 1970s-2006

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Series 7: Artwork, circa 1960s-1980s

1.1 Linear feet (Box 3-6, OV 7)

Artwork by Akers consists of one bound sketchbook, three three-dimensional studies, and 32 color studies for her weavings.

Box 3, Folder 4	Sketchbook, circa 1960s-1970s
Box 5, Folder 1	"Proposal #1", circa 1980s
Box 4, Folder 1	"Proposal #2", circa 1980s
Box 6, Folder 1	"Proposal #1", circa 1980s
Oversize 7	Color Studies, circa 1980s

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