



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Bardene Allen Papers, circa 1965-2014, in the Archives of American Art

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2019 April 4, 2021 April 22

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Bardene Allen papers
Date:	circa 1965-2014
Identifier:	AAA.allebard
Creator:	Allen, Bardene, 1933-
Extent:	0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2) 0.788 Gigabytes
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of sculptor, painter, and gallery owner Bardene Allen measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1965-2014. Allen's career as a painter and sculptor, her friendship with Frederick Hammersley, and her administration of the Fine Arts Gallery in Laguna Beach, California, are documented through biographical material, correspondence, professional files, exhibition files, photographic materials including digital photographs, and printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated from 1992 to 2002, 2009, and 2014 by Bardene Allen.

Available Formats

The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2022 and is available on the Archives of American Art website. Items not digitized include blank versos of photographs, and the full text of exhibition catalogs and a directory for which only front covers, title pages, and other relevant pages have been digitized.

Access copies of born-digital records are not online and are available at the Archives of American Art offices.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Ryan Evans in 2019. The collection was prepared for digitization and the finding aid was revised by Stephanie Ashley in 2021. The collection was digitized in 2022 with funding provided by the Frederick Hammersley Foundation.

Preferred Citation

Bardene Allen Papers, circa 1965-2014. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Bardene Allen (1933-) is a sculptor, painter and former gallery owner in Laguna Beach, California. Allen received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Pomona College in 1955 where she studied under Frederick Hammersley, who would become a life-long friend and correspondent. She is the former owner of the Fine Arts Gallery in Laguna Beach, California which was in operation from 1980 to 1983. As a sculptor Allen has worked in stone, wood, resin, bronze and terracotta. Her subjects in sculpture and painting range from mythic gods and imaginary creatures to everyday characters, Hollywood entertainers, and popular musicians in rock and jazz music.

Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor, painter, and gallery owner Bardene Allen measure 0.8 linear feet and date from 1965-2014. Allen's career as a painter and sculptor, her friendship with Frederick Hammersley, and her administration of the Fine Arts Gallery in Laguna Beach, California, are documented through biographical material, correspondence, professional files, exhibition files, photographic materials including digital photographs, and printed material.

Correspondence includes a small amount of professional correspondence regarding Allen's career. Also of note is personal correspondence which includes letters from Frederick Hammersley and actor Richard Chamberlain. Professional files include a statement of Allen's thoughts on her relationship with Frederick Hammersley, as well as price lists, artwork inventories, donations, commission proposals, and documentation of her involvement with both the Fine Arts Gallery in Laguna Beach, California and the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art. Exhibition files are for select exhibitions Allen participated in. Photographic material includes printed photographs and transparencies as well as digitized and digital images of artwork and of Allen with her artwork and at exhibitions. Printed material includes press clippings and exhibition invitations and catalogs.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 6 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1990-1996 (0.1 Linear Feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1965-2009 (0.2 Linear Feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: Professional Files, circa 1980-1994 (0.1 Linear Feet; Box 1)
- Series 4: Exhibition Files, circa 1989-1995 (0.1 Linear Feet; Box 2)
- Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1977-2014 (0.2 Linear Feet; Box 2, ER01)
- Series 6: Printed Material, circa 1981-2007 (0.1 Linear Feet; Box 2)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women artists
Women painters
Women sculptors

Names:

Chamberlain, Richard, 1935-
Fine Arts Gallery (Laguna Beach, California)
Hammersley, Frederick, 1919-2009
Orange County Center for Contemporary Art

Occupations:

Gallery owners -- California
Painters -- California
Sculptors -- California

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1990-1996

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Resumes and artist statements document Allen's professional activities primarily in the 1990s.

Available: Series is digitized in entirety.

Formats:

Box 1, Folder 1 [Business Card, circa 1990](#)

Box 1, Folder 2 [Resume and Artist Statements, circa 1990-1996](#)

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Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1965-2009

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence includes one folder of general personal correspondence, correspondence with friend and actor Richard Chamberlain, and letters and cards from Allen's former professor and friend Frederick Hammersley. Additionally, there are two folders of professional correspondence relating to Allen's career.

Included are three letters and two cards from Richard Chamberlain, who writes of his excitement about his upcoming role in the television adaptation of *Shogun*.

The Hammersley material is all in the form of letters and postcards from Hammersley and one letter from Hammersley's sister enclosing his obituary. Many of the letters include photos of exhibitions and artwork, some picturing Hammersley, clippings of cartoons, and clippings of articles about Hammersley. Also found in Hammersley's letters are copies of scattered family photos taken by Harold Hammersley.

Professional correspondence is with galleries, including El Prado Galleries and Laguna Beach Arts Commission, and others to whom Allen sent her work on consignment. Also found are three items of correspondence with Karl Benjamin.

Available Formats: Series is digitized in entirety.

Box 1, Folder 3	Richard Chamberlain, circa 1979-2008
Box 1, Folder 4	Frederick Hammersley, 1965, 1973-1981 Notes: Includes photos by Harold Hammersley: of Hammersley and his sister in 1922 and Hammersley's mother and a friend, circa 1914.
Box 1, Folder 5	Frederick Hammersley, 1983-1985
Box 1, Folder 6	Frederick Hammersley, 1986-1989
Box 1, Folder 7	Frederick Hammersley, 1990-1992
Box 1, Folder 8	Frederick Hammersley, 1993-1994
Box 1, Folder 9	Frederick Hammersley, 1995-1996
Box 1, Folder 10	Frederick Hammersley, 1997-1998
Box 1, Folder 11	Frederick Hammersley, 1999-2002
Box 1, Folder 12	Frederick Hammersley, 2004-2009
Box 1, Folder 13	Personal Correspondence, circa 1980s-1997
Box 1, Folder 14	Professional Correspondence, 1981-1986

Box 1, Folder 15

Professional Correspondence, 1987-1992, 2005

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Series 3: Professional Files, circa 1980-1994

0.1 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Series includes scattered documentation of Allen's professional activities including records of a donation Allen made to an art auction, retail price lists for her sculpture from 1988-1992, inventories of artwork, and commission proposals. Documentation of Allen's involvement with the Fine Arts Gallery in Laguna Beach, California is in the form of lists and notes on artists who exhibited there. Her involvement with the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, for which Allen was the director from 1988-1990, is primarily in the form of printed material.

Also of note is a copy of a letter to Margaret Kuntz describing her friendship with Frederick Hammersley, and a copy of a letter to Hammersley which enclosed her letter to Kuntz. Allen sent the letter to Kuntz for a book Kuntz was writing on Southern California artists.

Available Formats: Series is digitized in entirety.

Box 1, Folder 16	Art Auction Donation to Laguna Art Museum, 1994
Box 1, Folder 17	Collectors Inventory, circa 1980, 1994
Box 2, Folder 1	Commission Proposal, 1984
Box 2, Folder 2	Employment Applications, circa 1985-1986
Box 2, Folder 3	Fine Arts Gallery, Laguna Beach, circa 1980-circa 1987
Box 2, Folder 4	Grant Application, Virginia Groot Foundation, 1993
Box 2, Folder 5	Observations on Frederick Hammersley by Bardene Allen, 1992
Box 2, Folder 6	Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, circa 1989-1992
Box 2, Folder 7	Price Lists, circa 1991-1992

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Series 4: Exhibition Files, circa 1989-1995

0.1 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Exhibition files document select exhibitions Allen participated in and include printed material, photographs and slides, and a small number of exhibition related records such as correspondence and lists of artwork exhibited.

Available Formats: Series is digitized in entirety.

Box 2, Folder 8	Prints Exhibition, Fine Arts Gallery (1983), 1983
Box 2, Folder 9	Observations About Men, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art (Jan.-Feb. 1989), circa 1989
Box 2, Folder 10	Paintings and Sculptures Based on the Lyrics and Music of Cole Porter, Jeanine Meijers Gallery (Feb.-Mar.1993), 1993
Box 2, Folder 11	Women Sculptors of Southern California, San Bernardino County Museum (Jun.-Jul.1993), circa 1993
Box 2, Folder 12	Brand Library and Art Center Annual Exhibition, circa 1994
Box 2, Folder 13	Bardene Allen Sculpture, Irvine Fine Arts Center (Jul.-Sep. 1995), 1995

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Series 5: Photographic Materials, circa 1977-2014

0.788 Gigabytes (ER01-ER17)

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Arrangement: Series is arranged as two subseries.

- 5.1: Photographs and Slides, circa 1977-circa 2005
- 5.2: Digital Photographs, 2004-2014

Available: Photographs and slides are digitized in entirety. Access copies of born-digital records are not online and are available at the Archives of American Art offices.

Formats:

5.1: Photographs and Slides, circa 1977-circa 2005

Scope and Contents: Series includes two folders of photos of Allen at work, at exhibitions, in her studio, and with members of her family. The remainder of the images are photos and slide transparencies of Allen's artwork, in addition to one folder of snapshots of Frederick Hammersley and his artwork.

Box 2, Folder 14	Photos of Allen in Studio and at Exhibitions, 1977, circa 1990
Box 2, Folder 15	Photos of Allen with Family, circa 1983-1992
Box 2, Folder 16	Photos of Frederick Hammersley, 1978-1979
Box 2, Folder 17	Photos of Artwork, Beach People Series, circa 1991-1992
Box 2, Folder 18	Photos of Artwork, Goddess Series, circa 1991
Box 2, Folder 19	Photos of Artwork, Paintings in Various Media, circa 1990s-circa 2005
Box 2, Folder 20	Photos of Artwork, Resin Castings, circa 1977-1980
Box 2, Folder 21	Photos of Artwork, Rock Concert Series, circa 1989-1991
Box 2, Folder 22	Photos of Artwork, Sculptures in Various Media, 1988-circa 2005
Box 2, Folder 23	Photos of Artwork, Sculptures in Various Media, 1993-1997
Box 2, Folder 24	Photos of Artwork, Wood Carvings , 1978-1987

5.2: Digital Photographs, 2004-2014

Scope and Contents: Digital photographs are primarily of works of art by Allen, in addition to images of exhibitions from 2004-2014.

Folder ER01	Exhibitions, 2004-2014 0.025 Gigabytes (14 computer files)
Folder ER02	Paintings, Dancers, 2007-2013

	0.025 Gigabytes (26 computer files)
Folder ER03	Paintings, Family, 2007-2014 0.064 Gigabytes (66 computer files)
Folder ER04	Paintings, Ocean, 2007-2013 0.07 Gigabytes (72 computer files)
Folder ER05	Painting, Trips, 2009-2012 0.023 Gigabytes (24 computer files)
Folder ER06	Sculptures, Wood Carvings, 2007, 2014 0.104 Gigabytes (55 computer files)
Folder ER07	Sculptures, Bronzes, 2014 0.016 Gigabytes (9 computer files)
Folder ER08	Sculptures, Resin, 2014 0.024 Gigabytes (15 computer files)
Folder ER09	Sculptures, Mixed Media, 2004-2014 0.037 Gigabytes (24 computer files)
Folder ER10	Sculptures, Stone, 2014 0.012 Gigabytes (8 computer files)
Folder ER11	Sculptures, Terra Cotta, Dancers, 2004-2014 0.05 Gigabytes (36 computer files)
Folder ER12	Sculptures, Terra Cotta, Dreams, 2004-2014 0.045 Gigabytes (29 computer files)
Folder ER13	Sculptures, Terra Cotta, Family, 2004-2014 0.106 Gigabytes (72 computer files)
Folder ER14	Sculptures, Terra Cotta, Goddesses, 2004-2014 0.041 Gigabytes (26 computer files)
Folder ER15	Sculptures, Terra Cotta, Musicians, 2004-2014 0.036 Gigabytes (25 computer files)
Folder ER16	Sculptures, Terra Cotta, Ocean People, 2004-2014 0.086 Gigabytes (60 computer files)
Folder ER17	Sculptures, Terra Cotta, People and Pets, 2004-2014 0.021 Gigabytes (21 computer files)

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Series 6: Printed Material, circa 1981-2007

0.1 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes press clippings and exhibition invitations and catalogs. All material relates to Bardene Allen, except for one exhibition catalog for a group exhibition featuring Frederick Hammersley.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for the full text of some of the exhibition catalogs and the *California Artist Directory*, for which only covers, title pages, and other relevant pages have been digitized.

Box 2, Folder 26	California Artist Directory, 1998
Box 2, Folder 27	Clippings, circa 1981-1993, 2007
Box 2, Folder 28	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1983-1999
Box 2, Folder 29	Exhibition Catalogs, 1993-2000

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