



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Ghada Amer papers, 1996- circa 2020, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Ghada Amer papers
Date:	1996-circa 2020
Identifier:	AAA.amerghad
Creator:	Amer, Ghada, 1963-
Extent:	1.5 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English, Arabic, French, and Korean.
Summary:	The papers of artist Ghada Amer measure 1.5 linear feet and date from 1996 to circa 2020. The collection comprises printed materials including exhibition catalogs and announcements, catalogs for Reza Farkhondeh, journals and newsletters, postcards, and press and publicity material featuring Amer. Also found is a small amount of correspondence, a few artifacts designed by Amer, research copies of <i>Encyclopedia of Pleasure</i> , photographs of Amer and others, and material for Amer's performance <i>Reign of Terror</i> . The papers also include a notebook containing contact information, notes on projects with sketches, lists, and a box size chart for <i>Encyclopedia of Pleasure</i> .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2024 by Ghada Amer.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2024.

Preferred Citation

Ghada Amer papers, 1996-circa 2020. 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

Ghada Amer (1963-) is an artist in New York, N.Y. and Paris, France. Amer was born in Cairo, Egypt. In 1974, Amer and her family emigrated from Egypt so that her parents could pursue their PhDs in France. After her parents returned to Egypt, Amer remained in France to pursue her education in the arts and subsequently completed an MFA in painting at the Villa Arson EPIAR, Nice, France in 1987. While in France, she met artist Reza Farkhondeh who became her close friend and collaborator. In 1996, Amer and Farkhondeh moved to New York City just as she was gaining recognition as an artist in France. She often works with embroidery but has also created works with paint, cast sculpture, ceramics, works on paper, and garden and mixed-media installations. Amer continues to work in N.Y. and France.

Scope and Contents

The papers of artist Ghada Amer measure 1.5 linear feet and date from 1996 to circa 2020. The collection comprises printed materials including exhibition catalogs and announcements, catalogs for Reza Farkhondeh, journals and newsletters, postcards, and press and publicity material featuring Amer. Also found is a small amount of correspondence, a few artifacts designed by Amer, research copies of *Encyclopedia of Pleasure*, photographs of Amer and others, and material for Amer's performance *Reign of Terror*. The papers also include a notebook containing contact information, notes on projects with sketches, lists, and a box size chart for *Encyclopedia of Pleasure*.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

- Series 1: Ghada Amer Papers, 1996-circa 2020 (1.5 linear feet; Boxes 1-3)
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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:

Feminism and art

Types of Materials:

Diaries

Names:

Farkhondeh, Reza

Occupations:

Artists -- France -- Paris

Artists -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Ghada Amer Papers, 1996-circa 2020

1.5 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: The bulk of the series consists of printed materials that include exhibition catalogs and announcements for Amer and collaborator Reza Farkhondeh, journals and newsletters, postcards, and press and publicity material featuring Amer. Some catalogs are rare publications associated with her exhibitions in the U.S. and abroad. The exhibitions represented in the collection showcase her early recognition in France just as she immigrated to the U.S. in 1996. Other printed materials include journals and newsletter, press kits, and publicity featuring Amer and her artwork.

Also found is a small amount of correspondence, a few artifacts designed by Amer, research copies of *Encyclopedia of Pleasure*, and photographs of Amer and others at the Institut Valencià d'Art Modern (IVAM), and a notebook containing contact information, notes on projects with sketches, lists, and a box size chart for *Encyclopedia of Pleasure*.

Several objects that were used in Amer's performance *Reign of Terror* can be found in box 3. Amer used plastic dishware and wallpaper inscribed with the sentence, "Terrorism is not indexed in Arabic dictionaries," during a performance at Wellesley College in 2005.

Box 1, Folder 1	Artifacts, Designs by Amer, circa 2000s Notes: Folder contains 1 magnet, 1 patch, and 1 pin.
Box 1, Folder 2	Auction Catalog and Related Printed Material for Ornellaia Wines, 2007 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc.
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1999-2018
Box 1, Folder 4-5	Exhibition Catalogs, Ghada Amer, 1998-2020
Box 1, Folder 6	Exhibition Catalogs, Reza Farkhondeh, 2001, 2004 Notes: A discussion between Farkhondeh and Amer is in the Paintings catalog.
Box 1, Folder 7-10	Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, Group Shows, circa 1998-circa 2020
Box 1, Folder 11	Exhibition Media, TEXTures: Word and Symbol in Contemporary African Art, 2005 1 Electronic discs (CD)
Box 1, Folder 12	Journals and Newsletters, 1996-2018
Box 3, Folder 1	Journals and Newsletters, 1999 The folder contains the publication <i>Libération</i> and is located at the bottom of the box beneath the objects.
Box 1, Folder 13	Notebook for Professional Activities, circa 2000

Box 3	Performance Material, Reign of Terror, circa 2005 The materials include a roll of wallpaper, 4 soup containers, 2 plates, 2 small bowls, 2 napkins, 1 page with definitions of terrorism, and 2 copies of the statement used on all of the objects. Folder 3.1 is underneath the objects.
Box 1, Folder 14	Photographs of Amer and Others, circa 2019
Box 1, Folder 15	Postcards Featuring Amer's Artwork, circa 1997-circa 2018
Box 1, Folder 16	Press Kits, 2013-2015 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc of information on Amer by the Kukje Gallery.
Box 1, Folder 17	Publicity, 2014-2018
Box 1, Folder 18-19	Research Material, Copy of Encyclopedia of Pleasure, circa 2000
Box 2, Folder 1	Research Material, Copy of Encyclopedia of Pleasure, circa 2000
Box 2, Folder 2	Research Material, Copy of Encyclopedia of Pleasure - Franz Rosenthal, circa 2000

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