



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the America: Now  
and Here Records, circa 2010-2012,  
in the Archives of American Art

Harriet E. Shapiro

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Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	America: Now and Here records
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.amernowh
<b>Date:</b>	circa 2010-2012
<b>Extent:</b>	0.9 Linear feet 0.891 Gigabytes
<b>Creator:</b>	America: Now and Here, circa 2010-2011
<b>Language:</b>	The collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The records of America: Now and Here, a traveling arts program headquartered in New York City that provided traveling arts presentations, measure 0.9 linear feet and 5.05 GB and date from circa 2010-2012. The collection consists of interviews with artists and poets, two writings, and printed and digital material, much relating to the America: Now and Here program in Kansas City (2011 May). The materials were designed to create interactive dialogues with visitors about the "American Journey," our culture, the arts, and creativity.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The America: Now and Here records were donated to the Archives of American Art in 2012 by Dorothy Dunn, former Director of the organization.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared in 2014 by Harriet E. Shapiro. The Archives of American Art has implemented minimal processing tactics when possible in order to increase information about and access to more of our collections. Minimal processing included arrangement to the series and folder levels. Generally, items within folders were simply verified with folder titles, but not arranged further. Folders within boxes were not numbered. The collection was rehoused in archival containers and folders, but not all staples and clips were removed. Born-digital materials were processed in 2019 by Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner with funding provided by Smithsonian Collection Care and Preservation Fund.

### Preferred Citation

America: Now and Here records, circa 2010-2012. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions

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## Historical Note

America: Now and Here, a privately funded project, was founded by artist Eric Fischl with Dorothy Dunn as Director. Its mission was to provide a multi-disciplinary art experience that would travel from cities to small towns, encouraging dialogues among ordinary Americans about issues of importance to this country. Included in the program were visual art exhibitions, plays, movies, music, poetry, and inter-active exercises with an emphasis on young people's participation. More than 150 artists were involved with the program. Mobile truck visual art exhibitions would be situated with performance space and retail shops, driving economic activity in participating regions. The exhibitions traveled to Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, Baltimore, Aspen and other venues. The program was suspended in 2012 due to lack of funds.

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## Scope and Contents

The records of America: Now and Here, a traveling arts program headquartered in New York City that provided traveling arts presentations, measure 0.9 linear feet and 5.05 GB and date from circa 2010-2012. The collection consists of interviews with artists and poets, two writings, and printed and digital material, much relating to the America: Now and Here program in Kansas City (2011 May). The materials were designed to create interactive dialogues with visitors about the "American Journey," our culture, the arts, and creativity.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 4 series.

- Series 1: Interviews, circa 2010 (Box 1; 0.3 linear feet, ER01; 1.52 GB)
- Series 2: Writings, 2010-2011 (Box 1; 2 folders, ER02; 1.52 GB)
- Series 3: Printed Material, circa 2010-2012 (Boxes 1-2, OV 3; 0.5 linear feet, ER03; 2.01 GB)
- Series 4: Artwork, circa 2010 (Box 2; 1 folder)

## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Artists and community
- Community arts projects
- Traveling exhibitions

Types of Materials:

- Interviews

Names:

- Dunn, Dorothy
- Fischl, Eric, 1948-

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Interviews, circa 2010

*0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)*

*1.52 Gigabytes (ER01)*

Poets and artists from various disciplines were interviewed by America: Now and Here. Many of the interviews were conducted by Eugene Michael Santiago, but numerous transcripts do not identify the interviewer. Some well-known interview subjects include program founder Eric Fischl, playwright Edward Albee, visual artists Julian Schnabel and Bill Viola, various poets including Billie Collins and lesser known individuals. Subjects discussed include the meaning of "the American Journey," the development of the artist, sources of inspiration and work, and the relationship between art and culture.

Box 1, Folder 1	Artists, A-D, Transcripts, circa 2010 <i>Includes born-digital records, see ER01</i>
Box 1, Folder 2	Artists, E-K, Transcripts, circa 2010
Box 1, Folder 3	Artists, L-P, Transcripts, circa 2010
Box 1, Folder 4	Artists, R-W, Transcripts, circa 2010
Box 1, Folder 5	Poets, B-Ma, Transcripts, circa 2010
Box 1, Folder 6	Poets, Me-W, Transcripts, circa 2010
Folder ER01	Transcripts and Audio and Video Interviews, Artists and Poets A-Z, Digital Audio and Video Recording, 2012 <i>1.52 Gigabytes (389 computer files)</i>

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## Series 2: Writings, 2010-2011

*2 Folders (Box 1)*

*1.52 Gigabytes (ER02)*

The project "Crossing State Lines, An American Renga" created a collaborative poem written by 54 American poets and was edited by Bob Holman and Carl Muske-Dukes. The renga concept is based on the Japanese "renga," or "conversation" poem, and was chosen to link the work of poets from across the country. Each poet wrote two five-line sequences.

"Give Away," a scene written by Matt Spicer, is based on a dream of Julie Norton and includes an artist's statement explaining the piece.

Box 1, Folder 7	"Crossing State Lines, An American Renga", Manuscript and Published Version, 2011 <i>Includes born-digital records, see ER02</i>
Folder ER02	"Crossing State Lines, An American Renga", Digital Video Recording, 2011 <i>1.52 Gigabytes (One computer file)</i>
Box 1, Folder 8	"Give Away" by Matt Spicer, 2010

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## Series 3: Printed Material, circa 2010-2012

*0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, OV 3)*

*2.01 Gigabytes (ER03)*

This series includes a large quantity of promotional material explaining the program's mission and components. Also included are posters, interactive materials related to the "Make-a-Mask" activity, and postcards to which visitors would respond. Miscellaneous items include fund raising materials, staff badges, a catalog, and a workbook prepared for children and family participation. Much of this series refers to the Kansas City program (2011 May).

Box 1, Folder 9	Clippings, 2011
Box 1, Folder 10	Posters, circa 2011, undated Oversized material housed in OV 3.
Box 2, Folder 1	Presentation Materials, circa 2011 <i>Includes born-digital records, see ER03</i> Oversized material housed in OV 3.
Folder ER03	Presentation Materials, Digital Video Recording, 2012 <i>2.01 Gigabytes (One computer file)</i>
Box 2, Folder 2-3	Press Materials, circa 2010-2012
Box 2, Folder 4	Program Postcards, Blank, circa 2010-2012
Box 2, Folder 5	Program Postcards with Responses, circa 2010-2012
Box 2, Folder 6	Miscellaneous Items, 2010-2011
Box OV 3	Oversized Posters (from Box 1, Folder 10), circa 2011
Box OV 3	Oversized Presentation Materials (from Box 2, Folder 1), circa 2011

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## Series 4: Artwork, circa 2010

*1 Folder (Box 2)*

Artwork consists of a wicker and feather horn decorated with swatches of brightly colored fabric.

Box 2, Folder 7

Feathered Horn by Unidentified Artist, circa 2010

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