A Finding Aid to the Fletcher Benton Papers, 1934-2014, in the Archives of American Art

Almudena Escobar Lopez

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2014 July 31
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: Fletcher Benton papers
Identifier: AAA.bentflet
Date: 1934-2014
Extent: 8.7 Linear feet
        1.47 Gigabytes
Creator: Benton, Fletcher, 1931-
Language: Multiple languages
        English; German; Norwegian; Spanish; Korean; Japanese; Dutch; Portuguese.
Summary: The papers of sculptor and painter Fletcher Benton measure 8.2 linear feet and 1.47 GB and date from 1934 to 2014. They document his career as a sculptor with international presence through certificates, personal photographs, legal papers, correspondence, exhibition and commission documentation, clippings, exhibition-related printed materials, broadcast materials, publications about his work, an editioned kinetic Christmas card, and photographs, sound and video recordings, and motion picture film documenting his work and career.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Donated 2005-2006 and 2014 by Fletcher Benton. Benton's wife, Bobbie Benton, organized the material by subject matter and date.

Related Materials
Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Fletcher Benton conducted by Paul J. Karlstrom, 1989 May 2-4 is available on the Archives of American Art website.

Processing Information
This collection was fully processed and a finding aid prepared by Almudena Escobar Lopez in 2014 with funding provided by the Council on Library and Information Resources' "Hidden Collections" grant program. Motion picture film reels were inspected and re-housed in 2016 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund. Born-digital materials were processed by Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner in 2019 with funding provided by Smithsonian Collection Care and Preservation Fund.
Preferred Citation

Restrictions
Use of original papers requires an appointment. Use of audiovisual material without a duplicate copy requires advanced notice.

Conditions Governing Use
The Fletcher Benton papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

Biographical / Historical
Fletcher Benton was born in Jackson, Ohio in 1931 to Fletcher and Nell Cavett Benton and was the oldest of three children. Benton graduated from Jackson High School in 1949. After serving in the Navy he graduated from Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) in 1956 and moved to San Francisco, where he started working as an instructor at the California College of Arts and Crafts in 1959. He was in San Francisco during the flourishing of the Beat generation, where he had a studio in the North beach area and exhibited at coffee house galleries.

After travelling around Europe in 1960, Benton moved to New York City where he tried to make his living through painting and teaching privately. During those years he was supported by Jackson's local arts patron and family friend, Lillian E. Jones. In 1960 he had his first solo exhibition at Gump's gallery in San Francisco, but his work was taken down after one day because it was considered obscene for including female nudes. He returned to San Francisco in late 1961.

In 1966 Benton started teaching at the San Francisco Art Institute and established himself as a primary figure of American kinetic art. In 1966, Peter Selz included his work in the exhibition Directions in Kinetic Sculpture at the University Art Gallery in Berkeley, CA. During the exhibition Benton met the artists Pol Bury and George Rickey with whom he became friends. The exhibition, along with an article "The Movement Movement" that appeared in Time magazine the same year, established Benton's reputation as a significant American Kinetic artist. He also started teaching at the California State University in San José in 1967 where he continued working until 1986.

By 1974 Benton abandoned kinetic art to continue exploring sculpture in three dimensions in a style that became known as "new constructivism." The artworks were conceived in the series Folded Circles and Folded Square Alphabets and were produced in bronze, aluminum and steel. It was also during the 1970s that he started doing large-scale commissions such as the 1977 IBM commission.

Between 1981 and 1984 Benton constructed his studio in Dore Street in the Market district of San Francisco where he continues to work today. During the 1980s Benton started his Balanced/Unbalanced series, which introduced the idea of gravity using geometric forms in different formats and sizes.

From 1984 he began to show more work in Europe, especially in Germany, where in 1993 he got a major commission to create a colossal public sculpture in Cologne entitled Steel Watercolor Triangle Ring. It was also in Germany where Benton encountered the work of Wassily Kandinsky and Kazimir Malevich, and he began work on his Construct Relief series in reponse, which he dedicated to Kandinsky. These geometric constructions are flat, canvas-like steel structures that combine features of painting and sculpture. As the
series evolved, the work became more like painting, constructed to hang on the wall without a back piece, so they seem to be floating in the space.

Benton continues to live and work in San Francisco and is represented by multiple galleries in the United States and Germany.

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**Scope and Contents**

The papers of sculptor and painter Fletcher Benton measure 8.2 linear feet and 1.47 GB and date from 1934 to 2014. They document his career through personal photographs, legal papers, correspondence, exhibition and commission documentation, clippings, exhibition-related printed materials, broadcast materials, publications about his work, an editioned kinetic Christmas card, photographs, sound and video recordings motion picture film, some of which also appears in digitized form.

Biographical Materials include personal photographs, legal documents related to a court case with book designer Ed Marquand, biographical texts, interview transcripts, and a home video made by the artist. Correspondence is with other artists, friends, galleries, museums and other institutions, including George W. Neubert, André Emmerich Gallery, Pieter Sanders, Pol Bury, George Rickey, Ulfert Wilke, Marlene Louchheim, DeWain Valentine, Lillian E. Jones, and Edward Lucie-Smith. Interviews include sound recordings of interviews with Benton by academics and journalists, including Edward Lucie-Smith, Dan Tooker, and Dan De Wilde.

Exhibition and Commission Files consist of correspondence with galleries, museums and commission patrons; financial records; shipping and subcontracting documentation; motion picture film, video, and sound recordings related to exhibitions and installations; and planning and design materials. Series includes a significant amount of oversized drawings and plans for site-specific work. There is a large volume documentation from the Folded Circle-Arc commission by Stanley Consultants, Inc. in Muscatine, Iowa; the California/International Arts Foundation Traveling Sculpture Exhibition; Double Folded Circle Ring in Brussels and Double Circle Folded by Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Printed Materials include news clippings related to Benton's career, as well as brochures, exhibition catalogs, posters and other printed materials related to exhibitions and commissions. Broadcast materials include television news footage, radio and television interviews, documentaries, and promotional materials made by galleries and other cultural institutions.

Photographic and Moving Image Materials include art-related images showing Benton in his studio and images of exhibitions, installations and inaugurations. Also found are still photographs and motion picture films of artworks, including paintings, sculptures, and kinetic drawings, and a series of photographs of sculptures taken by David Finn.

Artwork consists of an editioned art Christmas card created by Benton for Galeria Bonino in New York from 1969. An American Artist Moving Image Materials consist of 13 videocassettes (VHS) which document the production process of the documentary Fletcher Benton: An American Artist by Morgan Cavett. There is footage from interviews with Benton and with curator George W. Neubert, footage of San Francisco with comments from Benton about his time there, interviews with the artist's studio assistants, images of his studio in Dore street and a couple of almost finished rough versions of the documentary.

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**Arrangement**

This collection is arranged as nine series.
• Series 1: Biographical Material (0.3 linear feet; boxes 1, 9)
• Series 2: Correspondence (1 linear foot; boxes 1, 2, OV 10)
• Series 3: Interviews (0.3 linear feet; box 2)
• Series 4: Exhibition and Commission Files (2 linear feet, 0.50 GB; boxes 2-4, OV 11-13, RD 14, FC 15, ER01)
• Series 5: Printed Materials (2.3 linear feet; boxes 4-6, OV 10)
• Series 6: Broadcast Materials (1.1 linear foot; boxes 6-7)
• Series 7: Photographic and Moving Image Materials (0.5 linear feet, 0.97 GB; boxes 7, 9, FC 16-17, ER02)
• Series 8: Artwork (1 item; box 7)
• Series 9: *An American Artist* Video Recordings (0.6 linear feet; boxes 7-8)

### Names and Subject Terms

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

**Subjects:**
- Artists' studios -- Photographs
- Painters -- California -- San Francisco
- Sculptors -- California -- San Francisco

**Types of Materials:**
- Christmas cards
- Drawings
- Interviews
- Motion pictures (visual works)
- Photographs
- Sound recordings
- Transcripts
- Video recordings

**Names:**
- André Emmerich Gallery
- Bury, Pol, 1922-2005
- De Wilde, Dan
- Finn, David
- Galerie Denino
- Jones, Lillian E.
- Louchheim, Marlene
- Lucie-Smith, Edward
- Marquand, Ed
- Neubert, George W.
- Rickey, George
- Sanders, Pieter
- Tooker, Dan
- Valentine, De Wain, 1936-
- Wilke, Ulfert, 1907-1987
Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1934-2013

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1 and 9)

Biographical material includes four folders of photographs from Benton's childhood to the present and a number of personal photographs of the artist with family members and art personalities including Harold Paris, Edward Lucie-Smith, Dewain Valentine and Peter Selz. There is also a home video on 1 videocassette (VHS) by the artist showing part of his home studio and some of the sculptures from his garden. Among the legal documents and certificates there is a folder with materials about Benton's law suit against Ed Marquand, an editor that was hired to work on a book about Benton's Kinetic Art between 1986 and 1987.

Photographs and moving images of Benton working in his studio, of his artwork, and art-related events are found in series 7, Photographic and Moving Image Materials. Additional photographs and moving images related to exhibitions and commissions are found in series 4, Exhibitions and Commission files.

Box 1

Photographs

Box 1, Folder 1 Childhood Photographs, 1934-circa 1945

Box 1, Folder 2 Portraits of Benton, circa 1960-circa 1995
Oversized portrait moved to Box 9 folder 5

Box 1, Folder 3 Family and Personal Photographs , 1962-circa 1990

Box 1, Folder 4 Benton with Art Personalities, 1975-1996

Box 1, Folder 5 Certificates, Awards, Diplomas & Certificates, 1981-2003

Box 1, Folder 6 Contract with Habenicht & Howlett, 1968

Box 1, Folder 7 Guggenheim Grant Application , 1968-1969

Box 1, Folder 8 Legal Records about Fletcher Benton's Book on Kinetic Art, Benton vs Ed Marquand, 1986-1987

Box 1, Folder 9 Home Video: '3 Water Sculptures' (VHS), 1993
1 videocassettes (vhs)

Box 1, Folder 10 Caricature of Fletcher Benton and his Wife Bobbie Benton, 1996

Box 1, Folder 11 Biographical Texts about Benton, circa 1965-1975, 1974
Includes two copies of the introduction used for the book Fletcher Benton: Selected Works 1964-74 by Diane Ghirardo Burke, De Saisset Art gallery

Box 1, Folder 12 Unidentified Interview Transcripts, circa 1985

Box 9 Oversized portrait from Box 1, folder 2
Series 2: Correspondence, 1961-2014

1 Linear foot (Box 1, 2 and OV 10)

Correspondence is with galleries and museums that exhibited Benton's work including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, André Emmerich gallery, Gloria Luria Gallery, Howard Wise Gallery, Yares Gallery and Thomas Baebor Gallery. There is extended correspondence with curators George W. Neubert and Gerald Nordland as well as the British art critic and writer Edward Lucie-Smith.

There is a series of correspondence related to Benton's exhibitions in Germany with the B. Haasner Gallerie and curators Jutta Brederhoff, Gerhard Kolberg, Peter Nestler and Jolie Leisegang. Leisegang was co-author of the book *Fletcher Benton: An American Artist* with Carter Ratcliff and Collette Chattopadhyay. There is also a large volume of correspondence with the prominent Dutch art collector Pieter Sanders and the Belgian contemporary art consultant Louise Descamps-Schneider.

Significant personal correspondence is found with two of Benton's former professors from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, Richard Clark Smith and the painter Edwin Fulwider. Personal correspondence also includes letters with the artists Pol Bury, George Rickey, Ulfert Wilke, Marlene Louchheim and the photographer David Finn. There are also two early letters from Benton to Lillian E. Jones, a mentor and arts' patron from Jackson, Ohio who supported the sculptor during his first years at New York City.

The correspondence is arranged alphabetically by name and chronologically within each folder. Correspondence with less than three letters is filed in general alphabetical files. Letters with first names only, greeting cards and illegible signatures are filed at the end of the series. Additional correspondence can be found in Series 4, Exhibition and Commission Files. Some of the correspondents appear in Series 3, Interviews, and in the photographs in Series 1, Biographical Materials.

Box 1, Folder 13  A, 1978-2011
Box 1, Folder 14  Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, 1969-1985
Box 1, Folder 15  André Emmerich Gallery, 1989-2003
Box 1, Folder 16  Carol and Sheldon Appel, 1989-1997
Box 1, Folder 17  Leon A. Arkus, 1983-1986
Box 1, Folder 18  Arts Club of Chicago, 1978-1979
Box 1, Folder 19  The Arts Commission of San Francisco, 1985-1986
Box 1, Folder 20  Artists Equity Association, Inc., 1979-1980
Box 1, Folder 21  B, 1980-2003
Box 1, Folder 22  Galerie B. Haasen, 1986-1988
Box 1, Folder 23  Joan N. Borinstein, 1985-1986
Box 1, Folder 24  Jutta Brederhoff, 1987-2013
Box 1, Folder 25  Pol Bury, 1978-1994
Box 1, Folder 26  C, 1983-2013
Box 1, Folder 27  Richard Clark Smith, 1979-1984
Box 1, Folder 28  Gisele Cottier, 1983
Box 1, Folder 29  D, 1983-2011
Box 1, Folder 30  Louise Descamps-Schneider, 1992-2000
Box 1, Folder 31  Detroit Institute of Arts, 1984-1994
Box 1, Folder 32  E, 1990-2013
Box 1, Folder 33  F, 1982-2010
Box 1, Folder 34  David Finn, 2001-2012
Box 1, Folder 35  Edwin Fulwider, 1978-1989
Box 1, Folder 36  Sidney M. Feldman, 1980-1985
Box 1, Folder 37  G, 1985-2012
Box 1, Folder 38  Gloria Luria Gallery, 1983-1986
Box 1, Folder 39  H, 1980-2010
Oversized drawing removed to OV 11
Box 1, Folder 40  Howard Wise Gallery, 1966
Box 1, Folder 41  I, 1977-2005
Box 1, Folder 42  J, 1976-2013
Box 1, Folder 43  Lillian E. Jones, 1961
Box 1, Folder 44  K, 1980-2013
Box 1, Folder 45  Paul J. Karlstrom, 1984
Box 1, Folder 46  David M. Kezur, 1983-1987
Box 1, Folder 47  Gerhard Kolberg, 1993-1995
Box 1, Folder 48  L, 1981-2013
Box 1, Folder 49  Jolei Leisegang, 1980-1987
Box 1, Folder 50  Tiziana Lorenzelli, 1991
Box 1, Folder 51  Los Angeles Art Center of Design, 1986
Box 1, Folder 52    Marlene Louchheim, 1980-2013
Box 1, Folder 53    Edward Lucie-Smith, 1989-1996
Box 1, Folder 54    M, 1980-2012
Box 1, Folder 55    Metropolitan Dade County Florida, 1980
Box 1, Folder 56    Miami University, 1979-2011
Box 1, Folder 57    Muscatine Commission, 1980-1982
Box 1, Folder 58    N, 1977-2013
Box 1, Folder 59    George W. Neubert, 1983-1994
Box 1, Folder 60    Peter Nestler, 1989-1998
Box 1, Folder 61    Gerald Nordland, 1978-2010
Box 1, Folder 62    O, 1986-2005
Box 1, Folder 63    Oakland Museum, 1967-1978
Box 1, Folder 64    P, 1983-2012
Box 1, Folder 65    Pacific Mutual, 1980-1982
Box 1, Folder 66    Barbara Pontecorvo, 2005-2006
Box 1, Folder 67    Q, 2010
Box 1, Folder 68    R, 1990-2010
Box 1, Folder 69    George Rickey, 1977-2005
Box 1, Folder 70    S, 1979-2014
Box 2, Folder 1    Pieter Sanders, 1981-1993
Box 2, Folder 2    San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 1981-2001
Box 2, Folder 3    San José State University, 1977-1985
Box 2, Folder 4    Arthur Silverman, 1994
Box 2, Folder 5    Louis Skidmore Jr., 1978-1985
Box 2, Folder 6    Marvin Smalley, 1982-1991
Box 2, Folder 7    Herbert J. Solomon, 1994
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Sunset Magazine, 1985 |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | T, 1985-2005 |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Thomas Babeur Gallery, 1983-1984 |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | U, 1974-1982 |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | University of Arizona, 1980-1989 |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), 1983-1993 |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | V, 1980-2011 |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | W, 1972-1994 |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | Frederick R. Weisman, 1986-1990 |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | Ulfert Wilke, 1981-1982 |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | Yares Gallery, 1983-1985 |
| Box 2, Folder 19 | Yorkshire Sculpture Park, 1985-1986 |
| Box 2, Folder 20 | Z, 2011 |
| Box 2, Folder 21 | First Name Only, 1980-2013 |
| Box 2, Folder 22 | Greeting Cards, 2010-2013 |
| Box 2, Folder 23 | Illegible Signatures, 1982-1996 |
| Box OV 11 | Oversized drawing from Box 1, folder 39 |

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0.3 Linear feet (Box 2)

Series contains sound recorded interviews conducted by different journalists and researchers. Interviewers of note include those conducted by the British art critic Edward Lucie-Smith, Dan Tooker, Dan De Wilde, who interviewed Benton for a documentary on American sculptors. Interviews are on 1 sound tape reel and 7 sound cassettes.

Interviews are arranged chronologically. Interviews from television and radio broadcasts are found in Series 6 Broadcast Materials.

Box 2, Folder 24  Dan Tooker and Dan DeWilde Interview for Documentary "Contemporary Artists at Work, Sculptors", 1977
1 Sound tape reel (Duration circa 45 minutes; Handwritten note on original box: "Interview with Fletcher Benton by Dan Tooker and Dan DeWilde. August 1977. 7 1/2 ips, mono dub side one and side two (ca.45 minutes total))

Box 2, Folder 25  Katherine R. Alviso Interview, 1979
1 Sound cassette (Cassette is a copy, location of original unkown; handwritten note on original cassette: "Conversation with Fletcher Benton. November 17, 1979 - interviewed at his studio in San Francisco, CA by Katherine R. Alviso. COPY")

Box 2, Folder 26  Susan Raeburn Interview, 1979
1 Sound cassette (Duplicate; handwritten note inside the original box: " This is a duplicate of FB-RS Interview (transcribed")
1 Sound cassette (Original; handwritten note on original cassette: "Fletcher Benton-with Susan Raeburn. Competence + the modern Artist")

Box 2, Folder 27  Edward Lucie-Smith Interview, 1988
1 Sound cassette (Handwritten note on original cassette: "Edward Lucie-Smith October, 1988")

Box 2, Folder 28  Bill Minschew Interview, undated
1 Sound cassette (Includes two transcripts)

Box 2, Folder 29  George Neubert Interview, undated
1 Sound cassette (Duplicate, location of orginal unknown; handwritten note on cassette: "Fletcher Benton Geo Nubert Interview watch copy")
Series 4: Exhibition and Commission Files, 1959-2004

2 Linear feet (Box 2-4, OV 11-13, RD 14, FC 15)
0.5 Gigabytes (ER01)

Materials include correspondence with galleries, museums and specific commission patrons; financial records; shipping and subcontracting documentation; audiovisual material and planning and design materials, including a significant amount of oversized materials. The most extensive documentation is found for the Folded Circle-Arc commission by Stanley Consultants, Inc. in Muscatine, Iowa; the California/International Arts Foundation Traveling Sculpture Exhibition; Double Folded Circle Ring in Brussels and Double Circle Folded by Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Note that the folder of South American Materials contains correspondence, shipping records and inventories of artwork involving Estudio Actual (Caracas), Galeria Bonino Ltd, (New York) and Stanford University. An early exhibition in San Francisco is documented on digitized motion picture film shot by Al Wong in 1967. Additional audiovisual material in the series include 2 videocassettes (VHS); one with documentation of the installation of Double Folded Circle Ring in Brussels, and a promotional video about Double Circle Folded in Los Angeles; and one sound cassette recording of the reception for Folded Circle-Arc in Muscatine, Iowa.

Arrangement is chronological. Additional information about exhibitions and commissions is found in series 2, Correspondence and series 5, Printed Materials.

Box 2, Folder 30  Gump Gallery, San Francisco, California (1960), 1959-1960
Box 2, Folder 31; Folder ER01  Film Footage by Al Wong, San Francisco Art Institute Exhibition, 1967
   1 Film reel (Ektachrome Print, original ; 16 mm)
   0.5 Gigabytes (one computer file, copy)
   Includes born-digital records, see ER01
   Motion picture film reel stored separately in film can numbered FC 15.
Box 2, Folder 32  South American Materials, 1971-1976
Box 2, Folder 33  Art Club of Chicago (1979), 1979
Box 2, Folder 34  Milwaukee Art Center (1980), 1980
Box 2  Folded Circle -- Arc (1980), Muscatine, Iowa, Stanley Consultants, Inc. Commission
Box 2, Folder 36  Correspondence and Documentation about the Commission , 1980-1981
Box 2, Folder 37  Stanley Consultants, Inc. Dossier, 1980
Box 2, Folder 38  Sound Recording of Reception for Fletcher Benton, 1980
   1 Sound cassette (Handwritten note on the cassette: "reception for Fletcher Benton Stanley Consultants, Muscatine, IOWA Sept. 12, 1980")
Box 2, Folder 39  Photographic Materials for a Public Exhibition , 1980
Box 2, Folder 40  Muscatine Art Center Exhibition (1980), 1980-1981
| Box 2, Folder 41 | Klingspor Museum, Offenbach, West Germany (1980), 1981 |
| Box 2, Folder 42 | Folded Square Alphabet 'D' (1981), Offenbach, Germany, 1981 |
| Box 2, Folder 44 | San José Museum of Art (1982), 1981-1985 |
| Box 2, Folder 45 | "Brook House Sculpture Invitational," Kaiser Center, Oakland, California (1982), 1982-1983 |
| Box 2, Folder 46-47 | California International Arts Foundation Traveling Sculpture Exhibition (1986), 1981-1986 |
| | Folder 47 contains copies of plans and drawings; oversized material moved to Box 9, folder 4 |
| Box 3, Folder 1 | Fresno Art Center (1985), 1984-1985 |
| Box 3, Folder 2 | Gloria Luria Gallery, Miami, Florida (1984), 1984 |
| Box 3, Folder 3 | Chapman College Sculpture Acquisition Program, Orange, California (1985), 1984-1985 |
| Box 3, Folder 4 | "Teachers and their Pupils," Anna Gardner Gallery, Stinson Beach, California (1985), 1985 |
| Box 3, Folder 5 | Artists Forum, Fine Arts Gallery, California State University, Los Angeles (1985), 1985 |
| | Oversized drawings moved to OV.11 |
| Box 3 | Art Institute of Southern California, Exhibition and Lecture (1986) |
| Box 3, Folder 6 | Correspondence and Documentation, 1985-1986 |
| Box 3, Folder 7 | Photographs, 1986 |
| Box 3, Folder 8 | Thomas Babeor Gallery Exhibition, La Jolla, California (1986), 1986 |
| Box 3, Folder 9 | Branson School Exhibition, Ross, California (1986), 1986 |
| Box 3, Folder 10 | Folded Square Alphabet Q 10' (1986) IBM Commission, 1986 |
| | Oversized materials moved to OV 11 |
| Box 3, Folder 11 | San Francisco Landscape Garden Show, Fort Mason Center (1986), 1986 |
| | Oversized materials moved to RD 14 |
| Box 3, Folder 12 | "Furniture in the Aluminum Vein," Kaiser Center, Oakland, California (1986), 1986 |
| | Oversized drawings moved to Box 9, Folder 4 |

Box 3, Folder 14  San Francisco Arts Commission Festival, Civic Center Plaza (1986), 1986
Oversized materials moved to OV. 11

Box 3, Folder 15  Loan of Balanced, Unbalanced Wheels, City of Phoenix, Arizona, 1986

Box 3, Folder 16  Transamerica Redwood Park, San Francisco, California (1986), 1986


Box 3, Folder 18  "Arts Irvine" (1987), 1987

Box 3, Folder 19  "International Working Symposium of Open Air Sculpture in Steel," Kleinwefers, Krefeld, West Germany, 1987
Oversized drawings and plans moved to OV 12


Box 3  Double Folded Circle Ring (1992), Brussels, Belgium

Box 3, Folder 21  Correspondence, 1991-1992

Box 3, Folder 22  Contrats, 1992

Box 3, Folder 23  Photographs and Site Plans, 1992-1996
Oversized plans moved to RD 14

Box 3, Folder 24-25  Commission's Files, 1992-1996

Box 3, Folder 26  Shipping Documentation, 1992

Box 3, Folder 27  Video recording of Installation, 1992
1 videocassettes (vhs) (Handwritten on the original box: "151 Boulevard Emile Jacqmain Unveiling of Sculpture Source B ref 2509")

Box 3, Folder 28-29  Gothaer Kunstforum, Steel Watercolor Triangle Ring (1993), Cologne, Germany, 1991-1993

Box 3, Folder 30  Double Column, Ring, Triangle (1994), Arizona State University, 1994

Box 3, Folder 31  Video Recording of Installation of Balanced/Unbalanced Wheels #2 (1995), University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 1995
1 videocassettes (betacam)

Box 3, Folder 32-34  Double Circle Folded (2002) Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California, 2000-2002

Box 4, Folder 1-3  Double Circle Folded (2002), Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California, 2000-2002
Includes a rough edit of a promotional video on one videocassette (VHS) in folder 3.
Oversized plans and drawings moved to OV.11 and OV.13 from Folders 1 and 2.

Box 9  Oversized Drawing from Box 2 folder 47
Box 9  Oversized Drawings from Box 3, Folder 12
Box OV 11  Oversized Drawing from Box 3, Folder 5
Box OV 11  Oversized Materials from Box 3, Folder 10
Box OV 11  Oversized Materials from Box 3, Folder 14
Box OV 11  Oversized Materials from Box 4, Folder 1
Box OV 11  Oversized Plans from Box 4, Folder 2
Box OV 12  Oversized Drawings and Plans from Box 3, Folder 19
Box OV 13  Oversized Plans from Box 4, Folder 2
Box RD 14  Oversized Plans from Box 3, Folder 11
Box RD 14  Oversized Plans from Box 3, Folder 23
Box FC 15  Film Reel from Box 2 folder 31

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2.3 Linear feet (Boxes 4-6 and OV 10)

Series contains printed material related to Benton's exhibitions and commissions. There are international materials in German, Japanese, Korean, Dutch and Spanish. Types of material include newspaper and magazine clippings, exhibition catalogs, magazines, published books, brochures, posters, leaflets, press releases, and postcards related to exhibitions and commissions. Scattered magazines, books, and press releases referencing Benton's exhibitions are filed with exhibition catalogs, along with institutional collection catalogs unrelated to a particular exhibition. Exhibition-related printed material consists mainly of exhibition announcements, but posters, brochures, and programs are also found.

Series is arranged by type of material, and chronologically within each type. Newspaper and Magazine Clippings were originally organized in adhesive album pages but were removed during processing due to preservation concerns. Original album pages were photocopied to preserve the original arrangement. Additional printed materials can be found in series 4, Exhibition and Commission Files.

Box 4, Folder 4  Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1959-1961
Box 4, Folder 5  Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1964-1965
Oversized Clipping moved to OV 10
Box 4, Folder 6  Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1966
Box 4, Folder 7  Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1967
Box 4, Folder 8  Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1968
Box 4, Folder 9  Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1969
Box 4, Folder 10 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1970
Box 4, Folder 11 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1971
Box 4, Folder 12 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1972
Box 4, Folder 13 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1973
Box 4, Folder 14 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1975
Box 4, Folder 15 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1976
Box 4, Folder 16 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1977
Box 4, Folder 17 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1978
Box 4, Folder 18 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1979
Box 4, Folder 19 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1980
Box 4, Folder 20 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1981
Box 4, Folder 21 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1982
Box 4, Folder 22  Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1983
Box 4, Folder 23  Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1984
Box 4, Folder 24  Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1985
Box 4, Folder 25  Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1986-1987
Box 4, Folder 26  Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1988
Box 4, Folder 27  Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1989
Box 4, Folder 28  Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1990-1997
Box 4, Folder 29  Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 2000-2006
Box 4, Folder 30  Exhibition Catalogs, 1965
Includes NY World’s Fair Art’65 and Lesser Known and Unknown Painters/
Young American Sculpture-East-West
Box 4, Folder 31  Exhibition Catalogs, 1966
Includes Los Angeles Engineer / Scientist, June 1966
Box 4, Folder 32  Exhibition Catalogs, 1967
Includes Flint Institute of Arts Light and Movement exhibition; Whitney Review
1966-7 catalog, and Contemporary American Painting and Sculpture by the
Krahnert Art Museum, University of Illinois
Box 4, Folder 33  Exhibition Catalogs, 1968
Includes Selection 1968, University of California, Berkeley
Box 4, Folder 34  Exhibition Catalogs, 1969
Box 4, Folder 35-36 Exhibition Catalogs, 1970
Includes Constructivist Tendencies, University of Santa Barbara, California
Box 4, Folder 37  Exhibition Catalogs, 1971
Box 4, Folder 38  Exhibition Catalogs, 1973
Box 5, Folder 1  Exhibition Catalogs, 1974
Includes Public Sculpture / Urban Environment Catalog, Neubert, G., Oakland
Museum, CA
Box 5, Folder 2  Exhibition Catalogs, 1975
Includes program from San Francisco Museum of Modern Art’s First Artists’
Soapbox Derby
Box 5, Folder 3  Exhibition Catalogs, 1976
Box 5, Folder 4  Exhibition Catalogs, 1977
Box 5, Folder 5  Exhibition Catalogs, 1978
Box 5, Folder 6  Exhibition Catalogs, 1979
Box 5, Folder 7  Exhibition Catalogs, 1980
Box 5, Folder 8  Exhibition Catalogs, 1981
Box 5, Folder 9  Exhibition Catalogs, 1982
Box 5, Folder 10  Exhibition Catalogs, 1984
Box 5, Folder 11  Exhibition Catalogs, 1984
Includes California Sculpture Show Catalog, International Arts Foundation, Los Angeles, CA, and Works in Bronze: A Modern Survey Catalog, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA
Box 5, Folder 12  Exhibition Catalogs, 1985
Box 5, Folder 13  Exhibition Catalogs, 1986
Box 5, Folder 14  Exhibition Catalogs, 1987
Box 5, Folder 15  Exhibition Catalogs, 1989
Includes the book Motion Motion: Kinetic Art
Box 5, Folder 16  Exhibition Catalogs, 1990
Includes Picasso, Gravuren, und Fletcher Benton Skulpturen, Mathias Spital, Rheine (Nov-Dec, 1990)
Box 5, Folder 17  Exhibition Catalogs, 1991
Box 5, Folder 18  Exhibition Catalogs, 1993
Box 5, Folder 19  Exhibition Catalogs, 1994
Includes Ohioana Quaterly, Vol XXXVII, number 3, Fall, noting Benton's receipt of the annual State Career Award
Box 5, Folder 20  Exhibition Catalogs, 1995
Box 5, Folder 21  Exhibition Catalogs, 1996
Box 5, Folder 22  Exhibition Catalogs, 1997
Box 5, Folder 23  Exhibition Catalogs, 1998
Box 5, Folder 24  Exhibition Catalogs, 2001
Includes Fletcher Benton, Tascende Gallery catalog, February-June, 2001
Box 5, Folder 25  Exhibition Catalogs, 2003
Includes *Fletcher Benton: Sculpture, Reliefs, Works on Paper*, Neuhoff Gallery, NY

Box 5, Folder 26  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1964-1965

Box 5, Folder 27  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1966

Box 5, Folder 28  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1967

Box 5, Folder 29  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1968

Box 5, Folder 30  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1969

Box 5, Folder 31  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1970
Oversized material moved to OV 10

Box 5, Folder 32  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1971

Box 5, Folder 33  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1972

Box 5, Folder 34  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1974

Box 5, Folder 35  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1975

Box 5, Folder 36  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1978

Box 6, Folder 1  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1979

Box 6, Folder 2  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1980

Box 6, Folder 3  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1982

Box 6, Folder 4  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1983

Box 6, Folder 5  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1984

Box 6, Folder 6  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1985

Box 6, Folder 7  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1986
Oversized poster moved to OV.10

Box 6, Folder 8  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1987

Box 6, Folder 9  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1988

Box 6, Folder 10  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1989

Box 6, Folder 11  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1991

Box 6, Folder 12  Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1995
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 13</td>
<td>Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 14</td>
<td>Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 15</td>
<td>Exhibition Related Printed Materials, 2000-2003</td>
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</table>
| Box 6, Folder 16 | Modern Mode Advertisement, 1981  
Oversized advertisement moved to OV.10 |
| Box OV 10 | Oversized Materials from Box 4 Folder 5 |
| Box OV 10 | Oversized Materials from Box 5 Folder 31 |
| Box OV 10 | Oversized Materials from Box 6 Folder 7 |
| Box OV 10 | Oversized Materials from Box 6 Folder 16 |

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1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 6-7)

Broadcast materials consist of a variety of sound and video productions including radio and television programs featuring Benton, documentaries, promotional videos, and exhibition-related programs. Material is on two sound cassettes and ten videocassettes (U-matic and VHS).

Television footage includes an interview conducted by Paul Turner for a special program on KQED celebrating their Auction Art Awards from 1973-1975, news footage from the installation of the public sculpture Folded Circle-Arc from WQAD in Illinois, and an interview for WDAF-TV about Benton's exhibition in Halls' Gallery in Kansas City. A radio program is also found from Frankfurt's local radio, in German, about his work during the early 1980's in Germany.

Additional video programs include a distribution copy of a documentary about Dr. Wennesland, for which Benton did a short interview; an extended interview conducted by George W. Neubert in relation to Benton's work between 1964-1974; and a California State University production where Fletcher Benton discusses his kinetic work with professor Jim McManus. The latter tape also includes a short video about computer artist Grace Hertlein. Good Time to be West is a documentary about twelve California sculptors and the relationship between their work and the region. American Artists in Jewelry is a short documentary about the exhibition held at the Gilman Baker Gallery in Boca Raton, Florida, in which Benton and DeWain Valentine participated, among other artists. The Lollipops: A Kinetic Sculpture by Fletcher Benton includes an interview with Benton talking about his sculpture and its mechanical operations. There is also one sound cassette that contains the soundtrack from an unidentified television program with an interview of Benton.

Television and radio programs are filed first in the series, followed by documentaries and exhibition-related material. Additional audiovisual material includes a home movie in series 1, Biographical material, studio and artwork documentation in series 7, Photographs and Moving Image Materials, and raw footage and production materials for a documentary in series 9, An American Artist video recordings.

Box 6, Folder 17
Television Interview, KQED , 1975
1 videocassettes (vhs) (Duplicate; handwritten note on the cassette: "KQED TV Interview 1975 Benton")
1 videocassettes (u-matic) (Original; handwritten note on original cassette: "KQED")

Box 6, Folder 18
Television News Footage of Installation of Folded Circle-Arc (1980), Muscatine, IA, 1980
1 videocassettes (u-matic) (Original; handwritten note on the original box: "News Story and Video Footage Shot by WQAD TV Moline, ILL. Fletcher Benton Sculpture, Stanley Consultants, Muscatine, Iowa, September 12, 1980")
1 videocassettes (vhs) (Duplicate; handwritten note on the cassette: "Benton Sculpture Installation Muscatine, Iowa, 1980")

Box 6, Folder 19
Radio Interview and Other Broadcast Material, Hessischer Rundfunk Hr2 (Frankfurt), 1981
1 Sound cassette (Handwritten note on cassette: "Hess Rundfunk2. Programm, Prisma. 10 July 1981")
1 Sound cassette (Handwritten note on cassette: "Hess. Rundfunk II / 7.1.81. Portrait des amerikanisieren bildhauer Fletcher Benton. von J. Leisegang")

Box 6, Folder 20
Television Interview, WDAF (Kansas City, MO), 1997
1 videocassettes (vhs) (Handwritten note on box: "Halls Interview. WDAF TV CHANNEL 4 KANSAS CITY (FOX) 04/10/97 12:00PM NEWS")

Box 6, Folder 21  
*Dr. Wennesland, An Icon Among the Beats*, By Gerd Hennum, 2001  
1 videocassettes (vhs)

Box 6, Folder 22  
1 videocassettes (u-matic) (Original)  
1 videocassettes (vhs) (Duplicate)

Box 6, Folder 23  
1 videocassettes (u-matic) (Original)  
1 videocassettes (vhs) (Duplicate)

Box 7, Folder 1  
*Good Time to be West*, 1984  
1 videocassettes (vhs) (Duplicate material; original not found with collection)

Box 7, Folder 2  
*American Artists in Jewelry*, circa 1990  
1 videocassettes (vhs)

Box 7, Folder 3  
*The Lollipops: A Kinetic Sculpture by Fletcher Benton*, circa 1990  
1 videocassettes (vhs)

Box 7, Folder 4  
Sound from Unidentified Television Interview, undated  
1 Sound cassette

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Series 7: Photographic and Moving Image Materials, 1960-2005

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 7, 9, FC 16-17)
0.97 Gigabytes (ER02)

Series includes photographs and moving image documentation of artwork, exhibitions, inaugurations, and images of Benton in his studios. Images of the artist include photographs, partially digitized motion picture film, and video taken in Benton's studios on Bloxom Street and Dore Street in San Francisco. Moving images of Benton's studios include a promotional video about the Dore Street Studio by Dave Hatch and a student film by Al Wong about Benton's studio at 63 Bloxom Street (1967). Images of artwork include photographs and motion picture film of paintings, sculptures, and kinetic works. David Finn's pictures are digital prints of Benton's sculptures created for the book *Fletcher Benton* (2003) by Carter Ratcliff.

Personal photographs of Benton and his friends and family are found in series 1, Biographical Materials. Additional moving image materials are also found in series 1, as well as in series 4, Exhibition and Commission Files, series 6, Broadcast Materials, and series 9, *An American Artist* Video Recordings.

Box 7 Images of the Artist

Box 7, Folder 5 Studio Photographs, circa 1960-circa 1990

Box 7, Folder 6 Bloxom Street Studio Footage, 1967
1 Film reel (Original; Ektachrome; handwritten note on the original film can: "1967 By Al Wong (63 Bloxom St SF)"; 16mm )
Includes born-digital records, see ER02
Motion picture film stored separately in film can number FC 16.

Folder ER02 Bloxom Street Studio Footage (1967), Digitized, 2004
0.97 Gigabytes (One computer file)

Box 7, Folder 6 Dore Street Studio footage, 1984
1 videocassettes (vhs) (Handwritten label on video cassette: "Professional Sample Dore St. Studio")

Box 7, Folder 7 Dore Street Studio Photographs by Leo Holub , 1990
Oversized photographs moved to Box 9, Folder 5

Box 7 Images of Art Work

Box 7, Folder 8 Paintings, circa 1950-1961

Box 7, Folder 9 Sculptures, 1965-1997
Includes 1 film reel : 16 mm; original Kodachrome; handwritten note on original can: "Fletcher Benton Retrospective of Early Works. Bronte St"
Includes born-digital records, see ER02
Motion picture film reel stored separately in film can numbered FC 17.

Folder ER02 Sculptures (1965), Digitized, 2004
0.97 Gigabytes (One computer file)

Box 7, Folder 10 Kinetic Drawings, 1968-1971

Box 7, Folder 11-15 David Finn Pictures, 2005
Box 7, Folder 16  Sunset Magazine Pictures , 1984
Box 7, Folder 17  Photographs of Exhibitions, Installations and Inaugurations , circa 1960-circa 1980
Box 9  Oversized Photograph moved from Box 7, Folder 7
Box FC 16  Film Reel moved from Box 7, Folder 6
Box FC 17  Film Reel moved from Box 7, Folder 9

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Series 8: Artwork, 1969

1 Item (Box 7)

Box 7

Editioned art Christmas card created by Benton for Galeria Bonino in New York.

Box 7, Folder 18  
*Miniature Synchronetic* Christmas Card, 1969

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 7-8)

Series consists of 13 videocassettes (VHS) from the production of the documentary Fletcher Benton: An American Artist by Morgan Cavett, who was Benton's cousin. Being production material, there is a substantial quantity of footage that was not used in the final documentary, which is available on Benton's website and on DVD. Some of the material is personal and filmed in a casual manner.

The full, unedited interview with the curator George W. Neubert and Fletcher Benton's interview at the Davis Symphony Hall comprise two video cassettes each. An interview and footage about the Homage to WWII Airplanes series is also found on two videocassettes.

Three videocassettes contain footage of San Francisco's North Beach area with comments from Benton about his first years in the city, along with interviews of two of his studio assistants, Michael Roby and another unidentified assistant. Local scenes include Vesuvio Cafe and City Lights Books. Footage also includes studio scenes, some still shots of sculptures, and a tour given by Benton of his studio. Additional footage of the Dore Street studio and Benton's Napa home is on two videocassettes, and two rough edits of the documentary are on two additional videocassettes.

Additional video recordings are found in series 1, Biographical Materials, series 4, Exhibition and Commission Files, series 6, Broadcast Materials, and series 7, Photographic and Moving Image Materials.

Box 7, Folder 19  George W. Neubert Interview, 1995-2003, undated
2 videocassettes (vhs)

Box 7, Folder 20  Fletcher Benton Interview at the Davis Symphony Hall, 1995-2003
2 videocassettes (vhs)

Box 7, Folder 21  Homage to WWII Airplanes Series, 1995-2003
2 videocassettes (vhs)

Box 7, Folder 22  San Francisco North Beach Area and Assistants Interviews, 1995-2003
3 videocassettes (vhs)

Box 8, Folder 1  Dore Street Studio Materials, 1995-2003
2 videocassettes (vhs)

Box 8, Folder 2  Rough Edited Versions, 1995-2003
2 videocassettes (vhs)

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