



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Jack Brogan Papers, 1968-2016, bulk 1971-2009, in the Archives of American Art

Rayna Andrews

Funding for the processing of this collection was provided by Gerald and Bente Buck.

2018/05/24

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Jack Brogan papers
Date:	1968-2016 (bulk 1971-2009)
Identifier:	AAA.brogjack
Creator:	Brogan, Jack
Extent:	4.25 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of technical artist, fabricator, and conservator Jack Brogan measure 4.25 linear feet and date from 1968 to 2016 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1971 to 2009. The collection documents Brogan's collaboration with many artists associated with Southern California Light and Space art to help realize their ideas. Papers include biographical material, project files, printed material, photographic material, and artwork. There is a 2.0 linear foot unprocessed addition to this collection donated in 2020 that includes files related to projects with Robert Irwin, Tony DeLap, Robert Therrien, Philip Aziz, Peter Alexander, Roy Lichtenstein, Lita Albuquerque and others. Some files relate to repairs to work by Lynda Benglis, Larry Bell, John McCracken, Hal Metzger. Several files relate to projects Brogan worked on for churches and synagogues, including First Baptiste Church, Pomona, California. Many contain multiple original drawings, sketches, and notes by artists. Material dates from 1973-2014.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by Jack Brogan in 2017, 2018 and 2020.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Rayna Andrews in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Jack Brogan papers, 1968-2016, bulk 1971-2009. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

Biographical / Historical

Jack Brogan (1930-) is a technical artist, fabricator, and conservator in Los Angeles, California. Born and raised in Tennessee, Brogan moved to Los Angeles in 1958, where he opened a cabinetmaking and furniture repair shop. After he met and began working with Robert Irwin, word spread of his expertise and other artists sought him out to work with on their own pieces. In 1965 Brogan founded his business, Design Concepts, to address the varying material and production needs of the artists, architects, and industrial designers he works with to fabricate prototypes and unique objects.

Brogan built prototypes for Lockheed, NASA, and has provided custom interior furnishings for numerous commercial and residential spaces. His ability to address projects that are technically challenging due to unconventional methods or limited production runs has also proved well-suited to the concerns and working methods of visual artists. Among his most noteworthy projects are those of Robert Irwin, including a series of prismatic acrylic columns from 1969-1970 and a major commission for the Central Garden of the Getty Center in Los Angeles.

Scope and Contents

The papers of technical artist, fabricator, and conservator Jack Brogan measure 4.25 linear feet and date from 1968 to 2016 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1971 to 2009. The collection documents Brogan's collaboration with many artists associated with Southern California Light and Space art to help realize their ideas. Papers include biographical material, project files, printed material, photographic material, and artwork. There is a 2.0 linear foot unprocessed addition to this collection donated in 2020 that includes files related to projects with Robert Irwin, Tony DeLap, Robert Therrien, Philip Aziz, Peter Alexander, Roy Lichtenstein, Lita Albuquerque and others. Some files relate to repairs to work by Lynda Benglis, Larry Bell, John McCracken, Hal Metzger. Several files relate to projects Brogan worked on for churches and synagogues, including First Baptiste Church, Pomona, California. Many contain multiple original drawings, sketches, and notes by artists. Material dates from 1973-2014.

Biographical material includes resumes; correspondence; materials related to Jack Brogan's business, Design Concepts; interview drafts; and writings about Brogan.

Project files include research material related to companies and products, as well as files for fabrication and conservation projects in collaboration with artists, including Tony DeLap, James Turrell, Lynda Benglis, Robert Therrien, Robert Irwin, and others. These files typically include financial information, notes, and correspondence, and may also include photographic material, sketches, and printed material.

Printed material includes exhibition announcements and catalogs, press releases, magazines, newspaper and magazine clippings, published interviews, newsletters, and a transcript of the dedication ceremonies for the bicentennial sculpture, *Flight*, in Fullerton, California.

Photographic material includes contact sheets, negatives, photographs, slides, snapshots, and transparencies, primarily depicting works of art and installation. Also included are images of works of art in Brogan's studio and personal snapshots.

Artwork includes sketches and designs for unidentified projects.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in six series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1973-2011 (Box 1; 7 folders)
- Series 2: Project Files, circa 1969-2016 (Boxes 1-2, OV 4; 1.2 linear feet)
- Series 3: Printed Material, 1970-2012 (Box 2, OV 5; 0.3 linear feet)

- Series 4: Photographic Material, circa 1969-circa 1990s, undated (Boxes 2-3; 1.1 linear feet)
- Series 5: Artwork, 1988, undated (Box 2, OV 4; 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 6: Unprocessed Addition (Boxes 6-7, 2.0 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Artists -- California -- Los Angeles

Types of Materials:

Designs
Drawings
Interviews
Photographs
Sketches
Transcripts

Names:

Benglis, Lynda, 1941-
DeLap, Tony, 1927-2019
Irwin, Robert, 1928-
Therrien, Robert, 1947-
Turrell, James

Occupations:

Conservators -- California -- Los Angeles

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1973-2011

7 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes Jack Brogan's resume; a small selection of correspondence; biographies, notes, interviews and other materials related to his business, Design Concepts; interview drafts; and writings about Brogan. Materials related to his business include resumes, interviews, notes, and printed material. Writings include essays and articles, as well as an unidentified piece of writing that is likely a Master's thesis by Margaret Honda entitled *The Art Fabrication Business of Jack Brogan*.

Box 1, Folder 1 Brogan Resume, circa 1998

Box 1, Folder 2 Correspondence, 1973-1992, 2010

Box 1, Folder 3 Design Concepts, 1973-2004

Box 1, Folder 4 Interview Drafts, 2011

Box 1, Folder 5 Writing About Jack Brogan — Incomplete Essay by Frances Colpitt, 2011

Box 1, Folder 6 Writing About Jack Brogan — Quiet! Wizard at Work by Jill Vine and Biographical Paragraph, 1992

Box 1, Folder 7 Writing About Jack Brogan — Unidentified Writing, circa 1991
Notes: This may be a version of Margaret Honda's Master's thesis, *The Art Fabrication Business of Jack Brogan* (University of Delaware, 1991).

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Series 2: Project Files, circa 1969-2016

1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, OV 4)

Scope and Contents: The project files series includes forms used by Design Concepts, research material related to products and companies, and files for fabrication and conservation projects. These files include financial information such as invoices and receipts, price lists, checks, and shipping information, as well as notes and correspondence. They may also include photographic material, sketches, and printed material.

Arrangement: This series is arranged in rough chronological order. Artists/projects are grouped together and arranged chronologically within that grouping. Unidentified projects appear at the end of the series.

Box 1, Folder 8	Design Concepts Forms, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Material and Product Research, circa 1969-circa 2007, 2015
Box 1, Folder 10	NASA Space Station, circa 1970 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Oversize 4, Folder 1	Oversized Material Related to NASA Space Station, circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 11-13	Cardboard Furniture by Easy Edges, Previously Natural Beaver Products, 1971-1973, 2002 Notes: These files contain materials related to cardboard furniture produced by Easy Edges/Natural Beaver Products, including Brogan's partnership agreements with Robert Irwin and copies of patent documents filed by Frank O. Gehry Associates, Inc. Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Oversize 4	Oversized Material Related to Cardboard Furniture by Easy Edges, Previously Natural Beaver Products, circa 1971-1973
Box 1, Folder 14	Cardboard Furniture Repairs — Invoices and Work Orders, 1991-1999 Notes: This file also includes work orders for other projects.
Box 1, Folder 15	National Endowment for the Arts, 1972-1979
Box 1, Folder 16	Tony DeLap — Floating Lady IV, 1976 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Oversize 4	Oversized Material Related to Tony DeLap's Floating Lady IV, 1976
Box 1, Folder 17	Rietveld Chairs — Research, 1976-1980 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Oversize 4	Oversized Material Related to Rietveld Chairs Research, 1976
Box 1, Folder 18	Rietveld Chairs, circa 1978

Box 1, Folder 19	San Francisco International Airport Sculpture Project, 1982-1983 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Oversize 4	Oversized Material Related to San Francisco International Airport Sculpture Project, circa 1982-1983
Box 1, Folder 20	James Turrell — Volcano Box, 1983-1991 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Oversize 4	Oversized Material Related to James Turrell's Volcano Box, circa 1983-1991
Box 1, Folder 21	Don Flavin Projects, 1984-1989
Box 1, Folder 22-23	Robert Therrien Projects, 1985-1994 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Oversize 4	Oversized Material Related to Robert Therrien Projects, 1985-1994
Box 1, Folder 24	Robert Therrien — Hat, 1993
Box 1, Folder 25	Philip Aziz Project, 1989
Box 1, Folder 26	Mat Strauss Projects, 1989-2003
Box 1, Folder 27	Lynda Benglis — Racer Series, 1990
Box 1, Folder 28	Roy Lichtenstein — Modern Head Relief, 1990-1992
Box 1, Folder 29	Roy Lichtenstein — Modern Head Relief Disassembling, Re-polishing, Etc., 1999-2002
Box 1, Folder 30	Beverly Pepper Projects, 1991-1999
Box 1, Folder 31	Susan Kaiser Vogel Sculpture, circa 1991 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Oversize 4	Oversized Material Related to Susan Kaiser Vogel Sculpture, circa 1991
Box 1, Folder 32	Yamagata Studio — Lips and Mercedes Mini, 1991, 2001
Box 1, Folder 33	Peter Erskine — Heliostat, 1992
Box 1, Folder 34	Ed Moses — Therm Reac-tor, 1993-1994
Box 1, Folder 35	Ed Moses Project, 2010-2011
Box 1, Folder 36	Bruce Nauman Projects, 1998

	Notes: This file primarily contains material from Coastal Enterprises and information related to products. Oversized drawing housed in OV 4.
Oversize 4	Oversized Material Related to Bruce Nauman Project, undated
Box 1, Folder 37	Regen Projects, 1998-2000
Box 1, Folder 38	Refelt Designs Project, 1999
Box 1, Folder 39	Bellevue Baptist Church Project, 2001
Box 1, Folder 40	John McCracken Piece at Galerie Hauser & Wirth, Zurich — Re-polishing, 2001-2002
Box 1, Folder 41	John McCracken Pieces at Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin — Repairs, 2003-2004
Box 1, Folder 42	John McCracken — Yellow Pyramid, Repairs, 2003-2004
Box 1, Folder 43	Terminator 3/ Arnold Schwarzenegger Sculpture, 2002
Box 1, Folder 44	Fred Hoffman Fine Arts Project, 2002-2003
Box 1, Folder 45	Smokey's Gumbo to Go Project, 2003
Box 1, Folder 46	Peter Alexander Project, 2003
Box 1, Folder 47	Richard Serra Works for Barbara Sinatra, 2003-2004
Box 1, Folder 48	Robert Irwin — Prism and Spanish Fan, 2003-2005 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Oversize 4	Oversized Material Related to Robert Irwin's Prism and Spanish Fan, circa 2003-2005
Box 1, Folder 49-51	Robert Irwin Projects, 2006-2008
Box 1, Folder 52	Robert Irwin — Acrylic Art Feature Component, United States Courthouse, 2010
Box 1, Folder 53	Robert Irwin — Bella Oaks Projects, 2012-2015
Box 1, Folder 54	Larry Bell — Cubes Owned by Douglas Garland, Cleaning, 2003-2008
Box 1, Folder 55	Larry Bell Project, 2009
Box 1, Folder 56	Bethany Baptist Church — Cross and Pulpit, 2004
Box 1, Folder 57	Robert Smithson — Neon Piece, circa 2004

1 Electronic discs (CD)

Notes: This file contains primarily photographs and digital images. Oversized drawings housed in OV 4.

Oversize 4	Oversized Material Related to Robert Smithson's Neon Piece, circa 2004
Box 1, Folder 58	Norton Simon Museum — Assorted Projects, 2004-2005 Notes: Also includes invoices from People's Church.
Box 1, Folder 59	Fletcher Benton — Restoration of Sculptures for Bruce and Marilyn Gillis, 2004-2007, 2016
Box 1, Folder 60	South Coast Plaza Water Feature Sculpture, 2005-2006
Box 2, Folder 1	Clytie Alexander — Diaphan 17, Ultramarine Blue/Cobalt, 2005-2009
Box 2, Folder 2	Henry Moore — Connected Forms, 1969-1974, 2006-2007, 2009
Box 2, Folder 3	Broad Art Foundation Project, 2008
Box 2, Folder 4	De Wain Valentine — Gray Column, Getty Center Concave Circle, 2011
Box 2, Folder 5	Unidentified Project — The Knife, undated
Box 2, Folder 6	Assorted Unidentified Projects, 1968-1973, 2006, 2016 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Oversize 4	Oversized Material Related to Unidentified Projects, 1968
Box 2, Folder 7	Unidentified Project, 2012-2013
Box 2, Folder 8	Invoices for Assorted Unidentified Projects, 1990-2003

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Series 3: Printed Material, 1970-2012

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2, OV 4)

Scope and Contents: The printed material series includes Design Concepts advertisements, exhibition announcements, exhibition catalogs, magazines, newspaper and magazine clippings, newsletters, press releases, published interviews, and a transcript of the dedication ceremonies for the bicentennial sculpture, *Flight*, in Fullerton, California.

Box 2, Folder 9	Exhibition Announcements, Press Releases, Design Concepts Advertisements, Postcard with Image of Work, circa 1999-2012
Box 2, Folder 10-11	Exhibition Catalogs, 1970-1980, 2008, 2012
Box 2, Folder 12	Exhibition Catalog — Peter Alexander: Sculpture 1966-72 (1991), Inscribed to Jack Brogan by Peter Alexander, 1991
Box 2, Folder 13	Exhibition Catalog — Secrets of the Sun: Millennial Meditations I, Inscribed to Jack Brogan by Peter Erskine, 1992 Language: Text appears in both English and Italian.
Box 2, Folder 14	Magazine Article — An Artist's Wizard from Art and Living Magazine, Fall 2007, 2007
Box 2, Folder 15	Magazines — Wooden Boat no. 68 and Art in America July 1991, 1986, 1991 July
Box 2, Folder 16	Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, Clipped Advertisements for Design Concepts, Newsletters, Etc., 1972-1994, 2011 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 5.
Oversize 5	Oversized Newspaper Clippings, 1974-1979
Box 2, Folder 17	Published Interviews, 1990, 2012
Box 2, Folder 18	Transcript of Dedication Ceremonies for the Bicentennial Sculpture, Flight in Fullerton, California, 1978

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Series 4: Photographic Material, circa 1969-circa 1990s, undated

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material includes contact sheets, negatives, photographs, slides, snapshots, and transparencies. The bulk of this series consists of snapshots, primarily depicting works of art and their installation. Also included are images of works of art in Brogan's studio and personal snapshots.

Arrangement: This series is arranged alphabetically by artist/project. The majority of snapshots appear at the end of the series. These are arranged with artists or identifiable projects in alphabetical order, followed by various artists and projects in chronological order. Personal snapshots are at the end.

Box 2, Folder 19	Lynda Benglis Works of Art — Negatives and Slides, 1982-1991
Box 2, Folder 20	Lynda Benglis Works of Art — Slides, 1982-1989
Box 2, Folder 21-22	Lynda Benglis Works of Art — Polaroid Snapshots, circa 1980s-circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 23-25	Lynda Benglis Works of Art — Snapshots, circa 1980s-circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 26	Jack Brogan and Others — Photographs, circa 1973- circa 1991
Box 2, Folder 27	Jack Brogan and Robert Irwin — Photograph and Contact Sheet, 1971
Box 2, Folder 28	Jack Brogan Furniture — Photographs, Slides, Negatives, and Contact Sheets, circa 1973
Box 2, Folder 29	Jack Brogan Works — Photographs, Negatives, and Contact Sheets, circa 1969-circa 1989
Box 2, Folder 30	Cardboard Furniture by Easy Edges/Natural Beaver Products — Photographs, circa 1971-circa 1973
Box 2, Folder 31	Roy Lichtenstein, Three Swiss Cheese Doors — Transparencies, 1993
Box 2, Folder 32	Beverly Pepper Sculpture and Installation — Photographs, 1991
Box 2, Folder 33	Rietveld Furniture — Photographs, Slides, and Negatives, circa 1976-circa 1980
Box 2, Folder 34	Unidentified Project — The Last Supper Negative, undated
Box 2, Folder 35	Unidentified Projects — Assorted Slides and Negatives, 1980-circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 36	Various Artists — Slides, Contact Sheets, and Photographs, circa 1982, undated
Box 2, Folder 37	Various Artists, Installation and Works — Negatives and Contact Sheets, undated
Box 2, Folder 38	Various Artists, Installation and Works — Photographs, Negatives, and Contact Sheets, circa 1973, undated

	Snapshots
	Notes: Many of these files also contain negatives.
Box 2, Folder 39	Assorted Artists and Projects, circa 1972, undated Notes: This folder contains snapshots of Lynda Benglis work, Jack Brogan's store, Tony DeLap's piece in Inglewood, a Ganzer piece, a Keith Haring piece, the Hollywood Ladies sculpture, and the Robert Irwin San Francisco Airport installation.
Box 2, Folder 40	Robert Irwin Assorted Projects, 1982, undated Notes: This includes snapshots of the UCSD metal sculpture/trees piece and other various projects, as well as snapshots of pieces by Irwin and Robert Therrien.
Box 3, Folder 1	Mark Lere — Italy, undated
Box 3, Folder 2	Mark Lere Work and Motorcycles, undated
Box 3, Folder 3	McCracken Garden Installation, undated
Box 3, Folder 4	Space Frame Project, undated
Box 3, Folder 5	Bob Therrien Piece, undated
Box 3, Folder 6	TV Set and Cabinet, undated
Box 3, Folder 7	Unidentified Project, undated
Box 3, Folder 8	Unidentified Sculpture Project, undated Notes: Possibly works by Bernar Venet.
Box 3, Folder 9	Wellesley Installation and Personal Snapshots, undated
Box 3, Folder 10	Various Artists and Projects, 1970
Box 3, Folder 11	Various Artists and Projects, circa 1982
Box 3, Folder 12	Various Artists and Projects, circa 1984 Notes: Also includes personal snapshots.
Box 3, Folder 13	Various Artists and Projects, 1989
Box 3, Folder 14-16	Various Artists and Projects, circa 1989
Box 3, Folder 17	Various Artists and Projects, circa 1989
Box 3, Folder 18	Various Artists and Projects, circa 1989

Box 3, Folder 19	Various Artists and Projects, circa 1989
Box 3, Folder 20	Various Artists and Projects, circa 1989
Box 3, Folder 21	Various Artists and Projects, circa 1990
Box 3, Folder 22	Various Artists and Projects, 1991
Box 3, Folder 23	Various Artists and Projects, circa 1991
Box 3, Folder 24	Various Artists and Projects, circa 1991
Box 3, Folder 25	Various Artists and Projects, circa 1995 Notes: Includes Personal Snapshots
Box 3, Folder 26	Various Artists and Projects, undated
Box 3, Folder 27	Various Artists and Projects, undated
Box 3, Folder 28	Various Artists and Projects, undated
Box 3, Folder 29	Various Artists and Projects, undated
Box 3, Folder 30	Various Artists and Projects, undated
Box 3, Folder 31	Various Artists and Projects, undated
Box 3, Folder 32	Various Artists and Projects, undated
Box 3, Folder 33	Various Artists and Projects, undated
Box 3, Folder 34	Various Artists and Projects and Personal Snapshots, undated
Box 3, Folder 35	Various Projects and Personal Snapshots, undated
Box 3, Folder 36	Projects and Personal Snapshots — Kendra 20th, Therrien Cone, undated
Box 3, Folder 37	Personal Snapshots — Pets, Cars, and People, 1978-1979
Box 3, Folder 38	Personal Snapshots — Travel, undated
Box 3, Folder 39	Personal Snapshots — Parades, undated

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Series 5: Artwork, 1988, undated

0.1 Linear feet (Box 2, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes sketches and designs for unidentified projects.

Contents:

Box 2, Folder 41	Designs and Sketches for Unidentified Pulpit Project, undated Notes: This file also includes one contact sheet.
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Box 2, Folder 42	Unidentified Sketches, 1988, undated Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
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Oversize 4	Oversized Unidentified Sketches, undated
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Series 6: Unprocessed Addition, 1973-2014

2 Linear feet

Box 6 Unprocessed Papers

Box 7 Unprocessed Papers

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