



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Judith S. Brown Papers,
circa 1940-1992, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Judith S. Brown papers
Identifier:	AAA.browjudi
Date:	circa 1940-2002
Extent:	3.3 Linear feet
Creator:	Brown, Judith S., 1931-1992
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of sculptor, painter, and dancer Judith Brown measure 3.3 linear feet and date from circa 1940 to 2002. The papers document Brown's career through personal and professional files, printed material, photographs, artwork, and one videocassette recording.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The bulk of the collection was donated by Judith Brown in 1978. Additional materials were donated in 1995 and 2007 by Brown via Peter Stettenheim, Brown's brother and the executor of her will.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Christopher DeMairo in 2021.

Preferred Citation

Judith S. Brown papers, circa 1940-2002. 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 audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Judith Brown (1931-1992) was a sculptor, painter, and dancer in New York, New York, and Brownsville, Vermont. She attended Sarah Lawrence College and studied with Theodore Roszak, 1952-1954. Always fascinated with motion, Brown was noted for successfully capturing fleeting moments of a body's action through sculpture and paintings, with particular interest in how fabric draped and flowed along the body's contours during movement. Brown established herself by the late 1950s, and from then on had a long career of exhibiting and selling her work.

Brown's work was exhibited widely throughout the United States and Europe, featured in group shows at the Museum of Contemporary Crafts, the Boston Arts Festival, The New Britain Museum of American Art, and many other galleries and museums. Brown's one-person exhibitions include shows at Zygos Gallery in Cyprus and Galeria de Antonio Souza in Mexico City, as well as galleries and museums in Vermont, Florida, and New York City. Brown's artwork was also displayed in windows at Tiffany's and Bonwit Teller in their New York City department stores.

In addition to displaying her work in exhibition settings, Brown received many public and private commissions throughout her career. Her public commissions may be found in many U.S. states including New York, Vermont, New Jersey, Virginia, Georgia, and California; and she has work currently housed with several museums and corporations including the Pepsi Company, Marriott Corporation, Dartmouth College, Vermont Law School, Jewish Museum, and the Museum of Dance.

During her career, Brown was a trustee and member of the Vermont Council on the Arts, member of Artists Equity Association, Creative Arts Rehabilitation, and Women in the Arts Foundation, Inc. She received honorable mention in the Gold Medal Competition at the Architectural League of New York City in 1958, an award from the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation in 1970, and an award in creative art from the American Academy and the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1976.

Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor, painter, and dancer Judith Brown measure 3.3 linear feet and date from circa 1940 to 2002. The papers document Brown's career through personal and professional files such as resumes and biographical writings, awards, scant personal business records, a video recording about Brown, and some papers related to professional organizations, commissions, and exhibitions. Printed material includes announcements, posters, and catalogs related to group and solo exhibitions, holiday sales of Brown's artwork, studio open houses, and dedication ceremonies; publicity material; reproductions of her artwork; articles and newspaper clippings; and more. The photographs include snapshots, prints, slides, transparencies, and negatives of Brown's artwork, the artist working in her New York City and Vermont studios, exhibitions, installations, and some images with family and friends. Artwork consists of paintings, sketchbooks, project designs, homemade holiday cards, and other works of art made by Brown between the late 1930s to late 1980s.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as four series.

- Series 1: Personal and Professional Papers, circa 1940-1992 (Box 1; .2 linear feet)
- Series 2: Printed Material, 1950s-2002 (Box 1, 5, OV 6; .6 linear feet)
- Series 3: Photographs, 1950s-1992 (Box 1-3, 5; 1.5 linear feet)
- Series 4: Artwork, circa 1940-1992 (Box 3-5, OV 7-9; 1 linear foot)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women artists
Women sculptors

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Sketchbooks
Video recordings

Occupations:

Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York
Sculptors -- Vermont

Container Listing

Series 1: Personal and Professional Papers, circa 1940-1992

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Series includes an invitation, brochure, some photographs, and other ephemera from the American Academy and the National Institute of Arts and Letters; a letter from Brandeis University thanking Brown for gold pendants she made for the university; as well as several essays, a school newspaper, and one foreign studies transcript from around her college years at Sarah Lawrence College. The series also contains writings by and about Brown, a video recording about the artist, scattered correspondence, and materials from Brown's memorial service.

Box 1, Folder 1	American Academy of Arts and Letters, 1976
Box 1, Folder 2	"Artist at Work: Judith Brown", 1981 May 3 <i>1 Videocassettes (U-matic)</i>
Box 1, Folder 3	Brandies University, 1972
Box 1, Folder 4	Carruth, Hayden, Excerpt from Letter, 1979
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, Regrets Related to Exhibitions, 1966
Box 1, Folder 6	George School, Alumni Award, 1984
Box 1, Folder 7	Memorial Service, 1992
Box 1, Folder 8	Sarah Lawrence University , 1949-1953
Box 1, Folder 9	Summer Reading, Handmade Book, circa 1940
Box 1, Folder 10	Statement, Proposed Sculpture for Northern Kentucky University, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Vermont Council on the Arts, Lifetime Achievement Award, 1992
Box 1, Folder 12	Writings About Brown, 1978
Box 1, Folder 13	Writings By Brown, undated

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Series 2: Printed Material, 1950s-2002

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1, 5, OV 6)

Found here are announcements, posters, and catalogs related to group and solo exhibitions, holiday sales of Brown's artwork, studio open houses, and dedication ceremonies. This series also includes Brown's artist cards, holidays cards she had printed based off her original artwork, articles and newspaper clippings, printed reproductions of her artwork, publicity packets, and stationery.

Box 1, Folder 14-15	Announcements, Brochures, and Posters, 1963-2002
Oversize 6	Announcements, Brochures, and Posters, 1960s-1980s
Box 1, Folder 16-17	Articles and Newspaper Clippings, circa 1960-1980s
Box 1, Folder 18	Articles and Newspaper Clippings, Mexico Show; Photographs and Price List Included, 1965 July
Box 1, Folder 19	Articles and Newspaper Clippings, Obituaries, 1992
Box 1, Folder 20	Artist Cards, circa 1960s-1992
Box 1, Folder 21	Christmas Cards and Greeting Cards, 1950s-1992
Box 5, Folder 1	Christmas Cards and Prints, 1950s-1992
Box 1, Folder 22	<i>Caryatids</i> , Publicity Material, 1981, undated
Box 1, Folder 23	Dedication Ceremony Ephemera, Clarkson S. Fisher Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse Rotunda, Trenton, New Jersey, 1995
Box 1, Folder 24	Exhibition Catalogs, Solo shows, 1975, 1988
Box 1, Folder 25	Exhibition Catalogs, Group Shows, 1964-1985
Box 1, Folder 26	Press Releases, circa 1970s-1980s
Box 1, Folder 27	<i>Prize-Winning Sculpture</i> , Compiled by Margaret Harold, 1965
Box 1, Folder 28	Publicity, circa 1980-1992
Box 1, Folder 29	Reference Material, Rodeo, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 30	Reproductions, 1960s-1992, undated

Box 1, Folder 31 Stationery, undated

Box 1, Folder 32 Young Women's Christian Association, Award Dinner Booklet, 1978

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Series 3: Photographs, 1950s-1992

1.5 Linear feet (Box 1-3, 5)

Found here are black and white images, slides, transparencies, and some negatives of Brown's sculptures, paintings, rugs, and prints; some of these photographs are found amongst others documenting Brown's process of creating and installing the works. Other images depict Brown's exhibit installations; dedication ceremonies; and her studios in New York City in the 1950s and then at the date of her death in 1992, as well as her studio in Vermont that she had from the 1960s until her death. Also found in this series are images of the artist with family and friends, posing with her artwork, and at events.

Box 1, Folder 33	Artist, Snapshots and Negatives, 1950s-1980s
Box 5, Folder 2	Artist, Portraits and Images from Studios, 1950s, 1981
Box 1, Folder 34	Artist, New York Studio, 1950s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 35	Artist, Vermont Studio, 1960s-1980s
Box 1, Folder 36	Artwork, Figure Paintings, 1990-1991
Box 1, Folder 37	Artwork, Memorial Garden Cross, 1980
Box 1, Folder 38	Artwork, <i>Procession</i> , 1990-1991
Box 1, Folder 39	Artwork, <i>The Roses</i> Chess Set, undated
Box 2, Folder 1-12	Artwork, Sculptures, 1950s-1980s
Box 5, Folder 3	Artwork, Sculptures, 1950s-1980s
Box 2, Folder 13	Artwork, Sculpture Collage, 1979
Box 2, Folder 14	Artwork, Sculpture Installations, Slides, 1981-1993
Box 2, Folder 15-16	Artwork, Sculptures and Wearable Art, Slides, 1965-1991
Box 2, Folder 17	Artwork, Sculptures, Transparencies and Negatives, circa 1950s-1970s
Box 2, Folder 18	Artwork, Silk Screen Print, 1977-1978
Box 2, Folder 19	Artwork, Masonite, 1974
Box 2, Folder 20	Artwork, Molten Wax, Spray-Painted, 1960s-1970s

Box 2, Folder 21	Artwork, Window Installations, Bonwit Teller and Tiffany, 1957-1974
Box 2, Folder 22	Artwork, Wool Rugs, 1969
Box 2, Folder 23	Events, Award Ceremony for Martha Graham, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 1	Events, Dedication of "Lamentations Group", 1993
Box 3, Folder 2	Events, Tracy Penfield on top of <i>Blithe Spirit</i> , 1991
Box 3, Folder 3	Exhibitions, AVA Gallery, 1992
Box 3, Folder 4	Exhibitions, Byron Gallery, 1966
Box 3, Folder 5	Exhibitions, Landry Gallery, 1962
Box 3, Folder 6	Exhibitions, 1965-1979
Box 3, Folder 7	Personal, Family and Friends, Photographs and Negatives, 1950s-1980s
Box 3, Folder 8	Studio, New Studio Announcement; Note to Peter, 1950s
Box 5, Folder 4	Studio, Vermont, Assistants, Sculptures, 1980s
Box 3, Folder 9-11	Studio, New York Studio Upon Brown's Death, 1992

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Series 4: Artwork, circa 1940-1992

1 Linear foot (Box 3-5, OV 7-9)

Found here are paintings, drawings, design sketches, and sketchbooks dating from the 1950s to late 1980s. Paintings and drawings mostly depict figures in some form of motion— both nude and draped in fabrics, landscapes, some still life objects, and urban environments. Also found here are design sketches for menorahs and wearable art; travel sketchbooks; and original copies of homemade holiday and greeting cards by Brown.

Box 5, Folder 5	Drawings, circa 1940
Box 5, Folder 6	Drawings, Exuma and Dance , 1970s
Oversize 7	Figures, undated
Box 5, Folder 7	Greek Museums, Circus Drawings, and Bullet "Proofs", undated
Box 3, Folder 12	Greeting and Holiday Cards, circa 1940-1980s
Box 5, Folder 8	Greeting and Holiday Cards, undated
Box 3, Folder 13	Landscape Drawings, Pencil, circa 1940-1950
Box 3, Folder 14	Menorah Commission Sketch, undated
Box 3, Folder 15	Paintings, circa 1940-1950
Box 5, Folder 9	Paintings, undated
Oversize 8	Paintings, undated
Oversize 9	Paintings, undated
Box 3, Folder 16	Sketchbooks, Bali, Java, Sumatra, Singapore, Medam, circa 1980s
Box 5, Folder 10	Sketchbooks, Bill Morrow; Cape May, New Jersey, undated
Box 4, Folder 1	Sketchbook, Gardens of Bomarzo; Visitor Flip-book, 1986
Box 5, Folder 11	Sketchbook, Guadalupe; Loose Sketches, undated
Box 4, Folder 2	Sketchbook, Mexico Drawings, undated
Box 4, Folder 3	Wild Flowers, Handmade Book, circa 1940

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