
Joy Goodwin

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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art

Title: Martin H. Bush papers

Identifier: AAA.bushmart

Date: 1948-2012
(bulk 1970-2008)

Extent: 5.1 Linear feet
0.705 Gigabytes

Creator: Bush, Martin H.

Language: Most of the collection is in English; some printed material is in German.

Summary: The papers of Martin H. Bush measure 5.1 linear feet and 0.705 GB and date from 1948-2012, with the bulk of the material dating from 1970-2008. The collection documents Bush's career as an art historian, educator, consultant, and gallery director through biographical material, correspondence, interviews, subject files, a scrapbook, and printed and digital material. There is an unprocessed addition to this collection that includes one VHS tape, "American Art Forum: Martin Bush, October 27, 1988."

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2013 by Martin H. Bush. An unprocessed addition to the collection was donated by Lisa Bush Hankin in 2016.

Processing Information

This collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared in 2014 by Joy Goodwin. Born-digital materials were processed by Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner in 2021 with funding provided by Smithsonian Collection Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation


Restrictions

Use of original material requires an appointment. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.
Biographical / Historical

Martin H. Bush is an art historian, educator, consultant, and gallery director.

Bush received a Bachelor of Arts from the State University of New York at Albany in 1958. From 1963-1965, he taught at Syracuse University, where he earned his Ph.D in History in 1966. Bush also served as the University's Assistant Dean for Academic Resources from 1965-1970. During this time, Martin H. Bush was also a consultant to the New York State Education Department.

From 1970-1974, Martin H. Bush was the Vice President of Academic Resource Development at Wichita State University, a position created for him by the University's President, Clark Ahlberg. In this post, Bush established a special collections department at Ablah Library and the Ulrich Museum of Art. Bush was also a consultant to several major corporations in Wichita, including Fourth Financial Corporation, Range Oil Company, and American Diversified Real Estate. In 1974, in recognition of Bush's contribution to the museum, the University opened the Martin H. Bush Outdoor Sculpture Collection. Bush has been involved in the acquisition of major pieces of outdoor sculpture from such well-known artists as Chaim Gross, Barbara Hepworth, Henry Moore, Juan Miró, Louise Nevelson, and George Rickey. In 1989, Bush moved to New York City, where he continued his work as an art consultant. From 1992-1993, he was President of the ACA Gallery.

Martin H. Bush has published many books and articles on artists as well as contributed essays for exhibition catalogs. In the 1970s-1980s, Bush interviewed major artists for public television and radio programs in Wichita, among them Benny Andrews, Isabel Bishop, Richard Poussette-Dart, and Theodoros Stamos. Martin H. Bush's honors and awards include the George S. Patton Medal by the government of Luxembourg for his essay, "Ben Shahn: The Passion of Sacco and Vanzetti," 1969; "Outstanding Educator" by the Kansas Art Education Association, 1979; and the Wichita Arts Council Award, 1984.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Martin H. Bush measure 5.1 linear feet and 0.705 GB and date from 1948-2012, with the bulk of the material dating from 1970-2008. The collection documents Bush's career as an art historian, educator, consultant, and gallery director through biographical material, correspondence, interviews, subject files, a scrapbook, and printed and digital material. There is an unprocessed addition to this collection that includes one VHS tape, "American Art Forum: Martin Bush, October 27, 1988."

Biographical material includes curriculum vitae, a certificate of discharge from the United States Army Reserve, and a lifetime membership certificate from the Edwin A. Ulrich Museum of Art. Most of the correspondence is personal in nature and consists of letters between Bush and his colleagues at Wichita State University and the Ulrich Museum of Art, friends, and family members. Martin H. Bush's interviews
on videocassette with artists and other figures in the art world include Benny Andrews, Duane Hanson, Ivan Karp, Alice Neel, Louise Nevelson, and Arnold Newman.

Subject files primarily document Martin H. Bush's activities as an art dealer and consultant and contain auction house sales and files on individual artists, including Richard Pousette-Dart, Robert Goodnough, Ernest Trova, and Isaac Witkin. Source files include illustrated letters by John Von Wicht and a folder on Samuel Beckett's correspondence with Bush that includes three holograph letters and one typescript letter from Beckett. A small amount of material references Bush's tenure as director of the ACA Gallery. Photographic and digital materials are also included.

A scrapbook contains news clippings and excerpts of newsletters covering Bush's career at Wichita State University. Printed material includes books, an educational brochure, exhibition catalogs, and a memorial booklet.

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1956-2008 (Box1, OV 5; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1984-2012 (Box 1; 0.8 linear ft.)
- Series 3: Interviews, circa 1970-1994 (Boxes 1-2; 1 linear ft.)
- Series 4: Subject Files, 1963-2012 (Boxes 2-4; 2 linear ft., ER01; 0.705 GB)
- Series 5: Scrapbook, 1971-2000 (Box 4; 1 folder)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1948, 1964-circa 2000 (Box 4, 0.25 linear ft.)
- Series 7: Unprocessed addition, 1988 (Box 4)

## Names and Subject Terms

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

**Subjects:**
- Art -- Study and teaching
- Gallery directors

**Types of Materials:**
- Interviews
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks
- Video recordings

**Names:**
- ACA Galleries
- Andrews, Benny, 1930-2006
- Edwin A. Ulrich Museum of Art
- Goodnough, Robert, 1917-
- Hanson, Duane
- Karp, Ivan C., 1926-2012
- Neel, Alice, 1900-1984
Nevelson, Louise, 1899-1988
Newman, Arnold, 1918-2006
Trova, Ernest T., 1927-
Von Wicht, John, 1888-1970
Wichita State University -- Faculty
Witkin, Isaac

Occupations:
Art historians
Consultants
Educators
Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1956-2008

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 5)

This series includes a certificate of discharge from the United State Army Reserve, a membership certificate from the Edwin A. Ulrich Museum of Art, and a clipping detailing the significant artwork acquired by Bush for the Ulrich Museum. Biographical information provides an overview of Bush’s professional activities and accomplishments as a consultant, an university arts administrator, educator, and art historian.

Biographical material is arranged by subject.

Box 1, Folder 1  Biographical Information, 1986

Box 1, Folder 2  Certificate of Discharge from the United States Army Reserve, 1956

Box 1, Folder 3  Lifetime Membership Certificate from the Edwin A. Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University (1992 January 24), 1992

Oversized material housed in Box 5

Box 1, Folder 4  Clipping about Martin H. Bush, 2008

Box OV 5  Oversized Certificate from the Edwin A. Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University (1992 January 24), from Box 1, Folder 3, 1992

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1984-2012

0.8 Linear feet (Box 1)

Correspondence reflects Bush's activities as an independent consultant. Files also contain curriculum vitae, printed material, brochures, clippings, and appraisal of artwork. Correspondents include colleagues at Wichita State University, museum directors, curators, collectors, and friends. Letters between Bush and his friends discuss baseball, particularly Bush's interest in early twentieth century baseball players. Of interest, is correspondence between Martin H. Bush and Lois More Overbeck, co-editor of The Letters of Samuel Beckett; Overbeck was seeking permission to reprint the letters between Bush and Samuel Beckett. Also included are letters from Bush's wife, Jennie.

Correspondence is arranged in alphabetical order. Names with five or more letters are filed alphabetically by person or corporate name.

Box 1, Folder 5 Correspondence, A, 2007, undated
Includes letters from Clark Ahlberg

Box 1, Folder 6 Correspondence, B, 2002-2009

Box 1, Folder 7 Correspondence, Burke, Jim, 2002-2009

Box 1, Folder 8 Correspondence, Bush, Jennie, 1998-2012, undated

Box 1, Folder 9 Correspondence, Bush, Martin H., 2000-2011, undated

Box 1, Folder 10 Correspondence, C-E, 2002-2011, undated

Box 1, Folder 11 Correspondence, G, 2000-2002

Box 1, Folder 12 Correspondence, H-J, 2000-2009

Box 1, Folder 13 Correspondence, K-M, 1995-2005

Box 1, Folder 14 Correspondence, O-P, 1995-2009

Box 1, Folder 15 Correspondence, Piskor, Frank P., 1998-2006, undated

Box 1, Folder 16 Correspondence, Platt, George M., 2000-2012, undated

Box 1, Folder 17 Correspondence, R-S, 1996-2011, undated

Box 1, Folder 18 Correspondence, T-U, 2000-2010, undated
Includes a thank you note from Ernest Trova

Box 1, Folder 19 Correspondence, W-Y, 1999-2012, undated
Box 1, Folder 20  Correspondence without Surnames, 1984-2008, undated

1 Linear foot (Boxes 1-2)

This series consists of Bush's interviews with artists and prominent figures in the art world. Some of the interviews by Bush were conducted during his tenure as Director of the Ulrich Museum. Interviews are recorded on 12 videocassettes; some videorecordings include multiple interviews.

Additional interviews can also be found in Series 4: Subject Files. This series is arranged in chronological order.

Ulrich Museum of Tapes

Box 1, Folder 21  List of Ulrich Museum Tapes, circa 1970-1980

Box 1, Folder 22  "A Conversation with Ivan Karp", circa 1970-circa 1980
  1 Videocassettes (VHS)
  Includes interviews with Benny Andrews, Arnold Newman, and Duane Hanson

  1 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 1, Folder 24  "The Discovery of Alice Neel," Tape 5, circa 1970-circa 1980
  1 Videocassettes (VHS)
  Includes interview with Louise Nevelson, "Born Artist"

Box 1, Folder 25  Richard Anuzkiewicz (1975 October), Tape 7, 1975
  1 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 1, Folder 26  "Visiting Artist Gallo", circa 1980-circa 1990
  1 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 1, Folder 27  "Visiting Artist Ernst Neizvestny", circa 1980-circa 1990
  1 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 1, Folder 28  "An Interview with Philip Reisman", circa 1980-circa 1990
  1 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 1, Folder 29  "Weston Photographs: Three Generations, An Interview with Cole Weston", circa 1980-circa 1990
  2 Videocassettes (VHS) (Duplicate)

Box 2, Folder 1  NBC Interviews with Carole Feuerman (1994 May 12), 1994
  2 Videocassettes (VHS) (Duplicate)

1 Videocassettes (VHS)

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Series 4: Subject Files, 1963-2012

2 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4)
0.705 Gigabytes (ER01)

This series includes files on Martin H. Bush’s dealings with individual artists, mostly relating to exhibitions, some organized by Martin H. Bush and sales of artwork. There are extensive files on Richard Pousette-Dart, Robert Goodnough, Ernest Trova, and Isaac Witkin. Auction files document Bush's consulting projects for art institutions, such as Owensboro Museum of Art and the Ulrich Museum of Art as well as his activities as a collector. Files may include a variety of material, such as correspondence, drafts, memoranda, proposals, informational sheets, lists of artwork, inventory lists, condition reports, printed and digital material, clippings and reviews, exhibition catalogs, annotated auction catalogs, and photographic materials, including slides and transparencies. Among the busines-related materials are appraisals, price lists, sale sheets, bids, lists of deaccessioned artwork, consignment agreements, condition reports, receipts, and invoices. There is limited documentation relating to Bush's directorship at ACA Gallery.

Also found are Martin H. Bush's correspondence with Samuel Beckett, including three holograph letters and one typescript letter from Beckett; John Von Wicht's illustrated letters; and an annotated typescript of Bush's account of his initial meeting with Joan Miró. Other source files include a list of scholars conducting research for catalogue raisonné projects, obituary notices on friends and acquaintances, and the Ulrich Museum of Art, particularly the museum's twentieth-fifth anniversary celebration. Two videorecordings of an ESPN "Up Close" Interview and and ESPN Hall of Fame induction ceremony reflect Bush's interest in baseball.

Subject files include 11 videocassettes.

Files are arranged by subject and thereafter in alphabetical order.

Artists

Box 2, Folder 3
Anuszkiewicz, Richard, 2006

Box 2, Folder 4
Goodnough, Robert

Box 2, Folder 5
Correspondence, 1973-2007, undated

Box 2, Folder 6-7
ACA Gallery, 1990-1994

Box 2, Folder 8
Articles and Clippings, 1981-2010, undated

Box 2, Folder 9
"A Day with Robert Goodnough," Fashion Institute of Technology, circa 1990s
1 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 2, Folder 10
"Dinosours Visit the Stamford Museum" and "Installation of Steel Sculpture, Mt. Kisco, New York", circa 1990s
2 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 2, Folder 10
"Goodnough, Paintings and Sculpture", circa 1990s
2 Videocassettes (VHS) (Duplicate)

Box 2, Folder 11  Interview at the Museum of Modern Art, circa 1990s
1 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 2, Folder 12  Writings, circa 2000-2004

Box 2, Folder 13-14  Photographic Images, 2000s

Box 2, Folder 15  Hanson, Duane, 1996-2009

Box 2, Folder 16  Hayes, David, 2005-2007

Box 2, Folder 17  Kearney, John, 2005-2007

Box 3, Folder 1  Klitgaard, Georgina, 1970, 2004-2009

Box 3, Folder 2  Miró, Joan, 1978

Box 3, Folder 3  Nichols, Dale, 2004-2012

Box 3, Folder 4  Pousette-Dart, Richard, 1990-1993
Includes a discussion on Richard Pousette-Dart recorded on 1 videocassette (VHS)

Box 3, Folder 5  Reginato, Peter, 2004-2005

Box 3, Folder 6  Rickey, George - Sculptures, circa 1980-circa 1990
2 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 3, Folder 7  Rosenthal, Doris, 2000-2001

Box 3, Folder 8  Trova, Ernest, 2008-2010

Box 3, Folder 9  Trova, Ernest - Trova vs. Universal Sewing Supply, 1987-1995

Box 3, Folder 10  Von Wicht, John, 1963-2005


Box 3, Folder 12  Witkin, Isaac - Claim Against the Estate, 2006-2008

Auctions
Box 3, Folder 13: Art Dealer Association, 2001-2005
Box 3, Folder 14-19: Bunte Auction Services, 2003-2005
Box 3, Folder 20: Fairfield Auction, 2005
Box 3, Folder 21: Freeman's Auction House, 2005
Box 3, Folder 22: James Di Julia's Auction, 2007
Box 3, Folder 23: John McGinnis Auctioneer, 2005
Box 3, Folder 24: Northeast Auctions, 2005
Box 3, Folder 25: Shannon's, 2005
Box 3, Folder 26: Skinner, Inc. - Ernest Trova, 2005-2008
Box 3, Folder 27: Stair Galleries, 2004-2005
Box 3, Folder 28: Stanton Enterprises, 2005-2007
Box 3, Folder 29: Swann Auction Galleries, circa 2005
Box 3, Folder 30: Thomaston Place Auction Galleries, 2005
Box 3, Folder 31: Vallot Fine Art Auctioneers, 2005
Box 3, Folder 32: Weschler's Auctioneers and Appraisers, 2005
Box 3, Folder 33: Miscellaneous Inventory Lists, undated
Box 3, Folder 35: Bush, Martin H. - Lists of Artwork and Clipping, undated
Box 3, Folder 36: Coutts Memorial Museum of Art, 2003-2005
Box 3, Folder 37: ESPN "Up Close" Interview with David Cone and ESPN's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, 1999
2 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 3, Folder 38: List of Scholars/Catalogues Raisonné, 2000s
Box 4, Folder 1-2  Obituaries - "Friends and Acquaintances", circa 1998-2012
*Includes born-digital records, see ER01*

Folder ER01  In Memory of Clark D. Ahlberg, President, Wichita State University, Digital Audio Recording, 2007
*0.705 Gigabytes (14 computer files)*

Box 4, Folder 3  Obituaries - "People I Have Known", 1996-2012

Box 4, Folder 4  Owensboro, Kentucky - Mary Brian Hood, 2005-2007

Box 4, Folder 5  Simon Parkes Art Conservation, Inc., 2002-2008

Box 4, Folder 6  Tatti - Sculpture Conservator, 2004

Box 4, Folder 7-8  Ulrich Museum of Art, 1974-2011

Box 4, Folder 9  Ulrich Museum of Art - Archives Inventory, 1991

Box 4, Folder 10  Ulrich Museum of Art - Twenty-Five Years Celebration, 1992-2007

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1 Folder (Box 4)

A scrapbook of news clippings provides an account of Bush's activities and accomplishments at the Ulrich Museum of Art. Also found are two letters and a few photographs.

Although the volume has been dismantled, its original order is retained.

Box 4, Folder 11 Scrapbook, 1971-2000

0.25 Linear feet (Box 4)

The small amount of printed material in the collection includes a book of biographical entries on artists, exhibition catalogs, and a memorial booklet on Philip Reisman. Included are inscribed publications, two from Abraham Walkowitz and one from Kenzo Okada. An educational brochure, *The Birth of a Song* by Martin H. Bush provides historical background to the writing of "The Star Spangled Banner."

AThis series is arranged by format.

Box 4, Folder 13     Book, *Art: From Life to Life*, 1948
Box 4, Folder 15     Booklet, *The Birth of a Song*, 1964
Box 4, Folder 17     Exhibition Catalog, *Huntertwass Erfriedereich*, 1965
Box 4, Folder 18     Exhibition Catalog, *Kenzo Okada Paintings, 1931-1965*, 1965

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Series 7: Unprocessed Addition, 1988

1 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 4

Unprocessed addition consisting of one video recording on VHS tape, "American Art Forum: Martin Bush, October 27, 1988."

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