



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Martin H. Bush Papers, 1948-2012, bulk 1970- 2008, in the Archives of American Art

Joy Goodwin

2014 June 30

Archives of American Art
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Martin H. Bush papers
Date:	1948-2012 (bulk 1970-2008)
Identifier:	AAA.bushmart
Creator:	Bush, Martin H.
Extent:	5.1 Linear feet 0.705 Gigabytes
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

Martin H. Bush papers, 1948-2012, bulk 1970-2008. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

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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 Pousette-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.

Missing Title:

- 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
Beckett, Samuel, 1906-1989
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
Pousette-Dart, Richard, 1916-1992
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)

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: 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 Notes: 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)

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: 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 Notes: 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 Notes: 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

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Series 3: Interviews, circa 1970-1994

1 Linear foot (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: 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) Notes: Includes interviews with Benny Andrews, Arnold Newman, and Duane Hanson
Box 1, Folder 23	"A Visit with Richard McLean," Tape 4, circa 1970-circa 1980 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 1, Folder 24	"The Discovery of Alice Neel," Tape 5, circa 1970-circa 1980 1 Videocassettes (VHS) Notes: 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)
Box 2, Folder 2	R. H. Love Galleries, "American Art Forum" (1994 August 10), 1994 1 Videocassettes (VHS)

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Series 4: Subject Files, 1963-2012

2 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4)

0.705 Gigabytes (ER01)

Scope and Contents: 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 business-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 an ESPN Hall of Fame induction ceremony reflect Bush's interest in baseball.

Subject files include 11 videocassettes.

Arrangement: Files are arranged by subject and thereafter in alphabetical order.

Artists

Box 2, Folder 3	Anuszkiewicz, Richard, 2006
	Goodnough, Robert
Box 2, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1973-2007, undated
Box 2, Folder 5	ACA Gallery, 1990-1994
Box 2, Folder 6-7	Articles and Clippings, 1981-2010, undated
Box 2, Folder 8	"A Day with Robert Goodnough," Fashion Institute of Technology, circa 1990s 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 2, Folder 9	"Dinosaurs 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 11	Witkin, Isaac, 1988, 2005-2007
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 34	Beckett, Samuel, 1963-1969, 2008
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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Series 5: Scrapbook, 1971-2000

1 Folder (Box 4)

Scope and Contents: 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.

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

Box 4, Folder 11	Scrapbook, 1971-2000
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Series 6: Printed Material, 1964-circa 2000, 1948

0.25 Linear feet (Box 4)

Scope and Contents: 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."

Arrangement: A This series is arranged by format.

Box 4, Folder 12	Book, Improvisations of New York: A Symphony in Lines, 1948
Box 4, Folder 13	Book, Art: From Life to Life, 1948
Box 4, Folder 14	Book, World Artists, 1950-1980, 1984
Box 4, Folder 15	Booklet, The Birth of a Song, 1964
Box 4, Folder 16	Memorial Booklet, Philip Reisman: A Life Remembered, 1904-1992, 1993
Box 4, Folder 17	Exhibition Catalog, Huntertwass Erfriedereich, 1965
Box 4, Folder 18	Exhibition Catalog, Kenzo Okada Paintings, 1931-1965, 1965
Box 4, Folder 19	Exhibition Catalog, Architektur Der Hoffnung: Natur und Menschen Gerechteres Wohnen, circa 1990-circa 2000

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Series 7: Unprocessed Addition, 1988

1 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 4

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

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