



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

John Button papers

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	John Button papers
<b>Date:</b>	1964-2004
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.butjohn
<b>Creator:</b>	Button, John, 1929-1982
<b>Extent:</b>	0.2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 2010 by Alvin Novak, longtime friend of Button's, and by John Button via Jaap van Liere, executor.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

John Button (1930-1982) was a painter in San Francisco, Calif. and New York, N.Y.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence, writings, photographs, and printed material regarding painter John Button.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence includes two letters from Fairfield Porter, 1974, three letters from Button to Zara Cohan, 1964, and copies of personal and professional letters from Button to businesses, organizations, and friends regarding his artwork, political beliefs, and personal issues, and photocopies of a postcard and six letters from Fairfield Porter. Writings include a typescript poem by Frank O'Hara, a poem by Helen Weaver, a copy of a poem attributed to James Schuyler about Button, and copies of two poems by Katherine Porter.

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## Scope and Contents

Photographs are of Button, Allen Ginsberg, Alan Ansen, Peter Orlovsky, Bette Davis, Gerald L. Fabian, Maxine Groffsky, Harry Matthews, Scott Burton, James Schuyler, Jane Freilicher, Hal Fondren, Joe LeSueur, Frank O'Hara, and three photographs of the mural created by John Button and Mario Dubsky at the Gay Activist Alliance Firehouse, 99 Wooster Street, New York, 1971-1974. Printed material consists of exhibition catalogs, announcements, reviews, publications by Button and others, among them a book of poems, "If I Dream I Have You, I Have You," written by Richard Howard and illustrated by Button, 1997.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Ansen, Alan  
Burton, Scott, 1939-1989  
Cohan, Zara  
Davis, Bette, 1908-1989  
Fabian, Gerald Langston  
Fondren, Hal  
Freilicher, Jane, 1924-2014  
Ginsberg, Allen, 1926- -- Photographs  
LeSueur, Joe  
O'Hara, Frank, 1926-1966  
Orlovsky, Peter, 1933-2010  
Porter, Fairfield  
Porter, Katherine Anne, 1890-1980  
Schuyler, James  
Weaver, Helen, 1932-2021

Occupations:

Painters -- California -- San Francisco