



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Lowell Darling Papers,
1945-2012, in the Archives of American Art

Rayna Andrews

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

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	3
Series 1: Biographical Material, 1970, circa 1982-2011.....	3
Series 2: Correspondence, 1945, 1969-1988, 1998-2000.....	5
Series 3: Project Files, 1950, 1960-1995, 2003-2011.....	6
Series 4: Printed Material, 1969-2011.....	10
Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1960s-circa 2000s.....	11
Series 6: Artwork, circa 1969-1977, circa 1993-2012.....	12

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Lowell Darling papers
Identifier:	AAA.darllowe
Date:	1945-2012
Extent:	4.6 Linear feet 6.32 Gigabytes
Creator:	Darling, Lowell
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of conceptual and performance artist Lowell Darling measure 4.6 linear feet and 6.32 GB and date from 1945 to 2012. The collection contains biographical material primarily in the form of address books and contact lists; correspondence; project files for works of art and performances including files and artifacts related to Darling's 1978 gubernatorial campaign; printed material, including a clippings portfolio; photographic material; and artwork, including sketches, collages, and stamps.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by Sherry Frumkin, Lowell Darling's friend and gallerist, in 2018.

Processing Information

The collection was minimally processed and a finding aid prepared by Rayna Andrews in 2019. Born-digital materials were processed by Jess Purkis in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Lowell Darling papers, 1945-2012. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The collection is open for research. Archival audiovisual recordings must be digitized for research access. Researchers may access digitized audiovisual materials in the Archives' Washington, D.C. or New York, N.Y. Research Centers by appointment. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

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 born-digital records in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Lowell Darling (1942-) is a California-based conceptual and performance artist. He established the unaccredited Fat City School of Finds Art, granting Masters Degrees to art students. Other notable projects include a collaboration with Ilene Segalove and the Cauliflower Alley Club of prizefighters in Los Angeles, and his work with found film clips for *Hollywood Archaeology*. Darling also ran for Governor of California in 1978 and published a book, *One Hand Shaking*, based on his notes from the campaign.

Scope and Contents

The papers of conceptual and performance artist Lowell Darling measure 4.6 linear feet and 6.32 GB and date from 1945 to 2012. The collection contains biographical material primarily in the form of address books and contact lists; correspondence; project files for works of art and performances including files and artifacts related to Darling's 1978 gubernatorial campaign; printed material, including a clippings portfolio; photographic material; and artwork, including sketches, collages, and stamps.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in six series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1970, circa 1982-2011 (Box 1; 0.8 linear feet)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, 1945, 1969-1988, 1998-2000 (Boxes 1-2; 0.4 linear feet)
 - Series 3: Project Files, 1950, 1960-1995, 2003-2011 (Boxes 2-3, Box 7, OV 8; 1.5 linear feet, ER 01-03; 6.32 GB)
 - Series 4: Printed Material, 1969-2011 (Box 3, Box 7, OV 8; 0.5 linear feet)
 - Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1960s-circa 2000s (Boxes 3-5; 0.7 linear feet)
 - Series 6: Artwork, circa 1969-2012 (Boxes 5-7; 0.7 linear feet)
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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:

Segalove, Ilene, 1950-

Occupations:

Conceptual artists -- California
Performance artists -- California

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1970, circa 1982-2011

0.8 Linear feet (Box 1)

This series consists primarily of address books, mailing lists, and other lists of contact information. Also included is a copy of Lowell Darling's transcript from Southern Illinois University.

Box 1, Folder 1	Address Books, circa 2006, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Addresses and Contact Information, A, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Addresses and Contact Information, B, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Addresses and Contact Information, C, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Addresses and Contact Information, D, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Addresses and Contact Information, E-F, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Addresses and Contact Information, G, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Addresses and Contact Information, H-I, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Addresses and Contact Information, J-K, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Addresses and Contact Information, L, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Addresses and Contact Information, M, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Addresses and Contact Information, N-P, undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Addresses and Contact Information, Q-R, undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Addresses and Contact Information, S, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Addresses and Contact Information, T-Z, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Addresses and Contact Information, circa 1982-2011
Box 1, Folder 17	Addresses and Contact Information, 1986-2006

Box 1, Folder 18	Addresses and Contact Information, circa 1989-2011
Box 1, Folder 19	Addresses and Contact Information, circa 1995-circa 2010
Box 1, Folder 20-21	Addresses and Contact Information, 2003-2010, undated
Box 1, Folder 22	Addresses and Mailing Lists, 1972, 1983-1984
Box 1, Folder 23-24	Addresses and Mailing Lists, undated
Box 1, Folder 25	Lowell Darling Southern Illinois University Transcript, 1970

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1945, 1969-1988, 1998-2000

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

This series includes some professional correspondence, as well as letters that may be related to unidentified projects and regarding specific subjects. Some files within this series contain photographs and printed material as attachments to letters.

Box 1, Folder 26	Assorted Correspondence, 1945, 1969-1987, 2000
Box 1, Folder 27	Southern California Hippo Riding Association, circa 1962-1988 Also includes photographic material and printed material.
Box 1, Folder 28	"Crank Letters" and Envelopes, 1969-1976
Box 1, Folder 29	<i>Teen Screen</i> Pen Pal Applications, 1970-1972
Box 2, Folder 1-2	<i>The Lost Poems</i> , 1970-1972, 1986 Includes correspondence regarding poetry, poems, and a bound volume of poems.
Box 2, Folder 3	Willoughby Sharp, 1973-1975 In addition to correspondence, this file includes photographs, printed material, and notes.
Box 2, Folder 4	H.O.L.L.Y.W.O.O.D, 1973-1976
Box 2, Folder 5-6	Letters Returned to Sender, 1986
Box 2, Folder 7	Loan of Bas Jan Ader's <i>In Search of the Miraculous</i> (1975) to UC Irvine, 1998-1999

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Project Files, 1950, 1960-1995, 2003-2011

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, Box 7, OV 8)

6.32 Gigabytes (ER01-03)

This series contains material related to Lowell Darling's projects and performances. Files may include correspondence, printed material, photographic material, draft writings, and artwork. Also included are audiovisual and digital recordings, as well as artifacts from Darling's 1978 California gubernatorial campaign and a plaster cast of a cauliflower ear from the Cauliflower Alley Club.

Project files are arranged alphabetically by project. Files within each project are arranged chronologically.

Box 2, Folder 8	Art Center of the World, Davis, 1971
	Deca Dance/Decca Dance
Box 2, Folder 9	Deca Dance/Decca Dance Correspondence, 1972-1974
Box 2, Folder 10	Correspondence, Plans, and Printed Material, 1973-1974
Oversize 8	Oversize Correspondence, Plans, and Printed Material, 1974
Box 2, Folder 11	<i>Art's Birthday</i> , 1974 Also includes correspondence and printed material related to <i>Constellation and Correspondence: Networking Between Artists 1970-1980</i> (2012) exhibition at ARTEXTE in which material related to Decca Dance was included.
Oversize 8	Oversize <i>Art's Birthday</i> , 1974
	Fats City School of Finds Art
Box 2, Folder 12	Printed Material, circa 1969
Oversize 8	Oversize Printed Material, 1971
Box 2, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1970-1973
Box 2, Folder 14	Addresses, 1971-circa 1972
Box 2, Folder 15	Degrees and Related Certificates, 1971-1977, undated
Oversize 8	Oversize Degrees and Related Certificates, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 16	Varsity Patch and Tuxedo Remnant, circa 1973

Box 2, Folder 17	Photographs, circa 1977
Box 2, Folder 18	Forgery List, 1972
Box 2, Folder 19	Hank Aaron Fat Bat, 1974
Box 2, Folder 20	<i>Hollywood Blank Verse Scripts, 1972-1975</i> Includes program for the Artists & Lawyers Ball for Advocates for the Arts, May 1975.
	Hollywood Anthropology
Box 2, Folder 21	Mike Mazurky, 1950, 1960-1989
Box 2, Folder 22	Cauliflower Alley Club, 1975-1990 Includes Cauliflower Alley Club Ring of Friendship certificate, 1987.
Box 7	Plaster Cast of Cauliflower Ear, circa 1978 This plaster cast is for Lowell Darling's honorary Cauliflower Alley Club membership, presented when he announced his candidacy at the club.
Box 2, Folder 23	The Cauliflower Alley Club/Hollywood Heavies Agreements, 1977
Box 2, Folder 24	Photographs and Statements, circa 1980
	Hollywood Archaeology
Box 2, Folder 25	Film Trims and Release, circa 1973-1986
Box 2, Folder 26-27	Slides/Exhibits/5x7s, circa 1970s-1980s
Oversize 8	Hollywood Archaeology Poster, circa 1980
Folder ER01	Photographs of Film Trims, Digital, circa 2000s <i>0.505 Gigabytes (70 computer files)</i>
Box 2, Folder 29	Planning Notes and Sketches, undated
	Lowell Darling Runs for Governor
Box 2, Folder 30	Lowell Darling Runs for Governor, 1978
Box 2, Folder 31-32	Lowell Darling Runs for Governor, 1978

Oversize 8	Oversize Material Related to Lowell Darling's Run for Governor, 1978
Box 7	Gubernatorial Campaign Buttons, circa 1978 Includes buttons for both Lowell Darling and Jerry Brown.
Box 7	Hand on a Stick, circa 1978
Box 7	Plymouth Plaza Decals, undated Darling toured the state for his campaign in a pink and black Plymouth.
Box 3, Folder 1	Campaign Event Recording, Berkeley Museum, 1978 February 14 <i>1 Sound cassette</i> Includes campaign speech and interview.
Box 3, Folder 2	Campaign Diary Entries and Fragments, 1978
Box 3, Folder 3	<i>One Hand Shaking</i> , Business Records, Agreements, and Printed Material, 1978-1982, 1995
Box 3, Folder 4-7	<i>One Hand Shaking</i> Draft, 1980
Box 3, Folder 8	<i>One Hand Shaking</i> by Lowell Darling, 1980 Includes notes and annotations.
Folder ER02	<i>Lowell vs. Reality</i> , Digital Video Recording, 2011 <i>5.2 Gigabytes (1 computer file)</i>
Box 3, Folder 10	Other Projects, 1972-1980 Includes gift receipt for Darling's donation of his MFA back to Southern Illinois University. Run Yourself for President
Box 3, Folder 11	European Union Campaign Candidate Declaration Forms, 2003 This project began 30 years after the governor campaign.
Folder ER03	<i>Run Yourself for President</i> Digital Video Recording, 2004 <i>0.613 Gigabytes (1 computer file)</i>
Box 3, Folder 13	Supersculpt, circa 1974 This is a project with Joe Ray and Tony Ramos. File includes photographs and correspondence. This Is Your Life

Box 3, Folder 14	<i>This Is Your Life</i> Exhibition and Book, 1974-1996 Image(s)
Oversize 8	Oversize Material Related to <i>This Is Your Life</i> Exhibition and Book, circa 1975
Box 3, Folder 15	<i>This Is Your Life</i> Book Source Material, 1975 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 16	<i>This Is Your Life</i> Book Source Material, 1975 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 17	<i>This Is Your Life</i> Book Source Material, 1975 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 18	<i>This Is Your Life: A Suite of Drawings</i> by Lowell Darling, 1975

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Printed Material, 1969-2011

0.5 Linear feet (Box 3, Box 7, OV 8)

Printed material includes the *Geographer's A to Z London Atlas and Index*, materials printed by the Fat City School of Finds Art Press, and a small amount of printed material related to Darling's exhibitions and projects. A clippings portfolio, as well as audiovisual material, are also included in this series.

Box 7	Self Portrait in the Press, Clippings Portfolio, 1969-2010
Box 3, Folder 19	<i>Geographer's A to Z London Atlas and Index</i> , 1970 Includes notes and annotations regarding sculpture and art around the city.
Box 3, Folder 20	<i>Notes From Fat City Artist's Proof</i> , 1970
Box 3, Folder 21	<i>Irish Lithography</i> by Lowell Darling and Joe Ray, 1971
Box 3, Folder 22	Assorted Printed Material, 1973-1976, 2000, 2011, undated <i>1 Sound discs (vinyl)</i>
Oversize 8	Oversize Assorted Printed Material, 1977-circa 1984 Includes poster and a map of stars' homes.
Box 3, Folder 23	Artists & Lawyers Ball for Advocates for the Arts, 1975
Box 3, Folder 24	D.E.P.R.E.S.S.I.O.N. Bread Line, Johnnie Morisette, circa 1974 <i>1 Sound discs (vinyl)</i>

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1960s-circa 2000s

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 3-5)

Included in this series are photographs, slides, and negatives of Lowell Darling, works of art, performances, and travel. Slides of certificates are also present in this series.

Box 3, Folder 25	Assorted Slides, Photographs, and Negatives, circa 1965-1990s, circa 2000s
Box 3, Folder 26-27	Slides of Works of Art and Performances, 1969-1979, 1995-1997
Box 4, Folder 1-6	Slides of Works of Art, Performances, and Certificates, 1960s-circa 2001
Box 5, Folder 1	Photographs and Slides, Paris and London "Chagall's View" and "John Napper's View", 1970 Also includes mounted postcard with a note about traveling to Paris and London in the spring of 1970.
Box 5, Folder 2	Photographs of Lowell Darling, circa 1970
Box 5, Folder 3-4	Photographs of Lowell Darling, Works of Art, and Performances, circa 1970s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Artwork, circa 1969-1977, circa 1993-2012

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 5-7)

This series contains collages, some of which were constructed within manila folders; sketches and drawings; paintings; and the stamps Darling used in collages and other projects.

Box 5, Folder 5	Collages, circa 1969-circa 1975
Box 5, Folder 6	<i>8 Red Crosses</i> , 1973
Box 5, Folder 7	15 Small Collages, circa 1973
Box 5, Folder 8	Apollo 11/Neal Armstrong File, 1973
Box 5, Folder 9	Laundry File, 1975
Box 5, Folder 10	Paintings, 1977
Box 7	Stamps, circa 1970s
Box 5, Folder 11	The Cowboy Star File Done With General Otis (Rope Tricks), circa 1993
Box 5, Folder 12-13	Forest Drawings, 1996-1998
Box 5, Folder 14	A Torn Painting, circa 2003
Box 5, Folder 15	Shirt Pocket Drawings, Travel Sketches, 2004-2012
Box 6, Folder 1	Travel Sketches, 2008-2010
Box 6, Folder 2-3	Drawings, <i>How I Quit Smoking</i> , circa 2008
Box 6, Folder 4-5	Drawings, <i>How I Quit Smoking Again</i> , undated
Box 6, Folder 6	Exclusive File, undated
Box 6, Folder 7	Garbage man's File, undated
Box 6, Folder 8-10	Ink Drawings of People, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)