



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Jaime Davidovich Papers,
1949-2014, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy and Stephanie Ashley

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

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Jaime Davidovich papers
Identifier:	AAA.davijaim
Date:	1949-2014
Extent:	2.3 Linear feet
Creator:	Davidovich, Jaime, 1936-2016
Language:	The collection is in English and Spanish.
Summary:	The papers of New York-based, Argentinian born conceptual and performance artist Jaime Davidovich, measure 2.3 linear feet and date from 1949 to 2014. The collection documents Davidovich's transition from Argentina to the United States, his early artistic career in both countries, specific projects and exhibitions, and the way in which Davidovich's work intersected with audiovisual media and the New York avant-garde in the 1960s and 1970s. Papers include biographical materials, correspondence, writings including memoirs, exhibition and project files, scrapbooks, and printed materials.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated by Jaime Davidovich in 2016.

Related Materials

The bulk of the records related to Davidovich's artworks, especially later ones, and artworks themselves, are located in the Jaime Davidovich Collection, 1952-2000, at New York University's Fales Library.

Available Formats

The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2020 and is available on the Archives of American Art website. Items not digitized include blank pages, blank versos of photographs, address books, some publications for which only the covers and relevant pages may have been digitized, and some of the routine records relating to the 152 Wooster Street Corporation management and sale.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2018. The collection was prepared for digitization and the finding aid was revised by Stephanie Ashley in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Jaime Davidovich papers, 1949-2014. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Jaime Davidovich (1936-2016) was a conceptual and performance artist in New York, N.Y.

Davidovich was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. As a child, he became ill with rheumatic fever and his parents gave him art materials with which to entertain himself during his months of illness. Davidovich studied at National College in Buenos Aires and graduated from the University of Uruguay in 1961. After graduation, he began teaching in Bahía Blanca, Argentina, and subsequently became the art superintendent at the visual arts school. In 1963 he was given the opportunity to travel to New York by the DiTella Foundation in Buenos Aires, after a grant to study in France fell through at the last minute. In New York he attended the School of Visual Arts and eventually began working as a graphic designer for Random House publishers.

In 1965, Davidovich and his wife, artist Judith Henry, moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where he worked as a graphic designer and began working with video. His first video installation was exhibited at the Akron Art Institute in 1972. Davidovich's fascination with video and television continued when he moved back to New York City and created the nonprofit organization, Artists Television Network (ATN). The network produced television shows for Manhattan's public access channel using the name SoHo Television. Davidovich's avant-garde variety show, *The Live! Show*, was the organization's most well-known production. Davidovich hosted the show as the character Dr. Videovich, and invited guests including Laurie Anderson, Eric Bogosian, and other creatives.

In 1976, Davidovich and Henry established Wooster Enterprises, a design studio and retail outlet that created conceptual stationary in affiliation with the Fluxus movement. The company closed in 1979, but it's most popular stationary continued to be produced and sold at the Museum of Modern Art.

Scope and Contents

The papers of New York-based, Argentinian born conceptual and performance artist Jaime Davidovich, measure 2.3 linear feet and date from 1949 to 2014. The collection documents Davidovich's transition from Argentina to the United States, his early artistic career in both countries, specific projects and

exhibitions, and the way in which Davidovich's work intersected with audiovisual media and the New York avant-garde in the 1960s and 1970s. Papers include biographical materials, correspondence, writings including memoirs, exhibition and project files, scrapbooks, and printed materials.

Biographical materials include Davidovich's contacts in address books, a certificate, curriculum vitae, a membership card, and a report card. A photograph album documents his New York apartment and studio after first coming to New York in the 1960s. Also found are records of the Wooster Street Corporation where Davidovich later lived and had his studio. A small amount of correspondence is with museums, galleries, artists, and curators, notably Julieta Hanono, Ilene Segalove, and Julia Herzberg, and includes early correspondence from Argentina during Davidovich's time as a student and a teacher in Buenos Aires.

Writings include artist statements, lecture note cards, a letter of recommendation, memoir drafts, and a manuscript about Davidovich by Carolyn Kinder Carr. Memoirs provide detailed information about Davidovich's childhood, education, and early career. Files for exhibitions consist of correspondence, notes, gallery floor plans, photographic material, lists of artwork, and exhibition announcements. Project files contain bound project books, proposals, correspondence, notes, sketches, photographic and source material for the Artists' Television Network, Wooster Enterprises, and other projects.

Three scrapbooks record Davidovich's career in fine arts and design. Printed material includes art reproductions, books, brochures and booklets, clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, flyers, periodicals, posters, and press releases.

Much of the later correspondence found in the collection is in the form of printed email; later photographic material is in the form of digitally printed photographs.

The bulk of material related to Davidovich's artworks, especially later ones, and the artworks themselves are located at NYU Fales Library.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as seven series.

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1949-2007 (Box 1, OVs 3, 5; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1958-2012 (Box 1; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 3: Writings, circa 1973, 2001-2009 (Box 1; 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 4: Exhibition Files, 2003-2011 (Box 1, OV 3; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 5: Project Files, circa 1960-2014 (Box 1-2, OVs 4-5; 0.6 linear feet)
- Series 6: Scrapbooks, 1960s-circa 1971 (Box 2, OVs 3-4; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 7: Printed Materials, circa 1950s-2009 (Box 2, OVs 3, 5; 0.5 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Latino and Latin American artists

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Interviews
Sketchbooks

Names:

Artists' Television Network
Henry, Judith (Henry Davidovich)
Herzberg, Julia P.
Segalove, Ilene, 1950-
Wooster Enterprises

Occupations:

Conceptual artists -- New York (State) -- New York
Performance artists -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1949-2007

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1, OVs 3, 5)

Biographical materials consist of four address books, a certificate recognizing Davidovich's contributions to *Artworks 84* at the Louisiana World's Fair, a curriculum vitae with photos of artwork, a membership card, and a school report card. Also found is a photograph album with images of Davidovich's New York apartment and studio, friends and family, and colleagues from a job at a bookstore. Receipts are for art supplies and artwork purchased by Davidovich with accompanying certificates of antiquity. Records relating to the 152 Wooster Street Corporation, which provided living quarters and studio space for artists including Davidovich, include bylaws, meeting minutes, records of renovations, and other financial and legal records documenting the ownership and management of the building, and the sale of Davidovich's apartment.

The bulk of this series has been digitized. Material not digitized includes address book, and some receipts, legal documentation, sale records, and other routine repair and management records related to the 152 Wooster Street Corporation.

Box 1, Folder 1	Address Books, circa 1980s
Box 1, Folder 2	Address Books, circa 1980s
Box 1, Folder 3	Address Books, circa 1990s
Box OV 3, Folder 1	Certificate, 1984 Louisiana World's Fair, 1984 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 4	Curriculum Vitae, 2007 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 5	Membership Card, National Committee of Plastic Arts, circa 1955 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 6	Photograph Album, 1963-1964, 1970 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 7	Real Estate, 152 Wooster Street Corporation, 1974-1981 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 8	Real Estate, 152 Wooster Street Corporation, 1997-1998 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 9	Real Estate, 152 Wooster Street Corporation, Cooperative Legal Documents, 1974-1980

Box 1, Folder 10	Real Estate, 152 Wooster Street Corporation, Loft Improvement Receipts, 1974-1981
Box 1, Folder 11	Real Estate, 152 Wooster Street Corporation, Renovation, 1998-1999 Image(s)
Box OV 5, Folder 1	Real Estate, 152 Wooster Street Corporation, Renovation , 1998 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 12	Real Estate, 152 Wooster Street Corporation, Sale, 2006
Box 1, Folder 13	Receipts, Purchases of Artwork and Art Supplies, 1969-2002 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 14	Report Card, 1949 Image(s)

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1958-2012

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Correspondence is with museums, galleries, and artists, including a several items each from artist Julieta Hanono and curator Julia Herzberg. Correspondence with Ilene Segalove is more extensive with twelve pieces of correspondence discussing Segalove's "TV is OK" Productions among other things. Early correspondence includes letters from Davidovich's tenure as a teacher and superintendent of visual art in Bahía Blanca, Argentina. Also found is the transcript of an interview with Davidovich by Pedro Cuperman during the Latin American Forum at the 2005 Syracuse University Film and Video Festival.

This series has been digitized in entirety.

Box 1, Folder 15	Argentina, Bahía Blanca (1961), 1958-1961 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 16	Argentina, General, 1958-1962 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 17	Art Spaces Archives Project, 2005 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 18	Bronx Museum of the Arts, 2012 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 19	Getty Research Institute, 2005-2008 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 20	Guggenheim, <i>The Take</i> Blog, 2010 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 21	Hanono, Julieta, 2006 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 22	Herzberg, Julia, 2005 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 23	Segalove, Ilene, circa 1980-circa 1981, 2012 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 24	Street, Mark, 2009-2010 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 25	Syracuse University/Point of Contact Gallery, 2005-2010 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 26	Teaching Correspondence and Resumes, circa 1962-circa 1965

[Image\(s\)](#)

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Series 3: Writings, circa 1973, 2001-2009

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Writings are generally by Davidovich and include artist statements, note cards and related material for a lecture he delivered at the School of Visual Arts, and a letter of recommendation for Carla Stellweg, curator and consultant for *The Latin American Spirit: Art and Artists in the US, 1920-1970* among other exhibitions. Also found are outlines, drafts, and edited manuscripts with questions, of Davidovich's memoirs. The memoirs record events dating from childhood, and document Davidovich's education, his transition to the United States, and the subsequent development of his career. Memoir material includes a photograph of Davidovich with Jorge Luis Borges, and layouts for photographs.

An untitled manuscript about Davidovich written by Carolyn Kinder Carr is housed at the end of the series.

This series has been digitized in entirety.

Box 1, Folder 27	Artist Statements, circa 2001 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 28	Lecture, School of Visual Arts, 2003, 2008 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 29	Letter of Recommendation for Carla Stellweg, 2009 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 30	Memoirs, circa 2001 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 31	Memoirs, 2002-2005 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 32	About Davidovich by Carolyn Kinder Carr, circa 1973 Image(s)

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Series 4: Exhibition Files, 2003-2011

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 3)

Exhibition files include correspondence, gallery floor plans, lists of artwork, exhibition announcements, publicity material, photographs of artwork and a few scattered photos of Davidovich, and other documents related to exhibitions of Davidovich's paintings and video installations. Included are files for *Size Matters*, a traveling exhibition featuring former World Trade Center Residency participants; and the retrospective *Biting the Hand That Feeds You* at the Artium Museum in Spain, which includes correspondence with the exhibition curator, Arturo "Fito" Rodriguez.

Files are arranged chronologically by exhibition year.

This series has been digitized in entirety.

Box 1, Folder 33	<i>Site Matters</i> (2004-2006), Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, 2003-2004 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 34	<i>Ultravideoform</i> (2004)/ <i>Jaime Davidovich Television and Video Works: 1970-2007</i> (2007), Mitchell Albus Gallery, circa 2003-2007 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 35	<i>Odd Lots: Revisiting Gordon Matta-Clark's Fake Estates</i> (2005), Cabinet Magazine, 2005 Image(s)
Box OV 5, Folder 2	<i>Odd Lots: Revisiting Gordon Matta-Clark's Fake Estates</i> (2005), Cabinet Magazine, 2005 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 36	<i>Jaime Davidovich: The Live! Show</i> (2009), Seventeen Gallery, 2008-2009 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 37	<i>Biting the Hand That Feeds You</i> (2010-2011), Artium Museum, circa 2005-circa 2010 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 38	<i>Biting the Hand That Feeds You</i> (2010-2011), Artium Museum, circa 2005-circa 2010 Image(s)
Box OV 3, Folder 2	<i>Biting the Hand That Feeds You</i> (2010-2011), Artium Museum, 2006-2009 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 39	<i>Jaime Davidovich: "The Live! Show"</i> (2010), Cabinet Magazine, 2009-2010 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 40	<i>The Museum Show</i> (2011), Arnolfini, 2010-2011

[Image\(s\)](#)

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Series 5: Project and Source Files, circa 1960-2014

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, OVs 4-5)

Davidovich's project files contain bound project books consisting primarily of photocopied documents compiled to document specific projects, proposals, correspondence, notes and sketches, source material, and photographic material. The series documents some of Davidovich's most well-known projects including some for the Artists' Television Network which produced *The Live! Show*, and Wooster Enterprises, the design studio and retail outlet established by Davidovich and Judith Henry in 1976. Also found are portfolios and original artwork Davidovich produced as a designer for various companies, including National Potteries where he served as Design Director.

Wooster Enterprises records include bound books published by the company, stationary sets, photocopies of a "Sound and Unbound" catalog, a bound set of photocopied invoices, and a publication produced in conjunction with the Wooster Enterprises exhibition at Churner and Churner in 2012.

Also found are a video notebook with notes and sketches for an unidentified project; a book of sketches and notes labeled "paintings," "backdrops," and "Cleveland 1984," which contains lists, sketches, and notes for a Dr. Videovich art lesson; and proposals for a workshop and a Guggenheim Fellowship. One book produced by the American Museum of the Moving Image includes hand-colored sketches and is housed with three additional loose sketches.

Source material consists primarily of postcards and photographs of televisions. Many of these have alphanumeric codes attached to, or written on them, which have been retained with the items, although their significance is not known.

This series has been digitized in entirety.

Box 1, Folder 41	Artists Talk, Media Noche, 2010-2012 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 42	Artists' Television Network, The Artist and Television Conference, 1982 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 43	Artists' Television Network, <i>Evita</i> , <i>A Video Scrapbook</i> , 1983 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 44	Artists' Television Network, <i>The Live! Show</i> , circa 1982-1990 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 45	Artists' Television Network, "SoHo, Home of the Avant Garde," Grant Proposal, 1977 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 46	Artists' Television Network, "SoHo Project," Press Kit, 1984 Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 47	Artists' Television Network, "SoHo Television Presents," Press Kit, 1978 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 1	Artists' Television Network, <i>TV Magazine</i> , Pilot Issue, 1980

	Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 2	"Back Drops," "Paintings 85" Sketchbook, 1984-1985 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 3	Design, National Potteries Portfolio, circa 1970 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 4	Design, National Potteries, Original Artwork, circa 1970 Image(s)
Box OV 3, Folder 3	Design, National Potteries, Original Artwork, circa 1970 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 5	"God", 2014 Image(s) Includes photos and floor plans of religious buildings, images of logos, and notes.
Box 2, Folder 6	Guggenheim Fellowship Proposal, 2005-2006 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 7	"Mamba", 2011-2012 Image(s) Includes drawings, notes, and photographic material.
Box OV 5, Folder 3	"Mamba", 2012 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 8	Source Material, Television Images, circa 1960-circa 1985 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 9	Source Material, Television Images, circa 1960-circa 1985 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 10	Source Material, Television Images, circa 1960-circa 1985 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 11	Source Material, Television Images, circa 1960-circa 1985 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 12	Source Material, Television Images, circa 1960-circa 1985 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 13	Source Material, Photographs of Artwork, circa 1960-circa 1995

- [Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 14 Video Notebook for Unidentified Project, circa 1974
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 15 "Video Tape" Explaining Davidovich's Work, 1972-1976
[Image\(s\)](#)
Includes notes on "The Road," an application and contract with Manhattan Cable TV, and news articles on video art.
- Box 2, Folder 16 Visual Studies Workshop Proposal, circa 1983-circa 2009
[Image\(s\)](#)
Includes slides of artwork for a *The Live! Show* installation.
- Box 2, Folder 17 Wooster Enterprises, 1989, circa 2012
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 18 Wooster Enterprises, Bound Invoices, 1978
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 19 Wooster Enterprises Publication, "Jaime Davidovich From Cover to Cover", 1977
[Image\(s\)](#)
- Box 2, Folder 20 Wooster Enterprises, Stationary, circa 1989
[Image\(s\)](#)

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Series 6: Scrapbooks, 1960s-circa 1971

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2, OVs 3-4)

Three scrapbooks, containing mainly printed material, record Davidovich's career accomplishments in fine arts and design.

The scrapbook of career activities includes photographs of Davidovich and Herbert Read in Montreal, exhibition announcements, and correspondence. The design scrapbooks include book covers and a few mock-ups designed by Davidovich for publishers including Random House, for which he also designed a logo, and other photographs and samples of Davidovich's print design work.

Scrapbook pages were removed from plastic enclosures for preservation reasons, but retain their original order.

Scrapbooks have been digitized in entirety.

Box OV 4, Folder 1	Career Activities, "Fine Arts Portfolio", circa 1971 Image(s)
Box OV 4, Folder 2	Design, Publishing, circa 1965 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 21	Design, Various Projects, 1960s Image(s)
Box OV 4, Folder 3	Design, Various Projects, 1960s Image(s)

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Series 7: Printed Materials, circa 1960-2008

0.5 Linear feet (Box 2, OVs 3, 5)

Printed material documents Davidovich's career through books about him and his work, announcements and catalogs, press clippings, and other publicity, for exhibitions and other events he participated in throughout his career.

Printed materials are arranged by type and chronologically thereafter.

The bulk of this series has been digitized. Items not digitized include the full text of publications for which only covers and/or relevant pages may be digitized.

Box 2, Folder 22	Art Reproductions, circa 1975 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 23	Book, <i>Jaime Davidovich</i> by John Matturi, 1979 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 24	Book, "Jaime Davidovich: Videotapes Catalogue", circa 1975 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 25	Book, <i>The Live! Show</i> , American Association of the Moving Image, 1989 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 26	Brochures and Booklets, circa 1960-1982 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 27	Clippings, circa 1970-1986 Image(s) Includes articles about Davidovich, SoHo, garbage art, and art events.
Box 2, Folder 28	Clippings, "Art Places to Go", 2006 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 29	Clippings, Garbage Art, 2008 Image(s)
Box OV 3, Folder 4	Clippings, "SoHo So What", 1977-1984 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 30	Exhibition Catalogs, Davidovich, circa 1950s-circa 1960s Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 31	Exhibition Catalogs, Davidovich, 1972, 1984, 1988-1989 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 32	Flyer, for 3 Mercer Street, circa 1975

	Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 33	Periodicals, 1973 Image(s)
Box OV 3, Folder 5	Periodicals, 1989 Image(s)
Box OV 5, Folder 4	Posters, circa 1988-1995 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 34	Press Releases, 1989 Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 35	Other Artists, Exhibition Announcements, circa 1990, 2007-2009 Image(s)
Box OV 5, Folder 5	Other Artists, Poster, circa 1980s Image(s)

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