



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Peter Dean Papers, circa 1941-1995, bulk 1965-1993, in the Archives of American Art

Sabine Lipten

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

2022 November 7

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Peter Dean papers
Date:	circa 1941-1995 bulk 1965-1993
Identifier:	AAA.deanpete
Creator:	Dean, Peter, 1934-1993
Extent:	4.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of figurative expressionist painter Peter Dean measure 4.2 linear feet and date from circa 1941-1995, with the bulk from 1965-1993. The papers document his career as a painter in New York through biographical material; correspondence with friends, galleries, art organizations, and other artists; diaries, essay manuscripts on Dean and other writings; financial documentation such as sales, loans and consignment records, receipts for art handling and transportation; exhibition catalogs, news clippings, and other printed material; photographs, including over twelve hundred slides of paintings; and artwork consisting of sketches.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by Lorraine Dean, widow of Peter Dean, 1994 and 1995.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sabine Lipten in 2022.

Preferred Citation

Peter Dean papers, circa 1941-1995. 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

Peter Dean (1934-1993) was a Jewish American figurative expressionist painter who lived and worked in New York City. Born in Berlin, Dean immigrated with his family to New York in 1938 in order to escape growing fascism in Germany. Dean attended Cornell University and University of Wisconsin graduating with a bachelor's degree in geology. After his studies he returned to New York City to forge a life as an artist. His work often had dark themes but was full of color and energetic figures often depicting either a vibrant fantasy or a specific political event such as The Vietnam War. Dean was a co-founder of the artist collective Rhino Horn, a group of figurative artists in the 1960s who emerged out of the New York School. Co-founders included Peter Passuntino and Nicholas Sperakis and active members included Joseph Kurhajec and Red Grooms.

Dean's work has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions across the country and the world. Of note is his inclusion in Marcia Tucker's curated exhibition *Paradise Lost/Paradise Regained: American Visions of the New Decade* at the Venice Biennale, 1984.

Scope and Contents

The papers of figurative expressionist painter Peter Dean measure 4.2 linear feet and date from circa 1941-1995, with the bulk from 1965-1993. Included are Dean's resumes, a biographic summary, a copy of his obituary and an application to the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship. Correspondence is with friends, family, galleries, universities, and art institutions. Also included are illustrated holiday and greeting cards as well as letters of condolence to Dean's wife Lorraine Dean after his passing. Writings include 16 journals, 1971-1991, and manuscripts of articles on Dean. Exhibition Files document select solo and group exhibitions that Dean participated in spanning the majority of his career. Materials include correspondence, contracts, price lists and printed materials. Business records include invoices, sales receipts, and price lists. Printed matter includes exhibition catalogs of shows featuring Dean, 1970-1992, and other catalogs that he collected, 1970-1987. Photographs are of Dean, his work, and his studio, and over 1200 slides of his work. Art work consists of sketches and two painted canvases.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as nine series.

- Biographical Material, circa 1961-1993 (0.1 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Correspondence, circa 1963-1993 (0.4 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Diaries and Journals, 1971-1991 (1 Linear foot Box: 1-2)
- Writing, circa 1966-1993 (0.25 Linear feet: Box 2)
- Exhibition Files, circa 1965-1991 (0.25 Linear feet: Box 2)
- Personal Business, circa 1956-1992 (0.6 Linear feet: Box 2-3)
- Printed Material, circa 1941-1995 (0.7 Linear feet :Box 3)
- Photographic Material, circa 1963-1992 (1.4 Linear feet: Box 3-5)
- Artwork, circa 1941-1992 (0.1 Linear feet: Box 5)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, Modern -- 20th century

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks

Occupations:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1961-1993

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical Materials consist of Dean's resumes, a biographic summary and a copy of his obituary by Roberta Smith. Also included is his application to the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship.

Box 1, Folder 1 Resumes and Biographic summary, circa 1961-1993

Box 1, Folder 2 Guggenheim Fellowship Application, circa 1987

Box 1, Folder 3 Peter Dean Obituary, 1993

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Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1963-1993

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence are arranged alphabetically and consist of mixed letters from friends, family, other artists, universities, and art institutions. Also included are illustrated holiday and greeting cards as well as letters of condolence to Dean's wife Lorraine Dean after his passing.

Box 1, Folder 4	A, circa 1984-1991
Box 1, Folder 5	Barry Blinderman, circa 1982-1983
Box 1, Folder 6	B, circa 1977-1992
Box 1, Folder 7	C, 1975-1990
Box 1, Folder 8	D, circa 1980-1989
Box 1, Folder 9	E, 1977, 1982
Box 1, Folder 10	F, circa 1985-1992
Box 1, Folder 11	G, 1982-1984
Box 1, Folder 12	H, 1980-1992
Box 1, Folder 13	I, 1978, 1984, 1992
Box 1, Folder 14	J, circa 1972-1992
Box 1, Folder 15	Kopin Gallery, circa 1985-1987
Box 1, Folder 16	Joseph Kurhajec, 1975-1993
Box 1, Folder 17	K, 1977-1990
Box 1, Folder 18	Merope Lolis, 1982
Box 1, Folder 19	Madison Art Center, 1985, 1989
Box 1, Folder 20	M, circa 1975-1993
Box 1, Folder 21	N, circa 1982-1987
Box 1, Folder 22	P, 1974-1990
Box 1, Folder 23	Shahin Requicha, 1982-1987

Box 1, Folder 24	R, circa 1981-1989
Box 1, Folder 25	Darthea Speyer, 1981
Box 1, Folder 26	S, circa 1972-1993
Box 1, Folder 27	Traver Sutton Gallery, 1985
Box 1, Folder 28	U, circa 1963-1992
Box 1, Folder 29	Saskia Viner, 1993
Box 1, Folder 30	Wilhelm Gallery, 1985-1990
Box 1, Folder 31	W, circa 1982-1985
Box 1, Folder 32	Miscellaneous, Last Name Unsigned, circa 1963-1992
Box 1, Folder 33	Greeting and Holiday Cards from Friends, circa 1980-1992, 1995
Box 1, Folder 34	Letter of Condolence, 1992-1993

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Series 3: Diaries and Journals, 1971-1991

1 Linear foot (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Diaries and Journals consists of seventeen total diaries and journals, sixteen of which are written by Peter Dean (1971-1991). The additional illustrated journal is by Jack Micheline (1990). Dean's diaries document his daily life and often include lists of names and phone numbers, scheduling plans such as show openings, coordinating art work delivery, travel plan notes and daily tasks. Some of the diaries include sketches and titles on the cover demarking significant events such as Dean's trip to the Venice Biennale, the respective deaths of his parents and his year long stay at Brighton Beach. Folder headings are taken from these titles when available. Also included in this series is a journal which details a trip to New Orleans as well as thoughts on other artists. A diary of expenses can be found in the Personal Business series of the collection.

Diaries and journals are arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 35	Peter Dean Diary, 1971
Box 1, Folder 36	Peter Dean Journal, circa 1973-1976
Box 1, Folder 37	Peter Dean Diary, 1974
Box 1, Folder 38	Peter Dean Diary, 1977-1978
Box 1, Folder 39	Peter Dean Diary, "Moved to Spring St. - Egypt", 1979-1980
Box 1, Folder 40	Peter Dean Diary, 1981
Box 1, Folder 41	Peter Dean Diary, "Hawaii - Mother's Death", 1982
Box 1, Folder 42	Peter Dean Diary, 1983
Box 1, Folder 43	Peter Dean Diary, "Venice Biennale", 1984
Box 2, Folder 1	Peter Dean Diary, 1985
Box 2, Folder 2	Peter Dean Diary, 1986
Box 2, Folder 3	Peter Dean Diary, "Rented beach view apartment on Brighton Beach for 1 year", 1987
Box 2, Folder 4	Peter Dean Diary, 1988
Box 2, Folder 5	Peter Dean Diary, "Father Died", 1988
Box 2, Folder 6	Peter Dean Diary, 1990
Box 2, Folder 7	Peter Dean Diary, 1991

Box 2, Folder 8

Jack Micheline Illustrated Journal, 1990

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Series 4: Writing, circa 1966-1993

0.25 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: The Writing series is comprised of writings by Peter Dean and writings by others about Dean's career and artwork. Writings by Dean include detailed descriptions of titled paintings, exhibition checklists, lists of publications and catalogs Dean was featured in and lists of art collectors. Writings by others are comprised of essay manuscripts and a thesis on Dean's artwork. Also found are creative writing projects from friends and other artists including a poetry manuscript by writer Steve Katz.

Box 2, Folder 8	Painting Descriptions, circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 9	Lists of Art Collectors, circa 1966-1993
Box 2, Folder 10	Lists of Publications and Catalogs, circa 1993
Box 2, Folder 11	Exhibition Checklists, circa 1973-1986
Box 2, Folder 12	"Peter Dean: Early Works (1959-1969), Later Works (1970-1980)", Thesis by Ronald J. Reich, Long Island University, 1980
Box 2, Folder 13	"Builder on the Edge of a Chaotic World" Essay Manuscript by Lucy Lippard, circa 1984
Box 2, Folder 14	"Reflections on Peter Dean: A Customer of Culture" Essay Manuscript by John Balsley, circa 1987
Box 2, Folder 15	"The Art of Peter Dean" Essay Manuscript by Carter Ratcliff, circa 1989
Box 2, Folder 16	Journalism Poetry Book Manuscript by Steve Katz, circa 1990
Box 2, Folder 17	Creative Writing by Others, circa 1966-1987
Box 2, Folder 18	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1985-1993

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Series 5: Exhibition Files, circa 1965-1991

0.25 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Exhibition Files document select solo and group exhibitions that Dean participated in spanning the majority of his career. Materials include correspondence, contracts, price lists and printed materials. Of note are documents related to the 1984 Venice Biennale show *Paradise Lost / Paradise Regained: American Visions of the New Decade*, which included paintings by Dean.

Box 2, Folder 19	Peter Dean: Event (Apr. 13-May 8, 1982), Semaphore Gallery, 1982
Box 2, Folder 20	The Dog Days of August (Jul. 15-Aug. 18, 1986), Littlejohn-Smith Gallery, 1986
Box 2, Folder 21	Peter Dean (Feb.11-Mar 7, 1987), Semaphore Gallery, 1987
Box 2, Folder 22	Rhino Horn (1970-1971), The New School for Social Research, circa 1965-1970
Box 2, Folder 23	Avant and Friends, The Artists Curate (Jul. 1-22, 1983), Loeb Contemporary Arts Gallery, New York University, 1983
Box 2, Folder 24	Paradise Lost / Paradise Regained: American Visions of the New Decade (1984), Organized by The New Museum for the Venice Biennale, 1983-1985
Box 2, Folder 25	A Different War: Vietnam in Art (1989), Whatcom Museum of Art, 1988-1989
Box 2, Folder 26	Fetishes and Fables by Peter Dean & Off Shore by Derek Bernstein (Mar. 2-Apr. 1, 1989), Katzen Brown Gallery, 1989
Box 2, Folder 27	Recent Paintings by Peter Dean and Terry Elkins (Jun. 9- Jul. 14, 1989), R.H. Love Galleries, 1989
Box 2, Folder 28	Woodstock Invitational: Some Landscape Artists of the Greater Woodstock Region (Jul. 20-Aug. 5, 1991), Woodstock Artists' Association, 1991

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Series 6: Personal Business, circa 1956-1992

0.6 Linear feet (Box 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Personal business records include sale, consignment and loan receipts, shipping records and other documents related to the creation and sale of Peter Dean's work such as artwork inventory lists, a diary of expenses and grant applications. This series also includes scattered records pertaining to travel expenses and Dean's personal finances.

Box 2, Folder 29	Artwork Inventory Dimensions and Price Lists, circa 1956-1987
Box 2, Folder 30-32	Sales, Consignments and Loan Records, circa 1974-1992
Box 2, Folder 33	Shipping Records, circa 1980-1992
Box 2, Folder 34	Landfall Press Printing Order, 1984, 1988
Box 2, Folder 35	Travel and Personal Receipts, circa 1978-1992
Box 2, Folder 36	Diary of Expenses, 1992
Box 3, Folder 1	Missing Property Police Report, Nine Oil Paintings, 1990
Box 3, Folder 2	National Endowment for the Arts Grant Application and Award, 1981, 1986
Box 3, Folder 3	Studio Zoning Certificate from New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs, 1979

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Series 7: Printed Material, circa 1941-1995

0.7 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Printed Materials consist primarily of news clippings, exhibition invitations, announcements and publications, and a collection of other artist's exhibition catalogs and flyers. Additionally there are a number of books written by fellow artist friends with dedications made out to Dean including a the comic book *Tales for the Modern Mystic* by Barbara Mendez, and a zine *Ecce Homo A Film by Maryan S. Maryan* featuring still from the artist's film of the same name. Also found is a copy of *Everything's A Verb* by Debra Marquart, book cover illustrated by Peter Dean.

Box 3, Folder 4-5	Exhibition Catalogs, Peter Dean, 1970-1992
Box 3, Folder 6-7	Exhibition Catalogs, Other Artists, 1970-1987
	News Clippings
Box 3, Folder 8-9	Peter Dean, circa 1969-1991
Box 3, Folder 10	Paradise Lost / Paradise Regained Exhibition (1984), The Venice Biennale, 1983-1984
Box 3, Folder 11	A Different War: Vietnam in Art Exhibition, 1989-1991
Box 3, Folder 12	Rhino Horn Art Collective, 1970-1974, 1978
Box 3, Folder 13	Other Artists, circa 1969-1987
Box 3, Folder 14-15	Disbound Scapbook of Clippings, circa 1965-1989
Box 3, Folder 16-18	Exhibition Announcements and Flyers, Peter Dean, circa 1972-1991, 1993
Box 3, Folder 19	Exhibition Flyers and Catalog, Rhino Horn Art Collective, circa 1970-1972, 1994
Box 3, Folder 20	Exhibition Flyers and Invitations, Other Artists, circa 1970-1991
Box 3, Folder 21	Colorado Mountain College Summervail Workshop Posters, 1982-1984
Box 3, Folder 22	The New Museum of Contemporary Art Anniversary Benefit Auction Program Guides, 1988-1989
Box 3, Folder 23	Everything's A Verb by Debra Marquart, Book Cover Illustrated by Peter Dean, 1995
Box 3, Folder 24	The Lestriad by Steven Katz, 1987
Box 3, Folder 25	Ecce Homo A Film by Maryan S. Maryan, Zine dedicated "For Peter Dean, Maryan" (1976), circa 1975

Box 3, Folder 26	Tales For the Modern Mystic by Barbara Mendez, Comic book dedicated "For Peter from the Peter Dean fan club, Barbara Mendez", 1974
Box 3, Folder 27	Low Class Poems and Pussy Poems zines by Jack Micheline, 1972
Box 3, Folder 28	Purple Submarine by Jack Micheline, Book dedicated "To Peter Dean your spirit walking the streets with me and I wish you a beautiful spring love Jack", 1976
Box 3, Folder 29	Imaginary Conversations with Jack Kerouac by Jack Micheline, dedicated "For Peter Dean Love You Jack Micheline" (1992), 1991
Box 3, Folder 30	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1941, 1962-1987

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Series 8: Photographic Material, circa 1963-1992

1.4 Linear feet (Box 3-5)

Scope and Contents: Photographic Material consists of photographs, including inkjet prints, negatives, and transparencies of Peter Dean in his studio, his artwork and the artwork of others. The bulk of the series is comprised of color slides of works of art by Dean ranging in paint mediums as well as subject matter.

Box 3, Folder 31	Photographs of Peter Dean, circa 1977-1992
Box 3, Folder 32	Photographs of Works of Art, circa 1977-1992
Box 4, Folder 1	Negatives of Works of Art, 1985
Box 4, Folder 2	Transparencies of Works of Art, circa 1981-1986
Box 4, Folder 3	Photographs of Sculptures, circa 1976-1992
Item FC 01	Unidentified footage of paintings, 1963 1 Film reel (8mm)
Box 4, Folder 5	Slides of Artwork (127 Super), circa 1969-1984
Box 4, Folder 6-13	Slides of Artwork (35mm), 1964-1990
Box 4, Folder 14	Slides of Watercolors (35mm), 1979-1984
Box 5, Folder 1	Slides of Landscapes (35mm), 1977-1990
Box 5, Folder 2	Slides of Portrait Paintings (35mm), 1968-1985

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Series 9: Artwork, circa 1941-1992

0.1 Linear feet (Box 5)

Scope and Contents: Artwork contains loose sketches as well as childhood paintings and drawings.

Contents:

Box 5, Folder 3 Sketches, circa 1965-1992

Box 5, Folder 4 Childhood Artwork, circa 1941-1992

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