



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Tony DeLap Papers, circa
1950-2015, 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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Archives of American Art
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Victor Building, Suite 2200
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1967-2015.....	4
Series 2: Writings, circa 1960-2013.....	5
Series 3: Professional Activities, circa 1964-1983, circa 2015.....	6
Series 4: Printed Material, 1955-2015.....	7
Series 5: Scrapbook, 1955-1967.....	8
Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1950-2012.....	9

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Tony DeLap papers
Identifier:	AAA.delatony
Date:	circa 1950-2015
Extent:	1.4 Linear feet
Creator:	DeLap, Tony, 1927-
Language:	English
Summary:	The papers of artist Tony DeLap measure 1.4 linear feet and date from circa 1950 to 2015. The collection includes correspondence, writings, materials related to professional and teaching activities, printed material, a scrapbook, and photographic material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated by Tony DeLap in 2016.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Rayna Andrews in 2018.

Preferred Citation

Tony DeLap papers, circa 1950-2015. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

Biographical / Historical

Tony DeLap is an artist and professor emeritus of art in Orange County, California. He is a pioneer of West Coast minimalism with a special interest in visual illusion including performed magic.

DeLap was born in 1927 in Oakland, California and grew up in the Bay Area. He studied art, illustration, and graphic design at colleges in the Bay Area and taught at institutions including the California College of Arts and at the University of California, Davis. In 1965 he was offered a position at the newly founded University of California, Irvine, where he taught until 1991.

DeLap has exhibited widely and his work is held in collections at the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Albright-Knox Gallery in Buffalo, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Tate Gallery in London, and le Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Scope and Contents

The papers of artist Tony DeLap measure 1.4 linear feet and date from circa 1950 to 2015. The collection includes correspondence, writings, materials related to professional and teaching activities, printed material, a scrapbook, and photographic material.

Correspondence includes greeting and holiday cards, postcards, and letters with family, friends, other artists, and museums and other arts institutions. Notable correspondents include Alan Solomon, Melinda Wertz, Marcia Hafif, Bruce Conner, John McCracken, Paul Darrow, Bruce Nauman, Craig Kauffman, Nell Stinton, Felix Landau, Wayne Thiebaud, and John McLaughlin.

Writings include autobiographical notes, DeLap's notes on art and magic, and notes and writings on John McLaughlin. Also included is a paper on DeLap's 1983 exhibition at Janus Gallery by Clare H. Rhineland.

The professional activities series contains DeLap's resume and bibliography, as well as materials related to his teaching appointments and promotion, including letters of recommendation, course lists, and a graduate trip itinerary.

Printed Material includes exhibition materials including announcements, calendars, and catalogs; newsletters, newspapers, journals, and newspaper clippings. This series makes up the bulk of the collection.

One scrapbook in the collection contains clippings, exhibition announcements, posters, and catalogs, and award ribbons.

Photographic material includes slides of DeLap's work, as well as photographs of DeLap, his studio, exhibitions and installations, snapshots of family, friends, and travel.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in six series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1967-2015 (Box 1; 2 folders)
- Series 2: Writings, circa 1960-2013 (Box 1; 4 folders)
- Series 3: Professional Activities, circa 1964-1983, circa 2015 (Box 1; 2 folders)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1955-2015 (Boxes 1 and 2, OV 3, 0.6 linear feet)
- Series 5: Scrapbook, 1955-1967 (Box 2, 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1950-2012 (Box 1, 0.2 linear feet)

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
Artists' studios -- Photographs

Types of Materials:

Greeting cards
Photographs
Postcards
Scrapbooks

Names:

Conner, Bruce
Darrow, Paul, 1921-
Hafif, Marcia, 1929-
Janus Gallery (Venice, Los Angeles, Calif.)
Kauffman, Craig, 1932-
Landau, Felix, 1924-2003
McCracken, John, 1934-2011
McLaughlin, John, 1898-
Nauman, Bruce, 1941-
Rhineland, Clare H.
Solomon, Alan R., 1920-1970
Stinton,, Nell
Thiebaud, Wayne
University of California, Irvine -- Faculty
Wortz, Melinda

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1967-2015

2 Folders (Box 1)

Correspondence includes greeting and holiday cards, postcards, and letters with family, friends, other artists, and museums and other arts institutions. Notable correspondents include Alan Solomon, Melinda Wertz, Marcia Hafif, Bruce Conner, John McCracken, Paul Darrow, Bruce Nauman, Craig Kauffman, Nell Stinton, Felix Landau, Wayne Thiebaud, and John McLaughlin.

Handwritten explanatory notes regarding the relationship of correspondents to the DeLaps can be found throughout the series.

Correspondence is arranged chronologically. Undated correspondence appears at the end of the series.

Box 1, Folder 1-2 Correspondence, 1967-2015, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Writings, circa 1960-2013

4 Folders (Box 1)

Writings include autobiographical notes, including a hand-drawn timeline; DeLap's notes on art and magic, including artist statements and exhibition text; and notes and writings on John McLaughlin. Also included is a paper on DeLap's 1983 exhibition at Janus Gallery by Clare H. Rhineland.

Box 1, Folder 3	Autobiographical Notes, circa 1963-2011
Box 1, Folder 4	Notes and Writings on Art and Magic, circa 1960-2013 This folder also includes an illustrated grocery list.
Box 1, Folder 5	Notes, Writings, and Other Material on John McLaughlin, 1975-circa 1976
Box 1, Folder 6	<i>Tony De Lap: Three Works</i> by Clare H. Rhineland, 1983

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Professional Activities, circa 1964-1983, circa 2015

2 Folders (Box 1)

The professional activities series contains DeLap's resume and bibliography, as well as materials related to his teaching appointments and promotion, including letters of recommendation, course lists, and a graduate trip itinerary. Researchers should note that draft resumes and a timeline of DeLap's work appear in the autobiographical notes folder in the writings series.

Box 1, Folder 7 Resume and Bibliography, circa 2015

Box 1, Folder 8 Teaching Records, circa 1964-1983

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Printed Material, 1955-2015

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1 and 2, OV 3)

Printed Material includes exhibition materials including announcements, calendars, catalogs, posters, etc.; as well as newsletters, newspapers, journals, and newspaper clippings.

Box OV 3	Alumni Association Poster, undated
Box 1, Folder 9-17	Exhibition Announcements, Calendars, Catalogs, 1955-2015 Oversized materials housed in OV 3.
Box OV 3	Oversized Exhibition Announcements, Calendars, Catalogs, 1975-2001
Box 1, Folder 18-19	<i>ArtWeek</i> , 1974-1976
Box 1, Folder 20	<i>Newsletter on the Arts</i> , <i>LAICA Journal</i> , <i>UCI Journal</i> , <i>Art Forum</i> , circa 1976-1984, 2001
Box 1, Folder 21	Newspaper Clippings, 1966-2007 Oversized material housed in Box 2, Folder 1.
Box 1, Folder 22	Newspaper Clippings, 1981-1989
Box 2, Folder 1	Oversized Newspaper Clippings, circa 1990-2014

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Scrapbook, 1955-1967

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2)

The scrapbook contains clippings, exhibition announcements, posters, catalogs, and award ribbons.

Box 2, Folder 2-6 Scrapbook, 1955-1967

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1950-2012

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Photographic material includes color slides of DeLap's work. Also included are photographs and snapshots depicting DeLap with friends and family, his work, exhibitions and installations, other events, and travel.

Box 1, Folder 23-25	Color Slides of Works of Art, 1962-2004
Box 1, Folder 26	Photographs of Tony DeLap, Works of Art, Exhibitions, and Installations, circa 1950-2012
Box 1, Folder 27	Snapshots and Photographs of Tony DeLap and Others, circa 1960-2010

[Return to Table of Contents](#)