



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Robert Dell Papers, circa 1977-2013, in the Archives of American Art

Ryan Evans

2019 May 24

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/>

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: Robert Dell papers, circa 1977-2013.....	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Robert Dell papers
Date:	circa 1977-2013
Identifier:	AAA.dellrobe
Creator:	Dell, Robert, 1950-
Extent:	0.5 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Robert Dell papers measure 0.5 linear feet and date from circa 1977 to 2013. The collection documents Dell's early career as an artist including key fellowships, residencies, and exhibitions. Correspondence is both professional and personal and relates to Robert Dell's public art projects in Iceland and the United States, grant applications, and personal matters. Noteworthy correspondents include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the sculptor William King, among others. Printed material includes broadsides, exhibition announcements, maps, posters, and clippings related to Dell's work, installations, and exhibitions. Also included is a drawing of Dell's sculpture <i>Hitavaettur</i> from April 1991.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by Robert Dell in 2013 and 2019.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Ryan Evans in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Robert Dell Papers, circa 1977-2013. 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.

Terms of Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the [Smithsonian's Terms of Use](#) for additional information.

Biographical / Historical

Robert Dell (born 1950) is a sculptor and engineer living in New York City. As a visual artist Dell completed a formative residency at the MacDowell Colony in 1977 where he befriended the sculptor William King. In 1988 he was awarded a Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship to Iceland where he created his best-known sculpture *Hitavaettur*, which means "guardian of geothermal hot water" in Icelandic. This work epitomized Dell's combined engagement with earth sciences and sculpture and laid the foundation for his work as an engineer and inventor. In 1991 Dell completed a Research Artist Fellowship at the MIT Center for Advanced Visual Studies after exhibiting *Hitavaettur* at the MIT Museum the previous year. Robert Dell is the founding director of the Center for Innovation and Applied Technology and the Laboratory for Energy Reclamation and Innovation at the Cooper Union, where he is also Adjunct Professor of Mechanical Engineering. He is the primary author of ten patents as well as many peer-reviewed scientific articles.

Scope and Contents

The Robert Dell papers measure 0.5 linear feet and date from circa 1977 to 2013. The collection documents Dell's early career as an artist including key fellowships, residencies, and exhibitions. Correspondence is both professional and personal and relates to Robert Dell's public art projects in Iceland and the United States, grant applications, and personal matters. Noteworthy correspondents include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the sculptor William King, among others. Printed material includes broadsides, exhibition announcements, maps, posters, and clippings related to Dell's work, installations, and exhibitions. Also included is a drawing of Dell's sculpture *Hitavaettur* from April 1991.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Public art -- Iceland
Public art -- United States

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Names:

King, William, 1925-2015
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Occupations:

Educators -- New York (State)
Engineers -- New York (State)
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Robert Dell papers, circa 1977-2013

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1, OV2)

Scope and Contents: The collection documents Dell's early career as an artist including key fellowships, residencies, and exhibitions. Correspondence is both professional and personal and relates to Robert Dell's public art projects in Iceland and the United States, grant applications, and personal matters. Noteworthy correspondents include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the sculptor William King, among others. Printed material includes broadsides, exhibition announcements, maps, posters, and clippings related to Dell's work, installations, and exhibitions. Also included is a drawing of Dell's sculpture *Hitavaettur* from April 1991.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, circa 1977-2008
Box 1, Folder 2	Exhibition, <i>Hitavaettur</i> MIT Museum (Dec. 1990 - Jan. 1991), circa 1990-1991
Box 1, Folder 3	Project File, Fulbright Program Fellow, Iceland-United States Educational Exchange (1988), circa 1987-1991
Box 1, Folder 4	Project File, Research Artist Fellowship, MIT Center for Advanced Visual Studies (CAVS), circa 1991-1992
Box 1, Folder 5	Project File, Iceland Receipts - June 1991, circa 1991
Box 1, Folder 6	Printed Material, Invitations and Announcements, circa 1994-2008
Box 1, Folder 7	Printed Material, Miscellaneous, circa 2000-2013
Box 1, Folder 8	Photographic Material, Snapshots in Iceland, circa 1990s
Oversize 2	Artwork, Drawing of Sculpture <i>Hitavaettur</i> , 1991

[Return to Table of Contents](#)