



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Dwan Gallery Records, 1959-circa 1982, bulk 1959-1971, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Hanson

Funding for the digitization of this collection was
provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Dwan Gallery records
Date:	1959-circa 1982 (bulk 1959-1971)
Identifier:	AAA.dwangall
Creator:	Dwan, Virginia
Extent:	2.3 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English.
Summary:	The Dwan Gallery records measure 2.3 linear feet and consist primarily of files of exhibitions curated by Virginia Dwan at Dwan Galleries in Los Angeles (1959-1967) and New York (1965-1971). Found within this nearly comprehensive set of exhibition files may be lists of exhibited works, price lists, photographs, slides or color transparencies of installations, invitations, full-size posters, magazine and newspaper clippings and exhibition catalogs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Dwan Gallery records were donated in 1996 by Virginia Dwan, the former owner of the gallery.

Separated Materials

Dwan Gallery exhibition catalogs that were donated to the Archives in 1989 were transferred to the Smithsonian Institution American Art and National Portrait Gallery Library.

Bard College's Center for Curatorial Studies and Art in Contemporary Culture holds Dwan Gallery materials related to exhibitions in the Library and Archives.

Related Materials

Also found within the Archives of American Art is an interview with Virginia Dwan conducted March 21 through June 1, 1984 by Charles Stuckey.

Available Formats

The collection was digitized in its entirety in 2013 and is available via the Archives of American Art's website.

Processing Information

The records were fully processed and described by Jayna M. Hanson in 2008. In 2013, the papers were digitized with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

Dwan Gallery records, 1959-circa 1982, bulk 1959-1971. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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Biographical / Historical

In 1959, Virginia Dwan opened her first gallery on 1091 Broxton Avenue in the Westwood Village neighborhood of Los Angeles, California. Her independent wealth allowed her to open a gallery without worrying about business and sales. Three years after opening, the Dwan Gallery moved into a new Westwood Village space especially designed to express the gallery's contemporary aesthetic. In 1965, Virginia Dwan moved to New York City and founded an east coast branch of the Dwan Gallery at 29 West 57th Street.

Early exhibitions at the Dwan Gallery showed Abstract Expressionist artists and works of art from New York which Dwan consigned from other galleries. After traveling to New York and France, Virginia Dwan's interests and tastes manifested in exhibitions by 1961 with Yves Klein. Through Klein, Dwan made connections to other Nouveaux Réalistes artists that the gallery featured in solo and group shows. Later exhibitions featured Land and Minimalist artists. Dwan recognized that many of her shows were not considered salable but continued to show the avant-garde. She saw the gallery as an opportunity to expose the public to different styles of art.

Virginia Dwan maintained a close and personal relationship with many of her artists. She allowed large stipends to gallery artists and invited them to spend time at her home in Malibu, California. When working with artists concentrating on found objects, Dwan would accompany them on scavenger hunts and shopping trips. In the case of Robert Smithson and other Land Art artists, she traveled to offsite locations to visit works of art in progress. Dwan relied on her longtime gallery director, John Weber to interact with collectors as she preferred to maintain her connection with the artists.

The Dwan Gallery Los Angeles closed in mid-1967 but the New York branch remained open. By 1971, Virginia Dwan felt pressure to support her thirteen artists through a period of economic insecurity. She decided to close the gallery secretly and only informed her artists at the last minute. The final exhibition at Dwan Gallery New York closed in June of 1971.

Scope and Contents

The Dwan Gallery records measure 2.3 linear feet and consist primarily of files of exhibitions curated by Virginia Dwan at Dwan Galleries in Los Angeles (1959-1967) and New York (1965-1971). Found within this nearly comprehensive set of exhibition files may be lists of exhibited works, price lists, photographs, slides or color transparencies of installations, invitations, full-size posters, magazine and newspaper clippings and exhibition catalogs.

Artists that held exhibitions at the Dwan Gallery in New York and Los Angeles include: Robert Goodnough, Robert Richtenburg, Larry Rivers, Philip Guston, Yves Klein, Salvatore Scarpitta, Arakawa, Martial Raysse, Ad Reinhardt, Arman, Franz Kline, Edward Kienholz, Claes Oldenburg, Niki de Sainte Phalle, Joan Mitchell, Robert Rauschenberg, Robert Morris, Dan Flavin, Raymond Parker, Kenneth Snelson, Carl Andre, Sol LeWitt, Robert Smithson, and Anastasi. Also, the exhibition files are nearly comprehensive and include: *Language to be Looked at and/or Things to be Read* annual series (1967-1970), *Boxes* (1964), *Earth Works* (1968), *My Country 'tis of Thee* (1962) and *10* (1967 and 1968). Many of the multiple artist shows were created and organized by gallery director John Weber and/or Virginia Dwan. Many of these exhibition files include full-sized posters and panoramic photos showing installations.

Also found are records created by a consulting firm hired by the Dwan Gallery to inventory the exhibition files prior to donation to the Archives of American Art. These guides appear at the beginning of each series and outline a chronology of exhibitions held at each branch.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Los Angeles Exhibition Files, 1959-1967, after 1981 (Box 1-2, 5, OV6, OV8; 1.3 linear feet)
- Series 2: New York Exhibition Files, 1965-1971, after 1982 (Box 2-4, OV7; 1.0 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Abstract expressionism
Art -- California -- Los Angeles -- Exhibitions
Art -- New York (State) -- New York -- Exhibitions
Artists -- United States
Earthworks (Art)
Minimal art

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Slides (photographs)

Names:

Anastasi, William, 1933-
Andre, Carl, 1935-
Arakawa, Shusaku, 1936-
Arman, 1928-2005
Dwan Gallery (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Dwan Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
Flavin, Dan, 1933-
Goodnough, Robert, 1917-
Guston, Philip, 1913-1980
Kienholz, Edward, 1927-
Klein, Yves, 1928-1962
Kline, Franz, 1910-1962

LeWitt, Sol, 1928-2007
Mitchell, Joan, 1926-1992
Morris, Robert, 1931-2018
Oldenburg, Claes, 1929-
Parker, Raymond, 1922-
Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925-2008
Raysse, Martial, 1936-
Reinhardt, Ad, 1913-1967
Richenburg, Robert
Rivers, Larry, 1925-
Saint-Phalle, Niki de, 1930-
Scarpitta, Salvatore, 1919-2007
Smithson, Robert
Snelson, Kenneth, 1927-2016
Weber, John, 1932-2008

Functions:

Art galleries, Commercial -- California
Art galleries, Commercial -- New York (State)

Container Listing

Series 1: Los Angeles Exhibition Files, 1959-1965, after 1981

1.3 Linear feet (Box 1-2, 5, OV6, OV8)

Scope and Contents: Found within this series may be lists of exhibited works, price lists, photographs, slides or color transparencies of installations, invitations, full-size posters, magazine and newspaper clippings and exhibition catalogs. Noteworthy exhibitions include artists Robert Goodnough, Raymond Parker, Yves Klein, Salvatore Scarpitta, Arakawa, Martial Raysse, Robert Rauschenberg, Niki de Sainte Phalle, Claes Oldenburg, Larry Rivers and Kenneth Snelson. Other important exhibitions include *Boxes* (1964), *My Country 'tis of Thee* (1962), and *10* (1967).

Arrangement: This series is arranged in chronological order according to the opening date of each exhibition. Exhibition posters and photos of installations were placed into oversized folders.

Available Formats: This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1	Guides to Los Angeles Exhibitions, after 1981 Image(s): Guides to Los Angeles Exhibitions
Box 1, Folder 2	Stanley Twardowicz, 1959 October 19
Box 1, Folder 3	Various Artists: Prints, 1959 November 17
Box 1, Folder 4	Drawings, Watercolors, Collages, 1959 December 12
Box 1, Folder 5	Matsumi Kanemitsu, 1960 January 19
Box 1, Folder 6	Reginald Pollack: Recent Paintings, 1960 February 9
Box 1, Folder 7	Friedel Dzubas, 1960 March 8
Box 1, Folder 8	Paul Brach, 1960 April 4 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 1, Folder 9	Robert Goodnough, 1960 May 2
Box 1, Folder 10	Seymour Boardman: Paintings, 1960 May 31
Box 1, Folder 11	Harry Nadler, 1960 June 27
Box 1, Folder 12	15 of New York, 1960 October 10 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 1, Folder 13	Robert Richtenburg, 1960 November 14 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6

Box 1, Folder 14	Various Artists, 1960 December 19
Box 1, Folder 15	Stanley Twardowicz, 1961 January 9 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 1, Folder 16	Stephen Pace, 1961 March 6
Box 1, Folder 17	Larry Rivers, 1961 February 6
Box 1, Folder 18	Franz Kline and Philip Guston, 1961 April 3
Box 1, Folder 19	Raymond Parker, 1961 May 1 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 1, Folder 20	Yves Klein: Le Monochrome, 1961 May 29 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 1, Folder 21	Salvatore Scarpitta, 1961 June 24 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 1, Folder 22	Joan Mitchell, 1961 September 18
Box 1, Folder 23	Six Sculptors, 1961 October 16
Box 1, Folder 24	Matsumi Kanemitsu, 1961 November 13 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 1, Folder 25	Robert Goodnough, 1962 January 27
Box 1, Folder 26	Ad Reinhardt, 1962 February 4
Box 1, Folder 27	Robert Rauschenberg, 1962 March 4
Box 1, Folder 28	William Waldren, 1962 April 1
Box 1, Folder 29	Arman, 1962 May 13
Box 1, Folder 30	Various Artists, 1962 June 11
Box 1, Folder 31	Harry Nadler, 1962 July 9
Box 1, Folder 32	Various Artists, 1962 September 7
Box 1, Folder 33	Raymond Parker, 1962 October 7
Box 1, Folder 34	My Country 'tis of Thee, 1962 November 18

Box 1, Folder 35	Matsumi Kanemitsu: Recent Paintings, 1962 December 16
Box 1, Folder 36	Martial Raysse, 1963 January 6
Box 1, Folder 37	Dealer's Choice, 1963 February 10
Box 1, Folder 38	Franz Kline: Memorial, Paintings 1950-1961, 1963 March 3 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV8
Box 1, Folder 39	Larry Rivers, 1963 April 15
Box 1, Folder 40	Jean Tinguely, 1963 May 13 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV8
Box 1, Folder 41	Edward Kienholz, 1963 June 17
Box 1, Folder 42	Claes Oldenburg, 1963 October 1
Box 1, Folder 43	Sven Lukin, 1963 October 27 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 1, Folder 44	Ad Reinhardt: Recent Paintings, 1963 November 24 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV8
Box 1, Folder 45	Various Artists, 1963 December 29
Box 1, Folder 46	Niki de Sainte Phalle, 1964 January 5 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 1, Folder 47	Boxes, 1964 February 2 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 5
Box 1, Folder 48	William Waldren, 1964 March 1 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 1, Folder 49	Arakawa: Diagrams, 1964 March 29 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV8
Box 1, Folder 50	Martial Raysse, 1964 May 4 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6, OV8
Box 2, Folder 1	Gallery Artists, 1964 June 1
Box 2, Folder 2	New York, New York, 1964 June 29 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV8
Box 2, Folder 3	Edward Kienholz: 3 Tableaux , 1964 September 29

Box 2, Folder 4	James Rosenquist, 1964 October 27
Box 2, Folder 5	Lucas Samaras, 1964 November 24 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV8
Box 2, Folder 6	Arena of Love, 1965 January 1 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV8
Box 2, Folder 7	Oldenburg, Whitman, Dine and Talbert, 1965 February 9
Box 2, Folder 8	Dakota Daley and Nicholas Quennell, 1965 March 16 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV8
Box 2, Folder 9	Robert Rauschenberg: Drawings, 1965 April 13 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6, OV8
Box 2, Folder 10	Charles Frazier, 1965 May 11
Box 2, Folder 11	Various Artists, 1965 June 8
Box 2, Folder 12	Mark Di Suervo: Two Large Works, 1965 September 29
Box 2, Folder 13	Larry Rivers, 1965 November 16 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 2, Folder 14	Various Artists, 1965 December 21
Box 2, Folder 15	Allen D'Archangelo, 1966 January 18
Box 2, Folder 16	Neil Williams, 1966 February 15 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 2, Folder 17	Robert Morris: Sculpture, 1966 March 15 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 2, Folder 18	Arakawa, 1966 May 10 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6, OV8
Box 2, Folder 19	Various Artists, 1966 May 10 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV8
Box 2, Folder 20	Robert Grosvenor, 1966 April 12
Box 2, Folder 21	Summer Show, 1966 July 5 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6, OV8
Box 2, Folder 22	Anthony Magar and Forrest Myers, 1966 October 4 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6

Box 2, Folder 23	David Novros: Five Paintings, 1966 November 1 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6, OV8
Box 2, Folder 24	John Chamberlain, 1966 November 29 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6, OV8
Box 2, Folder 25	Kenneth Snelson, 1967 January 9 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 2, Folder 26	DWN Y at DWLA, 1967 February 7 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV8
Box 2, Folder 27	Carl Andre: Cuts, 1967 March 8 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 2, Folder 28	Sol LeWitt, 1967 April 4
Box 2, Folder 29	10, 1967 May 2 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV6
Box 2, Folder 30	Martial Raysse: Retrospective, 1967 June 31 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV8
Box 5	Oversized Boxes Catalog, 1964 February 2 Notes: Material scanned with Box 1, F47
Enlarge 6	Oversized Exhibition Posters, 1960-1967 Notes: Material scanned with Box 1, F8, 12-13, 15, 19-21, 24, 43, 46, 48, 50 and Box 2, F9, 13, 16-18, 21-25, 27, 29
Enlarge 8	Oversized Photographs, 1963-1967 Notes: Material scanned with Box 1, F38, 40, 44, 49-50 and Box 2, F2, 5-6, 8-9, 18-19, 23-24, 26, 30

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Series 2: New York Exhibition Files, 1965-1971, after 1982

1 Linear foot (Box 2-4, OV7)

Scope and Contents: Found within this series may be lists of exhibited works, price lists, photographs, slides or color transparencies of installations, invitations, full-size posters, magazine and newspaper clippings and exhibition catalogs. Noteworthy exhibitions include artists Arakawa, Anastasi, Kenneth Snelson, Sol LeWitt, Robert Smithson, Carl Andre, Dan Flavin, and Walter De Maria. Other important exhibitions include *10* (1966), *Language to be Looked at and/or Things to be Read* (1967-1970), and *Earth Works* (1968).

Arrangement: This series is arranged in chronological order according to the opening date of each exhibition. Exhibition posters have been placed into oversized folders.

Available Formats: This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 2, Folder 31	Guides to New York Exhibitions, after 1982
Box 2, Folder 32	Edward Kienholz: The Beanery, 1965 November 23 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 2, Folder 33	Arakawa: For Instance, Instant, 1966 January 4 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 2, Folder 34	Anastasi: Sound Object, 1966 February 1 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 2, Folder 35	Tom Doyle, 1966 March 1 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 2, Folder 36	Kenneth Snelson, 1966 April 12 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 2, Folder 37	Sol LeWitt, 1966 May 10
Box 2, Folder 38	10, 1966 October 4
Box 3, Folder 1	Michael Steiner, 1966 November 1 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 3, Folder 2	Robert Smithson, 1966 November 29 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 3, Folder 3	Scale Models and Drawings, 1967 January 7 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 3, Folder 4	Edward Kienholz: Concept Tableaux, 1967 February 4
Box 3, Folder 5	Richard Baringer, 1967 March 4

	Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 3, Folder 6	David Novros: Paintings, 1967 April 1
Box 3, Folder 7	Anastasi: Six Sites, 1967 April 29 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 3, Folder 8	Language to be Looked at and/or Things to be Read, , 1967 June 3
Box 3, Folder 9	Tim Doyle, 1967 October 7
Box 3, Folder 10	Arakawa, 1967 November 4 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 3, Folder 11	Carl Andre: Periodic Table, 1967 December 2 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 3, Folder 12	Kenneth Snelson, 1968 January 6 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 3, Folder 13	Sol LeWitt: 46 3 Part Variations, 1968 February 3
Box 3, Folder 14	Robert Smithson, 1968 March 2 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 3, Folder 15	Michael Steiner, 1968 March 30 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 3, Folder 16	Charles Ross: Prisms, 1968 April 27 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 3, Folder 17	Language II, 1968 May 25
Box 3, Folder 18	Earth Works, 1968 October 5
Box 3, Folder 19	Dan Flavin: Cool White, etc., 1968 November 2
Box 3, Folder 20	Erwin Heerich: Cardboard Sculpture, 1968 November 30
Box 3, Folder 21	Fred Sandback: Five Situations, 1969 January 4 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 3, Folder 22	Robert Smithson: Lake Site-Nonsite, 1969 February 1
Box 3, Folder 23	Charles Ross: Prisms, 1969 March 1 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 3, Folder 24	Walter De Maria: Bed of Spikes, 1969 March 29

Box 3, Folder 25	Carl Andre, 1969 April 26
Box 4, Folder 1	Language III, 1969 May 24
Box 4, Folder 2	Sol LeWitt: Wall Drawing, 1969 October 4
Box 4, Folder 3	Arakawa: Decisive Ending, 1969 November 1 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 4, Folder 4	Dwan, 10 Years, 1969 November 29 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 4, Folder 5	Michael Heizer: New York/ Nevada, 1970 January 10
Box 4, Folder 6	Dan Flavin: Cornered Installations, 1970 February 7 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 4, Folder 7	Kenneth Snelson, 1970 March 7 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 4, Folder 8	Fred Sandback, 1970 April 4 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 4, Folder 9	Anastasi: Sculpture, 1970 May 2 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 4, Folder 10	Anastasi: Continuum, 1970 May 16 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 4, Folder 11	Language IV, 1970 June 2
Box 4, Folder 12	Richard Long: Sculpture, 1970 October 3
Box 4, Folder 13	Robert Smithson: Great Salt Lake, Utah, 1970 October 31 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 4, Folder 14	Gallery Artists, 1970 November 28
Box 4, Folder 15	Charles Ross: Sunlight Dispersion, 1971 January 6
Box 4, Folder 16	Robert Ryman: Paintings, 1971 February 6
Box 4, Folder 17	Carl Andre, 1971 April 3
Box 4, Folder 18	Sol LeWitt: Paintings and Drawings, 1971 May 1
Box 4, Folder 19	Dan Flavin: to Barnett Newman, 1971 March 6

	Notes:	Oversized material housed in OV7
Box 4, Folder 20		Final Exhibition, Gallery Artists, 1971 June 1
Oversize 7	Oversized Exhibition Posters, 1965-1971 Notes:	Material scanned with Box 2, F32-36, 38, Box 3, F1-3, 5, 7, 10-12, 14-16, 21, 23, and Box 4, F3-4, 6-10, 13, 19

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