
Jayna M. Hanson

Funding for the digitization of this collection was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art
August 2008
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: Dwan Gallery records
Identifier: AAA.dwangall
Date: 1959-circa 1982
(bulk 1959-1971)
Extent: 2.3 Linear feet
Creator: Dwan Gallery
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


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 Richenburg, 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:

- 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.)
Dwan, Virginia
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


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

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).

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.

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

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<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>Guides to Los Angeles Exhibitions, after 1981</th>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
<td>Drawings, Watercolors, Collages, 1959 December 12</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td>Matsumi Kanemitsu, 1960 January 19</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
<td>Reginald Pollack: Recent Paintings, 1960 February 9</td>
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<td>Friedel Dzubas, 1960 March 8</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
<td>Robert Goodnough, 1960 May 2</td>
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Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 12  15 of New York, 1960 October 10
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Box 1, Folder 13  Robert Richenburg, 1960 November 14
Image(s)
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Box 1, Folder 14  Various Artists, 1960 December 19
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Box 1, Folder 15  Stanley Twardowicz, 1961 January 9
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Box 1, Folder 16  Stephen Pace, 1961 March 6
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Box 1, Folder 17  Larry Rivers, 1961 February 6
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Box 1, Folder 18  Franz Kline and Philip Guston, 1961 April 3
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Box 1, Folder 19  Raymond Parker, 1961 May 1
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Box 1, Folder 20  Yves Klein: Le Monochrome, 1961 May 29
Image(s)
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Box 1, Folder 21  Salvatore Scarpitta, 1961 June 24
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Box 1, Folder 22  Joan Mitchell, 1961 September 18
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Box 1, Folder 23  Six Sculptors, 1961 October 16
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Box 1, Folder 25  
Robert Goodnough, 1962 January 27
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Box 1, Folder 26  
Ad Reinhardt, 1962 February 4
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William Waldren, 1962 April 1
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Arman, 1962 May 13
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Box 1, Folder 30  
Various Artists, 1962 June 11
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Box 1, Folder 31  
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Box 1, Folder 32  
Various Artists, 1962 September 7
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*My Country 'tis of Thee*, 1962 November 18
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Box 1, Folder 35  
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Box 1, Folder 41  Edward Kienholz, 1963 June 17
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Box 1, Folder 42  Claes Oldenburg, 1963 October 1
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Box 1, Folder 44  Ad Reinhardt: *Recent Paintings*, 1963 November 24
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Box 1, Folder 45  Various Artists, 1963 December 29
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Box 1, Folder 46  Niki de Sainte Phalle, 1964 January 5
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Box 2, Folder 1  Gallery Artists , 1964 June 1
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Box 2, Folder 2  New York, New York, 1964 June 29
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Box 2, Folder 5  Lucas Samaras , 1964 November 24
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Box 2, Folder 6  Arena of Love, 1965 January 1
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Box 2, Folder 7  Oldenburg, Whitman, Dine and Talbert , 1965 February 9
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Box 2, Folder 8  Dakota Daley and Nicholas Quennell , 1965 March 16
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Box 2, Folder 9  Robert Rauschenberg: Drawings, 1965 April 13
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Box 2, Folder 10  Charles Frazier , 1965 May 11
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Box 2, Folder 11  Various Artists, 1965 June 8
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 12  Mark Di Suervo: Two Large Works, 1965 September 29
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 13  Larry Rivers , 1965 November 16
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Box 2, Folder 14
Various Artists, 1965 December 21
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 15
Allen D'Archangelo, 1966 January 18
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 16
Neil Williams, 1966 February 15
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Box 2, Folder 17
Robert Morris: Sculpture, 1966 March 15
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Box 2, Folder 18
Arakawa, 1966 May 10
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Various Artists, 1966 May 10
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Oversized material housed in OV8

Box 2, Folder 20
Robert Grosvenor, 1966 April 12
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Box 2, Folder 21
Summer Show, 1966 July 5
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Box 2, Folder 22
Anthony Magar and Forrest Myers, 1966 October 4
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David Novros: Five Paintings, 1966 November 1
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John Chamberlain, 1966 November 29
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Kenneth Snelson, 1967 January 9
Series 1: Los Angeles Exhibition Files

Dwan Gallery records

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_DWNY at DWLA_, 1967 February 7
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Carl Andre: _Cuts_, 1967 March 8
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Box 2, Folder 28  
Sol LeWitt, 1967 April 4
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Box 2, Folder 30  
Martial Raysse: _Retrospective_, 1967 June 31
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Oversized _Boxes Catalog_, 1964 February 2
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1 Linear foot (Box 2-4, OV7)

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).

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

This series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 2, Folder 31  Guides to New York Exhibitions, after 1982
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Box 2, Folder 32  Edward Kienholz: The Beanery, 1965 November 23
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV7

Box 2, Folder 33  Arakawa: For Instance, Instant, 1966 January 4
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV7

Box 2, Folder 34  Anastasi: Sound Object, 1966 February 1
Image(s)
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Box 2, Folder 35  Tom Doyle, 1966 March 1
Image(s)
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Box 2, Folder 36  Kenneth Snelson, 1966 April 12
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Box 2, Folder 37  Sol LeWitt, 1966 May 10
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Box 2, Folder 38  10, 1966 October 4
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Box 3, Folder 1  Michael Steiner, 1966 November 1
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Box 3, Folder 2  Robert Smithson, 1966 November 29
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Box 3, Folder 3  Scale Models and Drawings, 1967 January 7
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Box 3, Folder 4  Edward Kienholz: Concept Tableaux, 1967 February 4
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Box 3, Folder 5  Richard Baringer, 1967 March 4
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Box 3, Folder 6  David Novros: Paintings, 1967 April 1
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Box 3, Folder 11  Carl Andre: Periodic Table, 1967 December 2
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Box 3, Folder 12  Kenneth Snelson, 1968 January 6
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Box 3, Folder 13  Sol LeWitt: 46 3 Part Variations, 1968 February 3
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Charles Ross: *Prisms*, 1968 April 27

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Erwin Heerich: *Cardboard Sculpture*, 1968 November 30

Box 3, Folder 21  
Fred Sandback: *Five Situations*, 1969 January 4

Box 3, Folder 22  
Robert Smithson: *Lake Site-Nonsite*, 1969 February 1

Box 3, Folder 23  
Charles Ross: *Prisms*, 1969 March 1

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
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Box 4, Folder 4
Dwan, "10 Years", 1969 November 29
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Box 4, Folder 6
Dan Flavin: "Cornered Installations", 1970 February 7
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV7

Box 4, Folder 7
Kenneth Snelson, 1970 March 7
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV7

Box 4, Folder 8
Fred Sandback, 1970 April 4
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV7

Box 4, Folder 9
Anastasi: "Sculpture", 1970 May 2
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV7

Box 4, Folder 10
Anastasi: "Continuum", 1970 May 16
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV7

Box 4, Folder 11
Language IV, 1970 June 2
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Box 4, Folder 12
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 13
Robert Smithson: "Great Salt Lake, Utah", 1970 October 31
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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

Box 4, Folder 20  Final Exhibition, Gallery Artists, 1971 June 1

Oversize 7  Oversized Exhibition Posters, 1965-1971

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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