



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Gary Falk Papers, circa  
1955-2013, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	3
Container Listing .....	4
Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1966-2013.....	4
Series 2: Correspondence, 1973-1996.....	6
Series 3: Notebooks, 1979-circa 2004.....	7
Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1977-1988.....	8
Series 5: Printed Material, 1962-1990.....	9
Series 6: Photographs, circa 1955-1990s.....	10
Series 7: Artwork, 1958-1980s.....	11

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Gary Falk papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.falkgary
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1955-2013
<b>Extent:</b>	2.5 Linear feet 0.005 Gigabytes
<b>Creator:</b>	Falk, Gary M., 1954-1986
<b>Language:</b>	English  The collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of painter and assemblage artist Gary Falk measure 2.5 linear feet and 0.005 GB and date from circa 1955-2013. The papers document his career as an artist in New York through biographical material, including project proposals, student records, and items from his memorial service; a small amount of personal correspondence; four notebooks; exhibition files; printed material; photographs of Falk, Falk with friends, artwork, and travel; digital photographs of artwork; and original artwork, including drawings, collages, and two sketchbooks.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 2005, 2007, 2014, and 2016 by Lillian Falk, Gary Falk's mother.

### Related Materials

Also at the Archives of American Art is one sound recording of Ned Rifkin in conversation with Gary Falk, December 5, 1984.

### Processing Information

The papers were processed and a finding aid prepared by Erin Kinhart in 2015. Additional papers were added to the collection in 2016. Born-digital materials were processed by Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner in 2019 with funding provided by Smithsonian Collection Care and Preservation Fund.

### Preferred Citation

Gary Falk papers, circa 1955-2013. 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. Contact Reference Services for more information. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Gary Falk papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

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## Biographical / Historical

Gary Falk (1954-1986) was a painter and assemblage artist from New York, N.Y. Falk developed a personal sign system in his works of art, and often worked in enamel and acrylic on Plexiglas or aluminum.

Falk and his family moved to Bethesda, Maryland, in 1966. He attended the Corcoran School of Art and later graduated from Yale University with a degree in Fine Arts in 1975. After college he moved to New York City and worked as an artist. He had a one-man-show at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in 1983. During the 1980s, he participated in many other group exhibitions, most notably *Narrative Forms* (1984) at the Museo Rufino Tamayo and *SIGNS* (1985) at the New Museum. Falk died at the age of 32.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and assemblage artist Gary Falk measure 2.5 linear feet and 0.005 GB and date from circa 1955-2013. The papers document his career as an artist in New York through biographical material, including project proposals, student records, and items from his memorial service; a small amount of personal correspondence; four notebooks; exhibition files; printed material; photographs of Falk, Falk with friends, artwork, and travel; digital photographs of artwork; and original artwork, including drawings, collages, and two sketchbooks.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 7 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1966-2013 (0.5 Linear feet; Box 1, 0.005 GB; ER01)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1973-1996 (4 Folders; Box 1)
- Series 3: Notebooks, 1979-circa 2004 (4 Folders; Box 1)
- Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1977-1988 (0.3 Linear feet; Box 1-2)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1962-1990 (0.2 Linear feet; Box 2, OV 5)
- Series 6: Photographs, circa 1955-1990s (0.7 Linear feet; Boxes 2-4)
- Series 7: Artwork, 1958-1980s (0.5 Linear feet; Box 3, OVs 5-7)

## 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  
Assemblage artists -- New York (State) -- New York  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Collages  
Drawings  
Photographs  
Sketchbooks

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1966-2013

*0.5 Linear feet (Box 1)*

*0.005 Gigabytes (ER01)*

Found here are Gary Falk's appointment books, passport, and wallet, as well as lists and digital photographs of his works, project proposals, and records of his time as a student at Yale University. Also found are a short memoir written by Lillian Falk, Gary's mother, and items from his memorial service, including eulogies, and recordings of the speakers and music on two sound cassettes.

Box 1, Folder 1	Birth Certificate (Copy), circa 1966
Box 1, Folder 2	Appointment Book Pages, 1981
Box 1, Folder 3	Appointment Book, 1983
Box 1, Folder 4	Appointment Book, 1983-1984
Box 1, Folder 5	Donation to FHI 360 Art Collection, 2013 <i>1 electronic discs (cd)</i>
Box 1, Folder 6	Lists and Images of Works in Collections, 1999, 2013, 2004 <i>Includes born-digital records, see ER01</i>
Folder ER01	Images of Works in Collections, Digital Photographs, 2006 <i>0.005 Gigabytes (72 computer files)</i>
Box 1, Folder 7	List of Large Scale Public Projects, circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 8	Memoir by Lillian Falk, 2006-2007
Box 1, Folder 9-10	Memorial Service, 1986 <i>Includes 2 sound cassettes.</i>
Box 1, Folder 11	Miscellaneous Biographical Material, circa 1970s-1998
Box 1, Folder 11	Passport, 1982
Box 1, Folder 12	Project Proposals, 1980-1986
Box 1, Folder 13	Rolodex Pages, circa 1980s
Box 1, Folder 16	Wallet, 1980s

Box 1, Folder 17

Yale University Student Records, 1973-1975

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 2: Correspondence, 1973-1996

### *4 Folders (Box 1)*

The small amount of correspondence found here includes a personal letters to Gary Falk, and a few postcards he sent his parents. Also found are letters of condolence and letters to his parents regarding the posthumous exhibition of his artwork.

Box 1, Folder 18	Letters to Gary Falk, 1980-1987
Box 1, Folder 19	Gary Falk Postcards to Parents, 1973, 1982-1983
Box 1, Folder 20-21	Letters and Condolences to Lillian and Charles Falk, 1986-1996

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*



## Series 3: Notebooks, 1979-circa 2004

### *4 Folders (Box 1)*

Notebooks from 1979 and 1985 contain general notes, including some sales records and project ideas. One travel notebook documents a trip to Italy. One notebook from circa 2004 only contains a few entries and possibly belonged to Gary Falk's parents.

Box 1, Folder 22	Notebook, 1979
Box 1, Folder 23	Notebook, circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 24	Travel Notebook, 1980s
Box 1, Folder 25	Notebook, circa 2004

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1977-1988

### 0.3 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Found here are files documenting exhibitions in which Gary Falk showed works. The contents of each file varies, but may include exhibition catalogs and announcements, press clippings, photographs, correspondence, loan agreements, and price lists.

Box 1, Folder 26	Sarah Lawrence College, <i>Painting 75 76 77</i> (1977), 1977
Box 1, Folder 27	Fashion Institute of Technology, Dianne B. Collection Autumn 1981, 1981, 1987
Box 1, Folder 28	New Museum, <i>The Window</i> (1983), 1982-1983
Box 1, Folder 29	University of Texas at Austin, <i>New American Painting: A Tribute to James and Mari Michener</i> (1984), 1983-1984
Box 1, Folder 30	Bette Stoler Gallery, <i>Art from the Machine</i> (1984), 1984
Box 1, Folder 31	White Columns, <i>Bunnies</i> (1984), 1984
Box 1, Folder 32	Hallwalls, <i>Objectivity</i> (1984), 1984
Box 1, Folder 33	Museo Rufino Tamayo, <i>Narrative Forms</i> (1984-1985), 1984
Box 1, Folder 34	Wesleyan University, Wall Installation, 1984-1985
Box 1, Folder 35	P.S. 1, <i>Narratives</i> (1985), 1985
Box 1, Folder 36	New Museum, <i>SIGNS</i> (1985), 1985
Box 1, Folder 37	Everson Museum of Art, <i>Computers and Art</i> (1988), 1986-1988
Box 2, Folder 1	Rosa Esman Gallery, <i>The Language of Form, The Form of Language</i> (1988), 1987-1988

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 5: Printed Material, 1962-1990

*0.2 Linear feet (Box 2, OV 5)*

Printed material includes magazines articles and news clippings regarding Gary Falk's work. Also included are exhibition announcements, a few photocopied source images, event programs, publications from Yale which mention Falk, and a monograph about Falk printed after his death.

Box 2, Folder 2	Exhibition Announcements, 1977-1988
Box 2, Folder 3	<i>Gary Falk: A Monograph</i> , circa 1988
Box 2, Folder 4-5	Magazines, 1978-1987
Box 2, Folder 6	News Clippings, circa 1978-1997
Box 2, Folder 7	Source Images, undated
Box 2, Folder 8	Programs, 1962, 1989, circa 1968
Box 2, Folder 9	Yale Publications, 1971, 1990
Box OV 5	Oversize Poster, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 6: Photographs, circa 1955-1990s

### *0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4)*

Found here are portraits of Gary Falk, personal color snapshots of Falk with friends, photographs of his apartment, and photographs and slides of works of art. Also found are many travel photographs and snapshots of his time as a visiting artist in Cummington, Massachusetts, and black and white photographs taken by Falk.

Box 2, Folder 10-11	Gary Falk, circa 1955-1986
Box 2, Folder 12	Yale Summer School Group Portrait, 1974
Box 2, Folder 13	Cummington, Massachusetts, 1982
Box 3, Folder 1	Montauk, New York, 1984
Box 3, Folder 2-3	Mexico, 1985
Box 3, Folder 4	Loft Apartment, 1986, 1981
Box 3, Folder 5	Miscellaneous Polaroids, circa 1980s
Box 3, Folder 6	Photographs and Negatives of Artwork, 1980s-1990s
Box 4, Folder 1-2	Slides of Gary Falk and Artwork, 1970s
Box 4, Folder 3-6	Photographs Taken by Gary Falk, circa 1970s
Box 4, Folder 7	Negatives of Photographs Taken by Gary Falk, circa 1970s

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 7: Artwork, 1958-1980s

### *0.5 Linear feet (Box 3, OVs 5-7)*

Found here are pencil drawings, collages, and two sketchbooks belonging to Gary Falk. Included are clock designs in colored pencil on black paper. Many of the pencil drawings and collages have source material from magazines attached. Also found are student and childhood drawings and two works of art on fabric.

Box 3, Folder 7	Clock Designs, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 8	Collage, undated
Box 3, Folder 9	Drawings and Collages, circa 1970s-1980s Oversized material housed in OV 5
Box 3, Folder 10	Drawings, circa 1970s
Box 3, Folder 11	Holiday Cards Designed by Gary Falk, circa 1980s
Box 3, Folder 12	Sketchbook, circa 1980s
Box 3, Folder 13	Sketchbook, circa 1980s
Box 3, Folder 14	Print by L. Kerr, circa 1980s
Box OV 5	Oversize Drawings and Collages, circa 1970s-1980s
Box OV 5	Oversize Childhood Drawings, 1958-1959
Box OV 6	Oversize Student Artwork, circa 1970s
Box OV 7	Oversize Artwork on Fabric, circa 1970s

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*