



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Barbara Frank Papers, circa 1972-1992

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Barbara Frank papers
Date:	circa 1970-1992
Identifier:	AAA.franbarb
Creator:	Frank, Barbara R., 1943-
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter Barbara Frank measure 0.2 linear feet and date from circa 1970 to 1992. The papers focus on Frank's involvement with the Washington Women's Arts Center and include administrative records, scattered correspondence, printed material, and writings. Of note is a letter from Judy Chicago inviting Frank to live for a year at Chicago's home and work on her art process.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 2015 by Barbara Frank.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2023 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

Preferred Citation

Barbara Frank papers, circa 1970-1992. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Barbara Frank (1943-) is a Washington, D.C. painter who works in watercolor, ink, and gouache on paper. Frank was an organizer of the 1972 Conference for Women in the Visual Arts at the Corcoran Gallery and an active member of the Washington Women's Arts Center.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter Barbara Frank measure 0.2 linear feet and date from circa 1970 to 1992. The papers focus on Frank's involvement with the Washington Women's Arts Center and include administrative records, scattered correspondence, printed material, and writings. Of note is a letter from Judy Chicago inviting Frank to live for a year at Chicago's home and work on her art process.

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:

Women artists
Women painters

Names:

Chicago, Judy, 1939-
Washington Women's Arts Center

Occupations:

Painters -- Washington (D.C.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Washington Women's Art Collective Records, circa 1970-1992

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Administrative and historical records concern the founding and planning of the Washington Women's Art Collective. Scattered letters are from Judy Chicago, Mary Garrard, Miriam Shapiro, and Ann Slayton-Leffler. Also found are letters from Barbara Frank regarding her resignation from the board of directors. Printed materials consist of clippings and press releases concerning events at the Collective, the 1972 Conference for Women in the Visual Arts at the Corcoran Gallery, and the 20th anniversary of the conference in 1992. Also found is an incomplete set of the newsletter of the Washington Women's Art Collective.

Writings and notes include a transcript of a lecture by Judy Chicago and Miriam Shapiro at an education workshop, drafts for press releases, lists of collective members, and general notes. A dismantled notebook contains early writings explaining the rationale and need for a women's arts organization, likely written by Frank.

Box 1, Folder 1 Administrative and Historical Records, 1972-circa 1980

Box 1, Folder 2 Correspondence, 1972-1992

Box 1, Folder 3 Printed Material, Clippings, 1972-1992

Box 1, Folder 4 Printed Material, Newsletters, 1972-1978

Box 1, Folder 5 Printed Material, Press Releases, 1972-1974

Box 1, Folder 6 Writings and Notes, circa 1970-1974

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