



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Suzi Gablik Papers, 1954-2014, in the Archives of American Art

Erin Kinhart

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Suzi Gablik papers
Date:	1954-2014
Identifier:	AAA.gablsuzi
Creator:	Gablik, Suzi
Extent:	12.8 Linear feet 4.48 Gigabytes
Language:	Collection is in English.
Summary:	The papers of art historian, critic, and painter Suzi Gablik measure 12.8 linear feet and 4.48 GB and date from 1954 to 2014. The collection documents her career through scattered biographical documents, professional correspondence, 83 journals and notebooks, writings for book projects, notes, lectures, professional files, printed material, photographs, some digital, and photograph albums. Also included are two digital videos.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Suzi Gablik in 2014.

Related Materials

Also at the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview of Suzi Gablik conducted February 27- March 1, 2015, by Jason Stieber. Photographs of Suzi Gablik, 1920-2000, are also located at the Frick Art Reference Library.

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Suzi Gablik papers, 1954-2014. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Suzi Gablik (1934-2022) was a writer, critic, art historian, and painter in New York City, New York; London, England; and Blacksburg, Virginia. Gablik attended a summer session at Black Mountain College in 1951 and, in 1955, received her B.A. from Hunter College, where she studied with Robert Motherwell. During the 1960s and 1970s, she regularly exhibited her work at New York City art galleries. From 1962 to 1966 she was a critic for *Art News*, and she later spent fifteen years as the London correspondent for *Art in America*. Gablik published seven books about art, culture, and spirituality. Her first book *Pop Art Redefined* (1969) was co-authored with art critic John Russell.

In addition to working as an author and critic, Gablik also served as a visiting professor or lecturer at numerous colleges and universities. From 1976 to 1979 she participated in several US International Communications Agency lecture tours that included Hungary, India, Pakistan, and South Asian countries. She also lectured at many conferences and workshops.

Scope and Contents

The papers of art historian, critic, and painter Suzi Gablik measure 12.8 linear feet and 4.48 GB and date from 1954 to 2014. The collection documents her career through scattered biographical documents, professional correspondence, 83 journals and notebooks, writings for book projects, notes, lectures, professional files, printed material, photographs, some digital, and photograph albums. Also included are two digital videos.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 7 series.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1980s-2011 (5 Folders; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, 1971-2014 (0.4 Linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 3: Journals and Notebooks, 1954-2012 (5.6 Linear feet; Boxes 1-7)
 - Series 4: Writings, 1962-2012 (3.4 Linear feet; Boxes 7-11)
 - Series 5: Professional Files, 1978-2002 (0.8 Linear feet; Boxes 10-11)
 - Series 6: Printed Material, 1963-2013 (1.5 Linear feet; Boxes 11-12, 14, 3.84 GB; ER01)
 - Series 7: Photographs, circa 1960s-2008 (1.0 Linear foot; Boxes 12-15, 0.635 GB; ER02-ER04)
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Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- History
Art criticism
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Diaries
Photographs

Occupations:

Art critics -- England
Art critics -- New York (State) -- New York
Art critics -- Virginia
Art historians -- England
Art historians -- New York (State) -- New York
Art historians -- Virginia
Painters -- England -- London
Painters -- Virginia

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1980s-2011

5 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The small amount of biographical material found here includes two address books, Gablik's curriculum vitae, and two interview transcripts. Also included is a lifetime achievement award from the Women's Caucus for Art, as well as a photograph and program from the award ceremony.

Box 1, Folder 1	Address Book, circa 1980s-1990s
Box 1, Folder 2	Address Book, circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 3	Curriculum Vitae, circa 1999-2002
Box 1, Folder 4	Lifetime Achievement, Women's Caucus for Art, 2003
Box 1, Folder 5	Transcripts of Interviews of Suzi Gablik, circa 2000s-2011

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1971-2014

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence contains both personal and professional letters between Gablik and her friends, gallery contacts, publishers, editors, and fans. Of note are letters from David Peat, Theodore Roszak, James Hillman, Jasper Johns, and Stephanie Mills.

Box 1, Folder 6	Berensohn, Paulus, circa 2000-2014
Box 1, Folder 7	Glendinning, Chellis, 2000-2002
Box 1, Folder 8	Hillman, James, circa 2002-2005
Box 1, Folder 9	Levi-Strauss, Claude, 1972-1974
Box 1, Folder 10	Mills, Stephanie, 2000-2001
Box 1, Folder 11	The New Criterion, 1984
Box 1, Folder 12	Peat, David, 1993-1995
Box 1, Folder 13-16	Taylor, Peter, 1980-1982, 1990
Box 1, Folder 17-18	General Correspondence, 1971-2011

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Series 3: Journals and Notebooks, 1954-2012

5.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-7)

Scope and Contents: Journals and notebooks concern Gablik's personal life, her thoughts on contemporary art and world events, her relationships with artists, dealers, writers, and collectors, her extensive travels, and her theories on art history, art production, social justice, environmentalism, and spirituality. Some notebooks were given titles by Gablik on specific topics and travel destinations.

Box 1, Folder 19	Travel Notebook, undated
Box 1, Folder 20	Notebook, "Problems of the Artist in Contemporary Society", 1954
Box 1, Folder 21	Journal, 1960
Box 1, Folder 22	Journal, 1962
Box 1, Folder 23	Journal, 1971-1972
Box 1, Folder 24	Notebook, 1974
Box 1, Folder 25	Notebook, "New York and London", 1976
Box 1, Folder 26	Notebook, "Cadaques", 1976
Box 1, Folder 27	Journal, 1977-1988
Box 1, Folder 28	Notebook, "Jasper", 1977-1978
Box 1, Folder 29	Notebook, "India, London, Rafting, and Van Royan Exhibition", 1978
Box 2, Folder 1	Journal, 1979
Box 2, Folder 2	Journal, 1979
Box 2, Folder 3	Journal, 1979
Box 2, Folder 4	Notebook, "Australia", circa 1980
Box 2, Folder 5	Journal, 1980
Box 2, Folder 6	Notebook, "Tasmania", 1981
Box 2, Folder 7	Journal, 1984-1985
Box 2, Folder 8	Notebook, "Book of Shamanic Journeys", 1984-1985
Box 2, Folder 9	Journal, 1985

Box 2, Folder 10	Journal, 1985-1999
Box 2, Folder 11	Journal, 1987
Box 2, Folder 12	Journal, 1990
Box 2, Folder 13	Notebook, "The Unloved Post-Modernism (Sam Keen)", 1990
Box 2, Folder 14	Journal, circa 1990
Box 2, Folder 15	Journal, 1991
Box 2, Folder 16	Journal, 1992
Box 2, Folder 17	Journal, 1992
Box 2, Folder 18	Journal, 1992-1996
Box 2, Folder 19	Journal, 1994
Box 2, Folder 20	Journal, 1994
Box 3, Folder 1	Journal, 1994-1995
Box 3, Folder 2	Journal, 1995
Box 3, Folder 3	Notebook, "Cybernotes", 1995
Box 3, Folder 4	Journal, circa 1995
Box 3, Folder 5	Journal, 1995-1996
Box 3, Folder 6	Journal, 1996
Box 3, Folder 7	Journal, 1996
Box 3, Folder 8	Journal, 1996
Box 3, Folder 9	Journal, 1996
Box 3, Folder 10	Journal, 1996-1997
Box 3, Folder 11	Journal, 1997
Box 3, Folder 12	Journal, 1997
Box 3, Folder 13	Journal, 1997-1998

Box 4, Folder 1	Journal, 1998
Box 4, Folder 2	Journal, 1998
Box 4, Folder 3	Journal, 1998
Box 4, Folder 4	Journal, 1998-1999
Box 4, Folder 5	Journal, 1998-2003
Box 4, Folder 6	Journal, 1999
Box 4, Folder 7	Journal, 1999
Box 4, Folder 8	Journal, 1999-2000
Box 4, Folder 9	Journal, 2000
Box 4, Folder 10	Journal, 2000
Box 4, Folder 11	Journal, 2000
Box 4, Folder 12	Journal, 2000
Box 5, Folder 1	Journal, 2000-2001
Box 5, Folder 2	Journal, 2001
Box 5, Folder 3	Journal, 2001-2003
Box 5, Folder 4	Journal, 2002
Box 5, Folder 5	Journal, 2002
Box 5, Folder 6	Notebook, "Working Notebook", 2002
Box 5, Folder 7	Journal, 2002-2003
Box 5, Folder 8	Journal, 2003
Box 5, Folder 9	Journal, 2003
Box 5, Folder 10	Journal, 2003-2004
Box 5, Folder 11	Journal, 2004
Box 5, Folder 12	Journal, 2004

Box 6, Folder 1	Journal, 2004
Box 6, Folder 2	Journal, circa 2004
Box 6, Folder 3	Journal, circa 2004
Box 6, Folder 4	Journal, 2004-2005
Box 6, Folder 5	Journal, 2005
Box 6, Folder 6	Journal, 2005-2006
Box 6, Folder 7	Journal, 2006
Box 6, Folder 8	Journal, 2006-2007
Box 6, Folder 9	Journal, 2007-2008
Box 6, Folder 10	Journal, 2008
Box 6, Folder 11	Journal, 2008
Box 6, Folder 12	Journal, circa 2008
Box 6, Folder 13	Journal, 2010
Box 7, Folder 1	Journal, circa 2010
Box 7, Folder 2	Journal, 2012

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Series 4: Writings, 1962-2012

3.4 Linear feet (Boxes 7-11)

Scope and Contents: The bulk of the writings found here are for Gablik's book projects, and include complete drafts, annotations, preliminary notes, and draft fragments. Also found is other project documentation including fan mail, reviews, correspondence, and a few photographs. Other writings include scattered research notes, draft writings for periodicals, and lectures. Lectures include draft versions, slides, and nine sound cassette recordings.

Arrangement: This series is arranged as 4 subseries.

Missing Title:

- 4.1: Book Projects, 1972-2012
- 4.2: Notes, circa 1980s-1997
- 4.3: Writings for Publication, 1962-2012
- 4.4: Lectures, circa 1980s-2002

4.1: Book Projects, 1972-2012

Box 7, Folder 3-4	Conversations Before the End of Time, Correspondence, 1994-2001
Box 7, Folder 5	Conversations Before the End of Time, Cover Designs, circa 1995
Box 7, Folder 6-9	Conversations Before the End of Time, Draft Fragments, circa 1990s
Box 7, Folder 10	Conversations Before the End of Time, Reviews, 1995-1997
Box 7, Folder 11-12	Conversations Before the End of Time, Working Notes, circa 1991-1993
Box 7, Folder 13-16	Has Modernism Failed?, Fan Letters, 1984-1992, 2012
Box 7, Folder 17	Has Modernism Failed?, Reviews, 1994-1995
Box 7, Folder 18	Has Modernism Failed?, Revized Edition, Draft Fragments, circa 2004
Box 7, Folder 19	Living the Magical Life, Fan Letters, 2000-2005
Box 7, Folder 20-23	Living the Magical Life, Notes and Drafts for Autobiography, circa 1980s-1990s
Box 7, Folder 24	Living the Magical Life, Notes, circa 1990s
Box 8, Folder 1-2	Living the Magical Life, Project Documents, 1993-2003
Box 8, Folder 3-4	Living the Magical Life, Early Drafts, "Altered States", circa 1990s
Box 8, Folder 5-11	Living the Magical Life, Draft Versions, circa 1990s-2001
Box 8, Folder 12	Living the Magical Life, Final Draft, circa 2001

Box 8, Folder 13	Living the Magical Life, Draft Fragments, circa 1990s
Box 8, Folder 14-15	Progress in Art, Correspondence and Reviews, 1972-1978
Box 9, Folder 1	The Reenchantment of Art, Early Notes, circa 1989
Box 9, Folder 2	The Reenchantment of Art, Early Version, circa 1989
Box 9, Folder 3	The Reenchantment of Art, Draft Version, circa 1990
Box 9, Folder 4	The Reenchantment of Art, Fan Letters, 1991-1994
Box 9, Folder 5-6	The Reenchantment of Art, Photographs, circa 1980s
Box 9, Folder 7-8	The Reenchantment of Art, Reviews, 1991-1993

4.2: Notes, circa 1980s-1997

Box 9, Folder 9	Research Notes, circa 1996-1997
Box 9, Folder 10	Notes for Writings, circa 1980s

4.3: Writings for Publication, 1962-2012

Box 9, Folder 11	"Dances with Woogie", circa 2000s
Box 9, Folder 12	"The Ecological Self"/"The Ecological Imperative" , circa 1990s
Box 9, Folder 13	"Report from the Philippines," Art in America, 1984
Box 9, Folder 14-15	Various Articles and Essays, circa 1970s-2000s
Box 9, Folder 16-20	"Virgil Speaks" Blog Posts, 2007-2012
Box 9, Folder 21	"A Winter's Diary, 1962-1963", 1962-1963

4.4: Lectures, circa 1980s-2002

Box 9, Folder 22-23	"Art as a Healing Force in Society", 1992 Includes 1 sound cassette.
Box 9, Folder 24	"Cultural Imperatives in the Ecological Age", circa 1990s 2 Sound cassettes
Box 10, Folder 1-2	"Making Art as if the World Mattered", 1990

6 Sound cassettes

Box 10, Folder 3-4 Lecture Slides and Slide Lists, circa 1980s-1990s

Box 10, Folder 5-11 Various Lectures, circa 1980s-2002

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Series 5: Professional Files, 1978-2002

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 10-11)

Scope and Contents: Professional files document Gablik's participation in conferences, symposia, seminars, and workshops. Also found are teaching materials from her visiting professorships at several universities, such as syllabi, notes, and photocopies of articles. Other files may include correspondence, notes, programs, event publications, and planning documents. Also found here are three interviews on sound cassette conducted by Suzi Gablik of spiritual writer Thomas Moore, psychologist James Hillman, and historian Theodore Roszak.

Box 10, Folder 12	"Beauty: A Conference in the Healing Arts", 1991 Includes 6 sound cassettes.
Box 10, Folder 13	The Buddhism Project, 2000-2002
Box 10, Folder 14	College Art Association, 1991
Box 10, Folder 15	Courses and Colloquia Proposals, circa 1980s-1990s
Box 10, Folder 16	Integral Institute, 2000-2001
Box 10, Folder 17	Interview with Thomas Moore, 1993 1 Sound cassette
Box 10, Folder 18	Interview with James Hillman, 1993 1 Sound cassette
Box 10, Folder 19	Interview with Theodore Roszak, 1993 1 Sound cassette
Box 10, Folder 20	Seminar, "Changing Paradigms Spring 1985 UCSB", 1985
Box 10, Folder 21	Symposium, "Mapping the Terrain", 1991
Box 10, Folder 22-23	Teaching Materials, 1980s-1990s
Box 10, Folder 24	Teaching Materials, Art History/Criticism, 1990
Box 11, Folder 1	Teaching Materials, Beginning Drawing I, circa 1980s
Box 11, Folder 2-3	Teaching Materials, Concepts of Art, circa 1980s
Box 11, Folder 4	Teaching Materials, Early Course Descriptions, circa 1980s
Box 11, Folder 5	USIS Lecture Trips to Asia, 1978-1980
Box 11, Folder 6-8	Workshop, Common Boundary Conference, "The Black Madonna", circa 1997

Includes 1 sound cassette.

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Series 6: Printed Material, 1963-2013

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 11-12, 14)

3.84 Gigabytes (ER01)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes clippings of reviews for books written by Gablik, exhibitions publications featuring her artwork, and serial publications containing articles by Gablik. Additionally there are articles and publications compiled by Gablik for teaching purposes. Also found are exhibition catalogs, gallery announcements, and publicity material for events in which she participated as a speaker. Additionally, there is a digital documentary film about artist Paulus Berensohn.

Box 11, Folder 9	Books, 1991, 2006, 1999
Box 11, Folder 10	Book Excerpts (Photocopies), circa 1980s
Folder ER01	"To Spring From the Hand: The Life and Work of Paulus Berensohn", Documentary Film, Digital, 2013 3.84 Gigabytes (One computer file)
Box 11, Folder 12	Event Flyers and Programs, 1990s-2000s
Box 11, Folder 13-14	Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, 1966-2005
Box 11, Folder 15-16	Exhibition Catalogs, 1990-2012
Box 11, Folder 17	Gazelle Talk by Dominique GW Mazeaud, 2000s
Box 11, Folder 18-22	Magazines, Journals, and Literary Reviews, 1986-2008, 1963 Notes: Oversized items housed in Box 14, Folder 1.
Box 11, Folder 23	Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1990s-2002
Box 11, Folder 24	Newsletters, 1991-2013
Box 11, Folder 25	Outside Support Material and Printed Articles by Others, circa 1970s-1990s
Box 12, Folder 1-2	Publications Regarding Artwork by Suzi Gablik, 1966-2004
Box 12, Folder 3-5	Published Articles About Suzi Gablik, 1969-2003
Box 12, Folder 6-14	Published Articles By Suzi Gablik, circa 1963-2011
Box 12, Folder 15-17	Published Articles by Others, 1970s-2003
Box 12, Folder 18-20	Published Articles Used for Teaching, circa 1980s-1990s

Box 12, Folder
21-22

Reviews of Writings by Suzi Gablik, 1970-1971

Box 14, Folder 1

Oversize Magazines from Box 11, Folder 18, 1990, 1992

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Series 7: Photographs, circa 1960s-2008

*1 Linear foot (Boxes 12-15)**0.635 Gigabytes (ER02-ER04)*

Scope and Contents: Photographs include photograph albums and loose photographs documenting various periods in Gablik's life and her friendship with notable figures in the art world, including Jasper Johns, Claes Oldenburg, and art critic John Russell, among many others. Also found are photographs, negatives, digital photographs and video, and transparencies of Gablik's artwork.

Box 12, Folder 23-24	Portraits of Suzi Gablik, 1970s-1990s
Folder ER02	Digital Photographs of Artwork, 2004 0.024 Gigabytes (10 computer files)
Box 12, Folder 26	Snapshots, including Suzi Gablik, circa 1970s-2000s
Folder ER03	Vets for Peace Solar Walk, Installation, Digital Video Recording, 2008 0.295 Gigabytes (One computer file)
Folder ER04	Installation Views, "Sum of Parts: Assemblage and Collage", Digital Photographs, 2004 0.316 Gigabytes (34 computer files)
Box 12, Folder 29	Artwork Used for Books, circa 1970s-1990s
Box 12, Folder 30-31	Artwork by Suzi Gablik, circa 1960s-1970s
Box 13, Folder 1-3	Transparencies and Negatives of Artwork by Suzi Gablik, circa 1960s-1980s
Box 13, Folder 4	Artwork by Rene Magritte, circa 1960s
Box 13, Folder 5	Miscellaneous Photographs, circa 1970s-1980s
Box 13, Folder 6	Photographs Album, Altars, circa 1990s
Box 13, Folder 7	Photograph Album, "Apex Art Photos", circa 2002
Box 13, Folder 8	Photograph Album, Spain, circa 1980s
Box 14, Folder 2	Photograph Album, 1967-1971
Box 14, Folder 3	Photograph Album, 1971-1977
Box 15, Folder 1	Photograph Album, 1978-1979

Box 15, Folder 2

Photograph Album, 1980-1993

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