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

Erin Kinhart

2015 December 2
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: Suzi Gablik papers
Identifier: AAA.gablsuzi
Date: 1954-2014
Extent: 12.8 Linear feet
4.48 Gigabytes
Creator: Gablik, Suzi, 1934-
Language: English
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.

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
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 Suzi Gablik 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.

Biographical / Historical

Suzi Gablik (1934- ) is 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 has 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 has 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 has 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.

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

Types of Materials:
- Diaries
- Photographs

Occupations:
- Art critics -- England
- Art critics -- Virginia
- Art historians -- Virginia
- Painters -- England -- London
- Painters -- Virginia
Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1980s-2011

5 Folders (Box 1)

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
Series 2: Correspondence, 1971-2014

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

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)

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 12</th>
<th>Journal, 1990</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 13</td>
<td>Notebook, &quot;The Unloved Post-Modernism (Sam Keen)&quot;, 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 14</td>
<td>Journal, circa 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 15</td>
<td>Journal, 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 16</td>
<td>Journal, 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 17</td>
<td>Journal, 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 18</td>
<td>Journal, 1992-1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 19</td>
<td>Journal, 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 20</td>
<td>Journal, 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Journal, 1994-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 2</td>
<td>Journal, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 3</td>
<td>Notebook, &quot;Cybernotes&quot;, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 4</td>
<td>Journal, circa 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 5</td>
<td>Journal, 1995-1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 6</td>
<td>Journal, 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 7</td>
<td>Journal, 1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 8</td>
<td>Journal, 1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 9</td>
<td>Journal, 1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 10</td>
<td>Journal, 1996-1997</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 11</td>
<td>Journal, 1997</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 12</td>
<td>Journal, 1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 13</td>
<td>Journal, 1997-1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 1</td>
<td>Journal, 1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 2</td>
<td>Journal, 1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 3</td>
<td>Journal, 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 4</td>
<td>Journal, 1998-1999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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)

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.

This series is arranged as 4 subseries.

- 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 17  Has Modernism Failed?, Reviews, 1994-1995
Box 7, Folder 18  Has Modernism Failed?, Revised 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 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

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
Series 5: Professional Files, 1978-2002

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 10-11)

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 |
| 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 1980-1990 |
| Box 10, Folder 16          | Integral Institute, 2000-2001                    |
| Box 10, Folder 17          | Interview with Thomas Moore, 1993               |
| Box 10, Folder 18          | 1 sound cassette                                 |
| Box 10, Folder 19          | Interview with James Hillman, 1993              |
| Box 10, Folder 20          | 1 sound cassette                                 |
| Box 10, Folder 21          | Interview with Theodore Roszak, 1993            |
| Box 10, Folder 22-23       | Seminar, "Changing Paradigms Spring 1985 UCSB", 1985 |
| Box 10, Folder 24          | Symposium, "Mapping the Terrain", 1991           |
| Box 10, Folder 25-23       | Teaching Materials, 1980-1990                    |
| Box 10, Folder 24-25       | 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)

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 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
                          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)

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  Photographs of Artwork (2004), Digital, 2016
0.024 Gigabytes (10 computer files)

Box 12, Folder 26  Snapshots, including Suzi Gablik, circa 1970s-2000s

Folder ER03  Vets for Peace Solar Walk, Video of Installation, Digital, 2008
0.295 Gigabytes (One computer file)

Folder ER04  Installation Views, "Sum of Parts: Assemblage and Collage" (2004), Digital, 2016
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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