



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Richard Haas Papers, 1937-2012, bulk 1970-2012, in the Archives of American Art

Catherine S. Gaines

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

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Richard Haas papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.haasrich
<b>Date:</b>	1937-2012
<b>Creator:</b>	Haas, Richard, 1936-
<b>Extent:</b>	6 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Richard Haas papers measure 6 linear feet and are dated 1937 to 2012, bulk 1970-2012. His work and career as a muralist, printmaker, and educator are documented by correspondence, writings, printed material, sketchbooks, and photographs.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated by Richard Haas in 2012.

### Related Material

An interview of Richard Haas conducted January 13 and March 16, 2009, by Avis Berman, for the Archives of American Art's U.S. General Services Administration, Design Excellence and the Arts oral history project, at Haas' studio, in New York, N.Y.

### Processing Information

This collection was processed to a minimum level and a finding aid prepared by Catherine S. Gaines in 2012. The Archives of American Art has implemented minimal processing tactics when possible in order to increase information about and access to more of our collections. Minimal processing included arrangement to the series and folder levels. Generally, items within folders were simply verified with folder titles, but not arranged further. Folders within boxes were not numbered. The collection was rehoused in archival containers and folders, but not all staples and clips were removed.

### Preferred Citation

Richard Haas papers, 1937-2012, bulk 1970-2012. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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## Biographical Note

Richard Haas (b. 1936) is a mural painter of "architecture of illusion," his term describing the trompe l'oeil architectural subjects for which he is best known. His work as a printmaker also focuses on architecture, with iconic buildings of New York and other cities serving as subject matter. Haas is also an educator who has taught painting and printmaking at University of Minnesota, Michigan State University, Bennington College in Vermont, and School of Visual Arts in New York City.

During World War II, the Haas family moved from Spring Green, Wisconsin to Milwaukee. As a teenager, Richard spent two summers working with his great uncle, a master stone mason employed by Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin. He proved to be less interested in stonework than in exploring Wright's library and watching the young architects draw. He considered becoming an architect, but eventually concluded the artistic side of architecture was more attractive than the day to day work of an architect.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (B.S., 1959), Haas worked as an art teacher in a Milwaukee high school. He attended graduate classes at University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee where visiting artist Jack Tworkov was his teacher. At the University of Minnesota (M.F.A., 1964), Haas studied with Peter Busa and Malcolm Myers. As an assistant professor at Michigan State University from 1964 to 1968, Haas's colleagues included Angelo Ippolito and Charles Pollock, and he met a number of important artists and critics who visited the campus. Haas moved to New York City in 1968 and soon accepted a part-time position teaching printmaking at Bennington College. He commuted weekly between New York and Vermont for the next decade.

During the 1960s Haas was a Color-field painter. He also continued making etchings and lithographs, and by 1970 several galleries were selling his architectural prints. His first outdoor mural, painted in the So Ho section of New York City in 1975, attracted attention and commissions followed. Mural commissions include: Boston Architectural Center (1977); Edison Bothers Store, Inc., St. Louis (1984); Home Savings of America, multiple locations in Florida and California (1990-1991); City of Huntsville, Texas (1991); Federal Building and Courthouse, Kansas City, Kansas (1994); and Yorkville Mural, New York City (2004.)

Haas, who began exhibiting while still a student, has participated in a large number of group shows and enjoyed many solo exhibitions. He was elected a National Academician, National Academy of Design, was granted a Guggenheim Fellowship, and has been a MacDowell Fellow. Among other honors, Haas has received the American Institute of Architects Medal of Honor, New York City Municipal Art Society Award, Doris C. Freedman Award for Public Art, and the Jimmy Ernst Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Mr. Haas, who works in New York City, is represented by David Findlay, Jr. Gallery. His wife, Katherine Sokolnikoff, is a sculptor and arts administrator; they live in Yonkers, New York.

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## Scope and Content Note

The Richard Haas papers measure 6 linear feet and are dated 1937 to 2012, bulk 1970-2012. His work and career as a muralist, printmaker, and educator are documented by correspondence, writings, printed material, sketchbooks, and photographs.

Haas's correspondence relates to commissions, exhibitions, lectures, publications, teaching, and other professional activities. Correspondents include clients, galleries, professional organizations, critics, artists, architects and others. Also found is small amount of personal correspondence. Writings and notes by Haas include artist's statements, notes, lectures, a travel diary, papers and class notes from his undergraduate

and graduate student days. Writings about him are a New Museum exhibition catalog text and a student paper. Subject files relate to Haas's professional activities and interests. They document exhibitions and projects, relationships with galleries, membership and participation in various organizations, and routine business matters. Sketchbooks (17 volumes) contain drawings, sketches, and a few watercolors, along with scattered writings and notes.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 8 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1990, 2009 (Box 1; 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1964-2008 (Box 1; 1 linear feet)
- Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1954-2012 (Box 2; 0.8 linear feet)
- Series 4: Subject Files, 1970-2011 (Boxes 2-4; 2.2 linear feet)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1956-2012 (Boxes 5-6; 1.2 linear feet)
- Series 6: Artwork, 1954-2005 (Box 6; 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 7: Sketchbooks, 1976-2009 (Box 6; 0.5 linear feet)
- Series 8: Photographs, 1937-2006 (Box 6; 0.1 linear feet)

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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 -- Study and teaching  
Educators -- New York (State) -- New York  
Muralists -- New York (State) -- New York  
Printmakers -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Drawings  
Photographs  
Sketchbooks  
Sketches  
Travel diaries  
Watercolors

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1990, 2009

#### *0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Included with program for his father's memorial service are a few loose sheets with notes for Hass's remarks and the sketches he made for the program. Also found is a copy of the invitation to a dinner celebrating his wife's birthday.

Box 1, Folder 1      Family, 1990, 2009

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1964-2008

### 1 Linear foot (Box 1)

**Scope and Contents:** Most of Haas's correspondence concerns professional matters such as commissions, lectures, publication permissions, teaching, and publicity. Correspondents include clients and potential clients, galleries, professional organizations, critics, artists, and architects. Also found is a small amount of personal correspondence that includes a few letters from his father and brother, invitations, and routine social correspondence.

**Arrangement:** Correspondence is arranged in rough alphabetical order. Additional correspondence is scattered throughout the subject files (Series 4).

Box 1, Folder 2	A, 1978-2008
Box 1, Folder 3	B, 1978-2008
Box 1, Folder 4	C, 1977-2008
Box 1, Folder 5	D, 1980-2008
Box 1, Folder 6	E, 1981-2008
Box 1, Folder 7	F, 1964-2008
Box 1, Folder 8	G, 1978-2002
Box 1, Folder 9	H, 1977-2008
Box 1, Folder 10	I-K, 1978-2008
Box 1, Folder 11	L, 1987-2008
Box 1, Folder 12-13	M, 1978-2008
Box 1, Folder 14	N, 1978-2008
Box 1, Folder 15	O, 1977-2004
Box 1, Folder 16-17	P, 1979-2008
Box 1, Folder 18	R, 1977-2008
Box 1, Folder 19-20	S, 1978-2008
Box 1, Folder 21	T, 1980-2008
Box 1, Folder 22	U-V, 1972-2008
Box 1, Folder 23	W, 1978-2008

Box 1, Folder 24 Y-Z, 1975-2008

Box 1, Folder 25 Unidentified, 1967-2008

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## Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1954-2012

### 0.8 Linear feet (Box 2)

**Scope and Contents:** Richard Haas's writings include artist's statements, lecture notes, and travel diary, along with his student notes and papers. Notebooks include University of Minnesota class notes, writings on art topics and other subjects, as well as general notes and lists. The majority of the college papers were written when Haas was a graduate student at University of Minnesota; though one or two may date from his undergraduate years at the University of Wisconsin. The travel diary contains brief daily entries about a trip to China and Japan, October 8-November 1, 2007. Entries dated December 25, 1911-January 13, 2012 record a trip to London, Abu Dhabi, Athens, Barcelona, and Rome. The volume's final few pages contain undated architectural drawings and Hyatt Home project notes, 2009.

Writings about Haas are the text of an exhibition catalog and a student paper.

**Arrangement:** Additional writings are found among the subject files (Series 4) and in several sketchbooks (Series 7).

Box 2	By Haas
Box 2, Folder 1-5	College Papers, circa 1954-circa 1964
Box 2, Folder 6-7	Lectures and Talks, 1983-1984, 1989-circa 2003, undated
Box 2, Folder 8-21	Notebooks, circa 1961-circa 1990
Box 2, Folder 22	Notes, Bennington College, circa 1975-circa 1979
Box 2, Folder 23	Notes, California Trip, 1977
Box 2, Folder 24	Notes, Miscellaneous, circa 1970s, undated
Box 2, Folder 25	Statements, 1979, 1983, undated
Box 2, Folder 26	Travel Diary, 2007, 2011-2012
Box 2, Folder 27	About Haas - Manuscript of Exhibition Catalog, circa 1978-circa 1979
Box 2, Folder 28	About Haas - Student Paper, 1980

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## Series 4: Subject Files, 1970-2011

### 2.2 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4)

Scope and Contents: Subject files relate to Haas's professional activities and interests. They document his membership and participation in various organizations, relationships with galleries, and the writing and production of the catalogue raisonné of his prints.

Arrangement: Files are arranged alphabetically.

Box 2, Folder 29	AIA [The American Institute of Architects] Correspondence, 1978
Box 2, Folder 30	Art Commission of the City of New York, 1978-1990
Box 2, Folder 31	Break-Down Project Expenses, 1984
Box 2, Folder 32-37	Brooke Alexander Inc., 1978-1986
Box 3, Folder 1	"Buildings Reborn," 1978
Box 3	Catalogue Raisonné The Prints of Richard Haas: A Catalogue Raisonné: 1970-2004
Box 3, Folder 2-3	Catalogue Raisonné, 2000-2004
Box 3, Folder 4	Gifts, 2003-2005
Box 3, Folder 5	Given/Sold, 1999-2000
Box 3, Folder 6	Print Sale Records/Contract, 2003-2007
Box 3, Folder 7	Promotion, 2005-2006
Box 3, Folder 8	Research, Publishers, 1994-circa 2004
Box 3, Folder 9	The Century Association, 1997-2011
Box 3, Folder 10	The Century Association - Letters of Reference, 2003-2011
Box 3, Folder 11	The Century Association - Logan Delany, Jr., 2005-2006
Box 3, Folder 12	The Century Association - Recommendations, 1985-1997
Box 3, Folder 13	Cooper-Hewitt Museum Lecture and Exhibit, 1978-1982
Box 3, Folder 14	Delahunty, 1979-1983
Box 3, Folder 15	Exhibit at Rhona Hoffman Jan. 1990, 1989-1990
Box 3, Folder 16-21	Exhibitions, 1978-1989

Box 3, Folder 22-23	Flood, 1986-1988
Box 3, Folder 24	Jeff Green, 1982
Box 3, Folder 25	Haas-Sokolnikoff RTD [Rapid Transit District] Proposal, 1984
Box 3, Folder 26	Interview, Barbaralee Diamonstein, 1978
Box 3, Folder 27	Introduction to Great Walls of China by Frank Palaia, 1984
Box 3, Folder 28	Itineraries, circa 1992-1996
Box 3, Folder 29	Japan Exhibition, "The Trick", 1988-1990
Box 3, Folder 30	John Nichols Printmakers and Publishers, 1984
Box 3, Folder 31	John Skoze Prints, 1985-1989
Box 3, Folder 32	Landmarks Preservation Commission Chelsea Report, 1970
Box 3, Folder 33	Lecture Correspondence, 1982-1986
Box 4, Folder 1	Mauss, Peter, 1983-1985
Box 4, Folder 2	Nashville Talk, 1998
Box 4, Folder 3	National Academy of Design, 2010-2011
Box 4, Folder 4	Phone and Travel Sheets, circa 1989
Box 4, Folder 5	Presentation, Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies, 1985
Box 4, Folder 6	Presentation, Interior Design Conference, Aspen, 1985
Box 4, Folder 7	Presentation, International Muralists, Montreal, 1985
Box 4, Folder 8-9	Prints Lent Out, 1983-1986
Box 4, Folder 10	Public Art Fund, Inc., 1987-1988
Box 4, Folder 11	Quincy Adams Garage, 1991
Box 4, Folder 12	Recommendations, 1997-2003
Box 4, Folder 13	Rhona Hoffman Gallery/Young Hoffman Gallery, 1983
Box 4, Folder 14-16	Rhona Hoffman Gallery, 1983-1984, 1986

Box 4, Folder 17-19	Rizzoli Book, 1979-1981
Box 4, Folder 20	SALAI [Stencil Artisans League, Inc.] Convention, Chicago, 2005-2006
Box 4, Folder 21	SCAD - Savannah College of Art and Design Lecture, 2005
Box 4, Folder 22	School of Visual Arts, 1979-1984
Box 4, Folder 23	Screens - Steve Gano, 1985
Box 4, Folder 24	Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, 1991
Box 4, Folder 25	Speaking Engagements, 1989-1995
Box 4, Folder 26	Squat Theatre, 1984-1985
Box 4, Folder 27	Storefront for Art and Architecture, 1987
Box 4, Folder 28-29	Texas Art Educators, 2000-2002
Box 4, Folder 30	Texas Art Educators Magazine Cover Article, 2001
Box 4, Folder 31	Trip to Israel, 1988
Box 4, Folder 32	Trompe l'oeil Festival, Lodi, Italy, 2005
Box 4, Folder 33	VAGA [Visual Artists and Galleries Association, Inc.], 1983
Box 4, Folder 34	Walker Art Center, "Eight Artists - The Illusive Image," 1979
Box 4, Folder 35	Westchester Arts Council, 1990-2001
Box 4, Folder 36	Young Hoffman Gallery (pre 1983), 1978-1981

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## Series 5: Printed Material, 1956-2012

### 1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 5-6)

Scope and Contents: Printed material mentions Haas or contains reproductions of his work. Among the miscellaneous printed items are newsletters, calendars, press releases and publicity surrounding his work.

Box 5, Folder 1-14	Clippings, 1964-2006, undated
Box 5, Folder 15-16	Exhibition Announcements, 1963-2012, undated
Box 5, Folder 17-21	Exhibition Catalogs, 1976-2006
Box 5, Folder 22	Lecture Announcements, 1977-1998, undated
Box 5, Folder 23-27	Miscellaneous Printed Items, 1975-2012, undated
Box 5, Folder 28-30	Periodicals, 1956-1988
Box 6, Folder 1-2	Periodicals, 1994-2008
Box 6, Folder 3-4	Print Advertisements, 1985-2000
Box 6, Folder 5	Print Catalogs, 1972-2008
Box 6, Folder 6	Reproductions, undated

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## Series 6: Artwork, 1954-2005

### 0.1 Linear feet (Box 6)

Scope and Contents: Artwork consists of sketches and drawings. Those of Wyllie House and the dam at Taliesin were done when, as a teenager, Haas spent time at Taliesin with his stonemason great uncle who worked for Frank Lloyd Wright. Sketches and drawings done at meetings are identified portrait heads in pencil. Project studies are in pencil and ink. In addition to original drawings, some photocopies are interspersed.

Box 6, Folder 7	Wyllie House and Dam at Taliesin, 1954-1955
Box 6, Folder 8	Hudson River Museum Board Meeting, undated
Box 6, Folder 9	National Academy Sketches, 2001-2002, undated
Box 6, Folder 10	Skowhegan Board Retreat, 2005 January 17
Box 6, Folder 11	Project Studies, Unidentified, undated

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## Series 7: Sketchbooks, 1976-2009

### 0.5 Linear feet (Box 6)

**Scope and Contents:** Sketchbooks (17 volumes) contain pencil drawings and sketches including a few in colored pencil; also found are some drawings in ink and colored marker, along with a few watercolor paintings. Many volumes contain writings and notes, including: an artist's statement, notes for Clement Greenberg's lecture at Bennington College, trip itineraries, a list of photographs ordered from the Library of Congress, travel expense records, and project notes.

**Arrangement:** Arrangement is chronological.

Box 6, Folder 12	Volume 1, undated
Box 6, Folder 13	Volume 2, 1976
Box 6, Folder 14	Volume 3, 1982
Box 6, Folder 15	Volume 4, circa 1983
Box 6, Folder 16	Volume 5, circa 1983
Box 6, Folder 17	Volume 6, circa 1984
Box 6, Folder 18	Volume 7, 1984
Box 6, Folder 19	Volume 8, 1984
Box 6, Folder 20	Volume 9, circa 1985
Box 6, Folder 21	Volume 10, circa 1990s
Box 6, Folder 22	Volume 11, 1990
Box 6, Folder 23	Volume 12, 1996
Box 6, Folder 24	Volume 13, 1998
Box 6, Folder 25	Volume 14, 1998
Box 6, Folder 26	Volume 15, 2003
Box 6, Folder 27	Volume 16, 2007
Box 6, Folder 28	Volume 17, 2008-2009

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## Series 8: Photographs, 1937-2006

### 0.1 Linear feet (Box 6)

Scope and Contents: Photographs from Haas' childhood are snapshots of him with his siblings and parents. Studio portraits include a high school graduation picture and another taken while he was in the U.S. Army. Also found are views of Haas with his artwork and a group photograph of David Findlay Jr. Gallery artists. Photographs of probable relatives - most likely grandparents and parents - are unidentified. Among these family photographs are views of Haas's father and/or great uncle at their butcher shop in Spring Green, Wisconsin.

Box 6, Folder 29	Richard Haas, with Family and Colleagues, 1937-2006, undated
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Box 6, Folder 30	Relatives (?), circa 1940-circa 1942, undated
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