



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Jo Hanson Papers, circa 1969-2009, in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Jo Hanson papers
Date:	circa 1969-2009
Identifier:	AAA.hansjo
Creator:	Hanson, Jo
Extent:	4.1 Linear feet 1.06 Gigabytes
Language:	The collection is in English.
Summary:	The papers of San Francisco environmental artist and activist Jo Hanson measure 4.1 linear feet and 1.06 GB and date from circa 1969 to 2009. The papers document her professional activities through biographical material, project and exhibition files, printed and digital material, artwork, and photographs. Also found are files regarding her participation in the Women's Caucus for Art.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2011 by Eleanor Dickinson, Hanson's friend.

Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Erin Kinhart in 2014. The collection has been minimally rearranged and retains the existing/original folder titles when possible. All materials have been rehoused in archival folders and boxes for long-term stability, but often staples and other fasteners have not been removed. Materials within folders have not been rearranged. Born-digital materials were processed by Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner in 2019 with funding provided by Smithsonian Collection Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

Jo Hanson papers, circa 1969-2009. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

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Biographical / Historical

Jo Hanson (1918-2007) was an environmental artist and activist in San Francisco, California. She was known for turning urban trash into works of art. She exhibited her work at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., Fresno Art Museum, and the Oakland Museum of California, among other places. In 1974 her installation "Crab Orchard Cemetery" toured nationally and included a mix of sculpture, printmaking, photography, and sound. During the 1980s she served on the San Francisco Arts Commission and championed the work of underrepresented women and artists of color. In 1996 she helped establish WEAD, the Women Environmental Artists Directory.

Scope and Contents

The papers of San Francisco environmental artist and activist Jo Hanson measure 4.1 linear feet and 1.06 GB and date from circa 1969 to 2009. The papers document her professional activities through biographical material, project and exhibition files, printed and digital material, artwork, and photographs. Also found are files regarding her participation in the Women's Caucus for Art.

Of note within the collection is an oral history interview of Hanson, conducted by Eleanor Dickinson and Barbara Hendrickson in 2006-2007, as well as biographical documentation compiled for the interview. Hanson's installations "Crab Orchard Cemetery" and "Public Disclosure: Secrets From the Street" are also particularly well documented within this collection.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1976-2008 (0.6 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Project and Exhibition Files, circa 1973-2009 (0.8 linear feet; Box 1-2)
 - Series 3: Women's Caucus for Art, 1977-2006 (0.4 linear feet; Box 2)
 - Series 4: Printed Material, 1971-2008 (0.4 linear feet; Box 2)
 - Series 5: Artwork, 1969-circa 1990s (0.4 linear feet; Box 3, 5)
 - Series 6: Photographs, circa 1969-2007 (1.7 linear feet; Boxes 3-5, 1.06 GB; ER01-ER02)
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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 -- Political aspects
Women artists

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Photographs
Sound recordings

Transcripts
Video recordings

Names:

Dickinson, Eleanor, 1931-
Hendrickson, Barbara
Women's Caucus for Art

Occupations:

Environmental artists -- California -- San Francisco

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1976-2008

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found here is biographical documentation on Jo Hanson. Included are a few documents created by Hanson, including artist statements, a resume, lists, and a biographical file compiled for a possible college course. Also found are one sound cassette recording of Hanson's memorial and a video cassette interview conducted in October, 2006. The bulk of this series consists of files regarding Hanson's oral history interview which was conducted by Eleanor Dickinson and Barbara Hendrickson from December 5, 2006 to February 7, 2007. Files include draft transcripts, sound cassette recordings, project correspondence, and extensive biographical documentation used in conducting the interviews. Also found is a sound recording and transcript of Eleanor Dickinson being interviewed by Barbara Hendrickson about her friendship with Hanson.

Box 1, Folder 1	Resume, circa 1993
Box 1, Folder 2	Statements Regarding Trash Work, circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 3	Lists by Jo Hanson, circa 2000s
Box 1, Folder 4	Letters, 1981, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Women, Appearance, and My History, circa 1976-1981
Box 1, Folder 6	Jo Hanson Memorial, 2007 September 16 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 7	Interview of Jo Hanson, 2006 October 10 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 1, Folder 8-9	Oral History Interview Conducted by Eleanor Dickinson and Barbara Hendrickson, 2006-2007 7 Sound cassettes
Box 1, Folder 10	Oral History Transcript, Final, 2007
Box 1, Folder 11-12	Oral History Transcript, Drafts, 2006-2007
Box 1, Folder 13	Oral History Project Documentation, 2007
Box 1, Folder 14	Biographical Documents for Oral History, 2007-2008
Box 1, Folder 15-20	Eleanor Dickinson Files Regarding Jo Hanson, 1979-2007
Box 1, Folder 21	Eleanor Dickinson Reminiscing, 2007 June 13

1 Sound cassette (Includes transcript.)

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Series 2: Project and Exhibition Files, circa 1973-2009

0.8 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Jo Hanson's project and exhibition files include correspondence, plans, photographs, printed material, and news clippings. Of note is extensive documentation on Hanson's installation work "Crab Orchard Cemetery" which toured nationally in the late 1970s, and her exhibition "Public Disclosure: Secrets From the Street" held at City Hall and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 1980.

Box 1, Folder 22-24	"Totally Game Committee" Exhibition, circa 1973-1974
Box 1, Folder 25	Corcoran Rubbings Installation, circa 1974-1975
Box 1, Folder 26	"Crab Orchard and Context" Notebook, circa 1979
Box 1, Folder 27-31	"Crab Orchard Cemetery" Exhibitions, circa 1975-180
Box 2, Folder 1	"Art That's Sweeping the City," Millbrae Art and Wine Festival, circa 1979
Box 2, Folder 2-3	"Public Disclosure: Secrets From the Street" Exhibition, circa 1980
Box 2, Folder 4	"The Snail" Project, 1980-1981
Box 2, Folder 5	"Illegal Sights/Sites" Tour, 1982
Box 2, Folder 6	"Recycled Artifacts" Exhibition, 1988
Box 2, Folder 7	"Off-Site: Artists in Response to the Environment" Exhibition, 1989
Box 2, Folder 8	"Open Studio" Exhibition, 1990
Box 2, Folder 9	Fresno Art Museum Exhibition and Gift, 2006
Box 2, Folder 10	"Beaux & Eros" Exhibition, 2006-2007
Box 2, Folder 11	"Crab Orchard Cemetery Revisited" Exhibition, 2007-2009
Box 2, Folder 12	Women's Movement Research Project, 1970s-2000s
Box 2, Folder 13	Unidentified Project Documents, circa 1980s

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Series 3: Women's Caucus for Art, 1977-2006

0.4 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Found here are Jo Hanson's files documenting her participation in the Women's Caucus for Art. Files may include caucus publications, event materials, meeting minutes, correspondence, photographs and other records. Of note are draft writings, correspondence, publications, and photographs documenting "A Day to Honor Women in the Arts" at the 1979 San Francisco Art Festival.

Box 2, Folder 14	Regional Art History - Women, 1977-1979
Box 2, Folder 15	WCA Binder, 1978-circa 2002
Box 2, Folder 16-20	San Francisco Art Festival, "A Day to Honor Women in the Arts", 1979
Box 2, Folder 21	International Dinner Party Honoring Marcelle Lebaudt, 1979
Box 2, Folder 22-23	General Records, 2006, 1979-1981
Box 2, Folder 24	Honors, Hospitality in San Francisco, 1980-1981
Box 2, Folder 25	Sun Gallery Exhibition, 1985
Box 2, Folder 26	South Bay Chapter Conference on Aging, 1995
Box 2, Folder 27	Regional Conference, 2000-2001
Box 2, Folder 28	Honor Awards Programs, 1988-2006
Box 2, Folder 29	Newsletters, 1996-2006, 1979-1980

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1971-2008

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Printed material consists of publications regarding various events, a few exhibition catalogs, and newsletters. The bulk of the material found here are news clippings documenting Jo Hanson's art and community activities.

Box 2, Folder 30 Event Announcements and Flyers, circa 1976-2006

Box 2, Folder 31 Event Buttons, circa 1982-1990

Box 2, Folder 32 Exhibition Catalogs, 1982-2006

Box 2, Folder 33-36 News Clippings, 1973-1995

Box 3, Folder 1 Newsletters, 1971-2008

Box 3, Folder 2 Press Releases, 1980-1992, 2006

Box 3, Folder 3 Publications Regarding Memorial Design, circa 1970s

Box 3, Folder 4 Women Environmental Artists Directory, 2004

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Series 5: Artwork, 1969-circa 1990s

0.4 Linear feet (Box 3, 5)

Scope and Contents: Found here are drawings, one sketchbook, and numerous original designs and graphics by Jo Hanson intended for note cards, business cards, flyers, and other projects. Also of note are Kodaliths printed by Hanson, a handmade book titled "The Artist's Pallet," and a drawing of Hanson by friend Eleanor Dickinson.

Box 3, Folder 5	Oil Pastel Drawing, undated
Box 3, Folder 6	Ink Drawings, undated
Box 3, Folder 7	Doodles, undated
Box 3, Folder 8	Sketchbook, "Old Work", undated
Box 3, Folder 9	Kerner Kodaliths and Negatives, undated
Box 3, Folder 10	Wheelis Kodaliths, undated
Box 3, Folder 11	Portrait of Jo Hanson by Eleanor Dickinson, 1969
Box 3, Folder 12	Flower Prints, undated
Box 3, Folder 13	Business Card Artwork, circa 1990s
Box 3, Folder 14	Notecard Designs, 1972, 1993
Box 3, Folder 15	Parsley Leaf Stationery Design, 1981
Box 3, Folder 16	Xeroxes of Small Collages, 1981
Box 3, Folder 17	Hanson Collage, 1980s
Box 3, Folder 18	Vortex Press Graphics, 1987
Box 3, Folder 19	"Messages From the Street" Title Page Design, 1977
Box 3, Folder 20	"The Artist's Pallet" Booklet, 1981
Box 3, Folder 21-22	Original Graphics for Cards, Flyers, Announcements, circa 1970s-1990s Notes: Oversized items housed in Box 5

Oversize 5

Oversized Original Graphics from Box 3, Folders 21-22, circa 1970s-1990s

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Series 6: Photographs, circa 1969-2007

1.7 Linear feet (Boxes 3-5)

1.06 Gigabytes (ER01-ER02)

Scope and Contents: Found here are photographs and negatives primarily documenting Hanson's artwork and related projects including "Crab Orchard Cemetery." Photographs depict cemetery gravestones, foliage, and landscapes. Also found are a few installation photographs of her artwork and one album of artwork. Some of the photographs are in digital format. The few personal photographs depict Jo Hanson and Eleanor Dickinson casting a sculpture in a studio, snapshots of Hanson at various events, and Hanson's funeral.

Box 3, Folder 23	Photographs of Jo Hanson, circa 2006 Includes born-digital records, see ER01
Folder ER01	Jo Hanson and Her Artwork, Digital Photographs, 2006-2008 0.612 Gigabytes (35 computer files)
Box 3, Folder 24	Photographs of Jo Hanson and Eleanor Dickinson Casting, circa 1969
Box 3, Folder 25	Photographs of Jo Hanson Funeral, 2007 Includes born-digital records, see ER02
Folder ER02	Jo Hanson Funeral, Digital Photographs, 2007 0.445 Gigabytes (31 computer files)
Box 3, Folder 26-27	Personal Photographs, circa 1980s-1990s
Box 3, Folder 28	Photographs of Neighborhood Clean-up, circa 1980
Box 3, Folder 29	Photograph of DPW Gothic, 1980
Box 3, Folder 30	Photographs of Deanza Installation, 1981
Box 3, Folder 31	Photographs of London, circa 1980s
Box 3, Folder 32	Photographs of Foliage for Sawyer Show, 1976
Box 3, Folder 33	Photographs of Muybridge on Film and Stereoscopic Images, undated
Box 3, Folder 34	Photographs of "Block-Heads", circa 1980s
Box 3, Folder 35-42	Photographs of Hendy Woods, 1992
Box 4, Folder 1-2	Photographs of Mono Lake, 1992
Box 4, Folder 3	Photographs of Unidentified Outdoor Location, 1975

Box 4, Folder 4	Photographs of "Burial Western-Style", 1970s
Box 4, Folder 5-7	Cemetery Photographs, Negatives, and Slides, 1972-1973
Box 4, Folder 8	Unidentified Photographs Taken by Jo Hanson, circa 1970s
Box 4, Folder 9-17	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1960s-1990s Notes: Oversized item housed in Box 5
Box 4, Folder 18	Photographs of Sculpture and Collage, 1996
Box 4, Folder 19	Photograph Album of Artwork, 1980s-1990s
Box 4, Folder 20	Photographs of Artwork by Hannah Chauvet, circa 2000s
Box 4, Folder 21-28	Negatives for Various Projects, circa 1970s-1990s
Box 4, Folder 29	Miscellaneous Negatives, circa 1970s-1990s
Oversize 5	Oversized Photograph of Artwork from Box 4, Folder 17, undated

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