



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Marvin Harden Papers,  
circa 1936-2005, in the Archives of American Art

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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

**Repository:** Archives of American Art

**Title:** Marvin Harden papers

**Identifier:** AAA.hardmarv

**Date:** circa 1936-2005

**Extent:** 2.2 Linear feet

**Creator:** Harden, Marvin, 1935-

**Language:** English

The collection is in English.

**Summary:** The papers of African American painter, printmaker, and educator Marvin Harden measure 2.2 linear feet and date from circa 1936 to 2005. Found within the papers are biographical materials, correspondence, teaching files, exhibition files, printed material, artwork, and photographs. Correspondents include Joyce Treman, Judy Chicago, Marion Lerner Levine, Jud Fine, Houston Conwill, Sandy Ballatore-Nelson, Nancy Lee Riegelmen, Eugene Anderson, Connor Everts, Pleter Plagens, Jan Stussy, Carroll Toon, William Wilson, and others. Artwork includes a book of etchings *Natural Selections* (1991).

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Marvin Harden papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by Marvin Harden in 2005.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Elissa L. Jerome in 2016.

### Preferred Citation

Marvin Harden papers, circa 1936-2005. 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.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Marvin Harden 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Marvin Harden (1935- ) is an African American painter, printmaker, and educator living and working in California. Harden received a Master of Fine Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1963. While there, Harden studied under John Paul Jones, Jan Stussy, and William Brice. He also became friends with UCLA classmate and feminist artist, Judy Chicago.

Harden's first solo exhibition was in 1964 at Ceeje Galleries in Los Angeles, California. His drawings, paintings, and prints have been exhibited widely in museums, galleries, and universities in southern California, and also in New Mexico, New York, and Texas, among other locations. Harden has also been the recipient of artists' fellowships awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art.

Harden became a Professor of Art at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) in 1968, and in 1984 he received a Distinguished Teaching Award and Exceptional Merit Service Award. During his career at CSUN, Harden established the art department's graduate teaching assistant program.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of African American painter, printmaker, and educator Marvin Harden measure 2.2 linear feet and date from circa 1936 to 2005. Found within the papers are biographical materials, correspondence, teaching files, exhibition files, printed material, artwork, and photographs. Artwork includes a book of etchings *Natural Selections* (1991).

Biographical material includes papers pertaining to Harden's education and family history, including an essay written by his sister Lura Harden Miller.

Correspondence is with artists, colleagues, and organizations, including Eugene Anderson, Sandy Ballatore-Nelson, William Brice, Judy Chicago, Houston Conwill, Connor Everts, Jud Fine, Marion Lerner Levine, Pleter Plagens, Nancy Lee Riegelmen, Jan Stussy, Carol Toon, William Wilson, Dobrick Gallery, Eugenia Butler Gallery, Gloria Cortella, Inc., Hank Baum Gallery, Jan Turner Gallery, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Museum of Modern Art, among others.

Teaching files primarily document Harden's career as an art educator at California State University, Northridge. Materials include teaching awards, assignments, course outlines, notes, and miscellaneous writings by Harden about his teaching philosophy. The files also contain correspondence and photographs with students, a student exhibition guest register, committee notes, memorandums, and evidence pertaining to an employment-related grievance with the university.

Exhibition files include announcements, correspondence, exhibition catalogs, floor plans, insurance documents, loan agreements, photographs, press releases, and price lists.

Printed material consists of announcements and invitations, exhibition catalogs, and a loose clippings scrapbook with articles and reviews about Harden's artwork and exhibitions. Also found is a copy of the

first volume of the Journal published by the Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, which includes a photograph of Harden and references to his involvement in developing the organization.

Artwork includes two sketches and an artists' book entitled *natural selections* which contains 12 aquatint etchings by Marvin Harden.

Among the black and white and color photographs are portraits and snapshots of Marvin Harden, family members, and colleagues, as well as Harden's home, studio, and land at Inwardness Ranch located near Cambria, California.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1950-1991 (Box 1; 5 folders)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1964-2005 (Box 1; 0.6 linear feet)
- Series 3: Teaching Files, circa 1964-2003 (Box 1; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1966-2004 (Boxes 1-2; 0.6 linear feet)
- Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1964-2003 (Box 2; 0.6 linear feet)
- Series 6: Artwork, 1989-2000 (Box 2; 2 folders)
- Series 7: Photographs, circa 1936-2001 (Box 2; 7 folders)

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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:

African American artists  
Art -- Study and teaching  
Art -- Study and teaching -- Philosophy  
Educators -- California  
Painters -- California  
Printmakers -- California

Types of Materials:

Etchings  
Photographs  
Scrapbooks  
Sketches  
Visitors' books

Names:

Anderson, Eugene Newton  
Ballatore-Nelson, Sandy  
Brice, William, 1921-2008  
California State University, Northridge -- Faculty  
Chicago, Judy, 1939-  
Conwill, Houston, 1947-2016  
Dobrick Gallery

Eugenia Butler Gallery  
Everts, Connor  
Fine, Jud  
Gloria Cortella, Inc.  
Hank Baum Gallery  
Jan Turner Gallery  
Lerner Levine, Marion  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art  
Miller, Lura Harden  
Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)  
Plagens, Peter  
Riegelman, Nancy  
Stussy, Jan, 1921-  
Toon, Caroll  
Wilson, Willam, 1934-2013

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 1950-1991

#### *5 Folders (Box 1)*

Biographical material consists of documents pertaining to Harden's education including certificates, report cards, scholarship awards, and information about a student art festival. Family history files include genealogical information, clippings, and an essay by Lura Harden Miller, Marvin Harden's sister.

Box 1, Folder 1	Education Records, 1950-1964
Box 1, Folder 2	Family History, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Fellowship, Awards in the Visual Arts, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, 1982-1991
Box 1, Folder 4	Fellowship, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, 1982-1985
Box 1, Folder 5	Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts, 1972-1974

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1964-2005

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

Correspondence is with artists, colleagues, and organizations. Artists represented within the correspondence includes William Brice, Judy Chicago, Melvin Edwards, Connor Everts, Jan Stussy, and others. Arts organizations found within the correspondence includes Dobrick Gallery, Eugenia Butler Gallery, Gloria Cortella Inc., Hank Baum Gallery, Jan Turner Gallery, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Museum of Modern Art, among others.

Box 1, Folder 6	Outgoing Letters by Marvin Harden, 2000-2003, 1979-1981
Box 1, Folder 7	Anderson, Eugene, N., 1975-1984
Box 1, Folder 8	Awards in the Visual Arts, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, 1981-1987
Box 1, Folder 9	A, Miscellaneous, 1972-1986
Box 1, Folder 10	Ballatore, Sandy, 1976-1989
Box 1, Folder 11	Brice, William, 1997, 1974
Box 1, Folder 12	B, Miscellaneous, 1984-1986, 1971
Box 1, Folder 13	Cortella, Gloria, 1973-1979
Box 1, Folder 14	C-F, Miscellaneous, 1966, 1973-1988 (Includes a letter from Judy Chicago)
Box 1, Folder 15	Dobrick Gallery, 1979-1983
Box 1, Folder 16	Edwards, Melvin, 1974-1989
Box 1, Folder 17	Eugenia Butler Gallery, Gallery 669, 1968-1972, 1978 (Includes a photograph and flower petals)
Box 1, Folder 18	Eve Mannes Gallery, 1984-1986
Box 1, Folder 19	Everts, Connor and Judy, 1987-2003
Box 1, Folder 20	Graphics Gallery, Hank Baum Gallery, 1972-1979
Box 1, Folder 21	Ianco-Starrels, Josine, 1974-1998
Box 1, Folder 22	Irving Blum Gallery, Marlborough Gallery, Inc., 1972-1974



Box 1, Folder 23	Jan Turner Gallery, 1986-1994
Box 1, Folder 24	J-K, Miscellaneous, 1992, 1978-1982
Box 1, Folder 25	Kaplan, Charles, 1971-1982
Box 1, Folder 26	Laguna Gloria Art Museum, 1978-1982
Box 1, Folder 27	La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, 1982, 1967-1974
Box 1, Folder 28	Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1992, 1964-1981 (Includes a photograph and slide)
Box 1, Folder 29	Los Angeles Harbor College, 1964-1965
Box 1, Folder 30	Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, 1975-1978
Box 1, Folder 31	L, Miscellaneous, 2005, 1967-1969, 1983, 2005
Box 1, Folder 32	Museum of Modern Art, 1969-1977
Box 1, Folder 33	M, Miscellaneous, 1976-1994
Box 1, Folder 34	National Endowment for the Arts, 1974, 1985-1987
Box 1, Folder 35	Nordland, Gerald, 1977-1986
Box 1, Folder 36	N, Miscellaneous, 1971-1985
Box 1, Folder 37	OK Harris Works of Art, 1971-1973
Box 1, Folder 38	O-P, Miscellaneous, 1969-2002
Box 1, Folder 39	Palomar College, 1977
Box 1, Folder 40	Parker, James, T., 2002, 1977-1986
Box 1, Folder 41	Plagens, Peter, 1971-1986
Box 1, Folder 42	R, Miscellaneous, 1982, 1970-1971
Box 1, Folder 43	Stussy, Jan, 1973-1983

(Includes a print by Jan Stussy)

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|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 44 | S, Miscellaneous, 1968, 2000-2004                  |
| Box 1, Folder 45 | T, Miscellaneous, 1982-1987, 1971-1972             |
| Box 1, Folder 46 | University of California, Santa Barbara, 1983-1984 |
| Box 1, Folder 47 | U, W, Miscellaneous, 1966-1985                     |
| Box 1, Folder 48 | Wilson, William, 1966-1994                         |

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## Series 3: Teaching Files, circa 1964-2003

### 0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Teaching files primarily document Harden's career as an art educator at California State University, Northridge. Materials include teaching awards, assignments, course outlines, notes, and miscellaneous writings by Harden about his teaching philosophy. The files also contain correspondence and photographs with students, a student exhibition guest register and related material, committee notes, memorandums, and evidence pertaining to an employment-related grievance with the university.

Box 1, Folder 49	Announcement for Student Exhibition, 1964
Box 1, Folder 50	Correspondence with Students, 1980-2003
Box 1, Folder 51	Faculty Journal, <i>Perspective</i> , California State University, Northridge, 1987 (Includes reproductions of Marvin Harden's artwork)
Box 1, Folder 52	Graduate Committee Records, 1982-1995
Box 1, Folder 53	Grievance Committee Memorandums, 1981-1983
Box 1, Folder 54	Grievance Evidence, 1967-1982
Box 1, Folder 55	Photographs with Students, 1971-1997
Box 1, Folder 56	Student Exhibition Guest Register, <i>Marvin Harden: A Tribute</i> , 1983 (Includes annotations, an announcement, and a group portrait)
Box 1, Folder 57	Teaching Awards, 1984-1997
Box 1, Folder 58	Teaching Notes and Materials, undated

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## Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1966-2004

### 0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Exhibition files include announcements, correspondence, exhibition catalogs, floor plans, insurance documents, loan agreements, photographs, press releases, and price lists.

Box 1, Folder 59	Miscellaneous Exhibitions, 1966-1985
Box 1, Folder 60	Miscellaneous Exhibitions, 1990-2004
Box 1, Folder 61	<i>Marvin Harden: Paintings, Drawings</i> (1966), 1999, 1966-1967
Box 1, Folder 62	<i>30 Contemporary Black Artists</i> (1968-1969), 1968-1969
Box 2, Folder 1	<i>Marvin Harden-Draughtsman</i> (1971), 1970-1971
Box 2, Folder 2	<i>8 Afro-American Artists</i> (1971), 1971-1972
Box 2, Folder 3	<i>Separate Realities</i> , (1973), 1973
Box 2, Folder 4	<i>A Drawing Show</i> (1975), 1975
Box 2, Folder 5	<i>Marvin Harden: Recent Works</i> (1975), 1990, 1973-1984
Box 2, Folder 6	<i>Festival in Black: Otis Art Exhibition</i> (1977), 1977
Box 2, Folder 7	<i>The Intimate Object: Ten Faculty Artists</i> (1977), 1977
Box 2, Folder 8	<i>The Early Sixties at UCLA</i> (1978), 1977-1978
Box 2, Folder 9	<i>DECADE: Los Angeles Painting in the Seventies</i> (1981), 1981
Box 2, Folder 10	<i>Post-Modernist Metaphors</i> (1981), 1981
Box 2, Folder 11	<i>The Media, Style, and Tradition of Ten California Artists</i> (1981), 1981
Box 2, Folder 12	Changing Trends: Content and Style (1982), 1982
Box 2, Folder 13	<i>L.A. Art: An Exhibition of Contemporary Paintings</i> (1982), 1982
Box 2, Folder 14	<i>Marvin Harden: Paintings and Drawings, 1961-1981</i> (1982), 1980-1985
Box 2, Folder 15	<i>Ceeje Revisited</i> (1984), 1984

- Box 2, Folder 16      *Three Meditations* (1994), 1994-1995
- Box 2, Folder 17      *Beyond 15 Minutes* (1995), 1994-1995
- Box 2, Folder 18      *FACULTY/faculty* (2002), 2002

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## Series 5: Printed Material, 1964-2003

### *0.6 Linear feet (Box 2)*

Printed material consists of announcements and invitations, exhibition catalogs, and a loose clippings scrapbook with articles and reviews about Harden's artwork and exhibitions. Also found is a copy of the first volume of the *Journal*, published by the Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, which includes a photograph of Harden and references to his involvement in developing the organization.

Box 2, Folder 19	Announcements and Invitations, 1971-2002
Box 2, Folder 20-24	Clippings Scrapbook, 1964-2003
Box 2, Folder 25-28	Exhibition Catalogs, 1966-1997
Box 2, Folder 29	<i>Journal</i> , Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, 1974

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## Series 6: Artwork, 1989-2000

### *2 Folders (Box 2)*

Artwork includes two sketches and an artists' book entitled *natural selections* which contains 12 aquatint etchings by Marvin Harden.

Box 2, Folder 30          Artists' Book, *natural selections*, 1991

Box 2, Folder 31          Sketches, 2000, 1989

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## Series 7: Photographs, circa 1936-2001

### *7 Folders (Box 2)*

Among the black and white and color photographs are portraits and snapshots of Marvin Harden, family members, and colleagues, as well as Harden's home, studio, and land at Inwardness Ranch located near Cambria, California.

Box 2, Folder 32	Group Portraits, 1945-2000
Box 2, Folder 33	Photographs of Family Members, circa 1949-1992
Box 2, Folder 34	Photographs of Friends and Colleagues, circa 1980-2001
Box 2, Folder 35	Photographs of Inwardness Ranch, undated
Box 2, Folder 36-37	Photographs of Marvin Harden, circa 1936-1987
Box 2, Folder 38	Photographs of Marvin Harden with Colleagues, circa 1963-1982

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