

A Finding Aid to the James Cohan Gallery Records Relating to Robert Smithson, circa 1960s-2018, bulk 1998-2014, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art 750 9th Street, NW Victor Building, Suite 2200 Washington, D.C. 20001 https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions https://www.aaa.si.edu/

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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art

Title: James Cohan Gallery records relating to Robert Smithson

Date: (bulk 1998-2014)

circa 1960s-2016

Identifier: AAA.jamecoha

Creator: James Cohan Gallery

Extent: 5 Linear feet

21.8 Gigabytes

Language: English .

Summary: The James Cohan Gallery records relating to Robert Smithson

measure 5.0 linear feet and 21.8 Gigabytes, and date from circa 1960s-2018, bulk 1998-2014. The records consist of the correspondence, loans and consignment records, exhibition files, artwork and project documentation, inventories, writings, press files, and the photographic material related to artworks created by artist

Robert Smithson.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2021 by James Cohan.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds the Robert Smithson and Nancy Holt papers and the Nancy Holt estate records.

Preferred Citation

James Cohan Gallery records relating to Robert Smithson, circa 1960s-2018, bulk 1998-2014. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

The James Cohan Gallery (1999-) is an art gallery in Manhattan, New York. The gallery represents the estate of Robert Smithson. Robert Smithson (1938-1973) was a pioneer of land and earthworks art. He was also a noted sculptor, painter, writer, and lecturer working primarily in New York City.

Scope and Contents

The James Cohan Gallery records relating to Robert Smithson measure 5.0 linear feet and 21.8 Gigabytes, and date from circa 1960s-2018, bulk 1998-2014. The correspondence series is primarily with institutions or collectors and includes publication requests and prospective book projects. The loans and consignments series includes documents arranging terms for prospective sale or loan for exhibition with a variety of international private collections and institutions including galleries and museums. The exhibition files include documentation related to the organizing of exhibitions including those held at James Cohan Gallery, as well as large retrospective exhibitions that received the gallery's planning support. The artwork and project files include documentation of both recreated and historic works by Smithson, and features photographs and video documentation, certificates of authenticity, condition reports, and conservation records.

The inventories series includes a range of lists related to Smithson's Estate including storage inventories, Smithson's library inventory compiled shortly after his death, checklists, and lists of works for sale, among others. The writings series includes both copies of original writing by Smithson including work descriptions and certificates of authenticity, as well as articles and presentations by others, including Nancy Holt, and a symposium held at Whitney Museum of American Art in 2005. Also included are copies of notes by Lawrence Alloway on Smithson. The press files series contains both original clippings and copies of published articles on Smithson maintained since 1968, and presumably was transferred from John Weber Gallery and then maintained. The photographic material series includes copies of slides and photographs of both Smithson and his artworks and projects.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 8 series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1983-2016 (0.2 Linear feet, Box 1)
- Series 2: Loans and Consignments (1.1 Linear feet: Boxes 1-2; 2.1 Gigabytes: ER001)
- Series 3: Exhibition Files, circa 1997-2003 (0.7 Linear feet: Box 2; 3 Gigabytes: ER03-ER04)
- Series 4: Artwork and Project Documentation, circa 1969-2016 (5.11 Gigabytes: ER005-ER014, ER024-ER026; 0.5 Linear feet: Box 3)
- Series 5: Inventories, circa 1970-2015 (0.6 Linear feet: Boxes 3-4)
- Series 6: Writings (10.6 Gigabytes: ER015-ER016; 0.1 Linear feet: Box 4)
- Series 7: Press Files, circa 1968-2014 (1.3 Linear feet: Boxes 4-5)
- Series 8: Photographic Material, circa 1960-2015 (0.5 Linear feet: Box 5; 2.01 Gigabytes: ER017-ER023)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Earthworks (Art)

Names:

Alloway, Lawrence, 1926-1990 Holt, Nancy, 1938-2014 Smithson, Robert

Functions:

Art galleries, Commercial -- New York (State)

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1983-2016

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The correspondence series is primarily with institutions or collectors and includes publication requests and prospective book projects.

Box 1, Folder 1	Baltimore Museum of Art, circa 2002
Box 1, Folder 2	Dia, circa 1999
Box 1, Folder 3	Nancy Holt, circa 2004, 2010
Box 1, Folder 4	John Weber Gallery concerning Smithson Estate, circa 1983-1999, 2009
Box 1, Folder 5	The Menil Collection, circa 2008
Box 1, Folder 6	Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2016
Box 1, Folder 7	Visual Artists and Galleries Association, Inc. (VAGA), circa 1999-2003
Box 1, Folder 8	Whitney Museum of American Art, circa 2006
Box 1, Folder 9	Book Requests, circa 2000-2003
Box 1, Folder 10	Reproduction Requests, circa 1999-2016
Box 1, Folder 11	Smithson Estate Website, circa 1999-2000

Series 2: Loans and Consignments, circa 1975-2018

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

2.1 Gigabytes (ER001)

Box 1, Folder 24

Box 1, Folder 25

Box 1, Folder 26

Scope and Contents:

The loans and consignments series includes documents arranging terms for prospective sale or loan for exhibition with a variety of international private collections and institutions including galleries and museums. Some documents are digital.

	Private Collection
Box 1, Folder 12	Anton Herbert, circa 2000-2002
Box 1, Folder 13	Tim Hoffman, 2015
Box 1, Folder 14	Robert Kaye, 2000
Box 1, Folder 15	Frank Kolodny, circa 1999-2002
Box 1, Folder 16	James Lingwood, circa 1992
Box 1, Folder 17	Gabrielle Maubrie, circa 2001
Box 1, Folder 18	Sylvia Sleigh, 2002
	Institutional
Box 1, Folder 19	American Academy in Rome, circa 2002-2003
Box 1, Folder 20	Art Institute of Chicago, circa 2003-2004
Box 1, Folder 21	Dia, Lannan Foundation, circa 1999-2001
Box 1, Folder 22	Hausler Kulturmanagement GmbH, circa 2002-2003
Box 1, Folder 23	Kunsthalle Wien, circa 2000-2001

Box 1, Folder 27-28 Museet for Samtidkunst, Oslo, circa 1998-2000

Box 1, Folder 29 Museu Serralves, circa 2001-2002

Box 1, Folder 30 Ota Fine Arts, Japan, circa 1998-2000

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, circa 2001-2002

Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, circa 2005-2007

Metropolitan Museum of Art, Photography, circa 2000-2001

Box 1, Folder 31	Palais des Beax Arts, Brussels, circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 32	Reykavic Art Museum, circa 2012-2013
Box 1, Folder 33	Rhona Hoffman Gallery, circa 2000-2010
Box 1, Folder 34	San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 35	Storm King Art Center, circa 1975-2018
Box 1, Folder 36	Tate Modern, circa 2000-2001
Box 1, Folder 37-38	Vancouver Art Gallery, circa 2000-2004
Box 1, Folder 39	Warum Berlin, circa 2002-2003
Box 1, Folder 40	Incoming, circa 2005-2013
Box 1, Folder 41	Outgoing, circa 2001-2013
Box 1, Folder 42	Museums and Galleries (2000), circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 43	Museums and Galleries (2001), circa 2001
Box 1, Folder 44	Museums and Galleries (2002), circa 2002
Box 1, Folder 45	Museums and Galleries (2003), circa 2003
Box 1, Folder 46	Museums and Galleries (2004), circa 2004
Box 1, Folder 47	Museums and Galleries (2005), circa 2005
Box 2, Folder 1	Museums and Galleries (2006), circa 2006
Box 2, Folder 2	Museums and Galleries (2007), circa 2007
Box 2, Folder 3	Museums and Galleries (2008), circa 2008
Box 2, Folder 4	Museums and Galleries (2009), circa 2009
Box 2, Folder 5	Museums and Galleries (2010), circa 2010
Box 2, Folder 6	Museums and Galleries (2011), circa 2011
Box 2, Folder 7	Museums and Galleries (2012), circa 2012
Box 2, Folder 8	Museums and Galleries (2013-2014), circa 2013-2014

	Includes born-digital records, see ER001.
Folder ER001	In the Halocene MIT List Visual Arts Center (Oct. 2012-Jan. 2013) Installation, Digital Photographs, 2012-2013 2.1 Gigabytes (36 computer files)
Box 2, Folder 9	Museums and Galleries (2016-2017), circa 2016-2017

Series 3: Exhibition Files, circa 1997-2003

0.7 Linear feet (Box 2)

1.89 Gigabytes (ER002-ER004)

Scope and Contents:

The exhibition files series includes documentation related to the organizing of exhibitions including those held at James Cohan Gallery, as well as large retrospective exhibitions that received the gallery's planning support. Some of the records are digital, including a digital

video recording.

video recording.	
Box 2, Folder 10	Dead Tree at Pierogi 2000 (May-Jun. 1997), circa 1997
Box 2, Folder 11	Language to be Looked at and/or things to be Read: Drawings 1962-1963, James Cohan Gallery (FebMar. 2000), circa 2000
Box 2, Folder 12	Mapping Dislocations, James Cohan Gallery (Oct Nov. 2001), circa 2001
Box 2, Folder 13	En Route, Serpentine Gallery (SepOct 2002), circa 2002
Box 2, Folder 23	Floating Island, Organized by Minetta Brook and Whitney Museum (Sep. 2005), circa 2005 Includes born-digital records, see ER002. One of two electronic discs, transfer not possible.
Folder ER002	The Floating Cinema by Jon Rubin, Digital Video Recording, 2003-2004 0.938 Gigabytes (One computer file)
	Retrospective Exhibition Organized by Eugenie Tsai, LAMoCa (Sep Dec. 2004, Traveling)
Box 2, Folder 13-14	General, circa 2004
Box 2, Folder 15	Checklists, circa 2004
Box 2, Folder 16-17	Correspondence, General, circa 2002-2004
Box 2, Folder 18-19	Correspondence, Letters, circa 2002-2003
Box 2, Folder 20-21	Loans, circa 2004 Includes born-digital records, see ER003.
Folder ER003	Smithson Wrinkled Hinges, Repair, Digital Photographs, 2005 0.017 Gigabytes (12 computer files)
Box 2, Folder 22	Shipping, circa 2004-2005
Box 2, Folder 24	Pop Works 1961-1964, James Cohan Gallery at Art Basel Miami Beach (Dec. 2008), circa 2008

Box 2, Folder 25	Broken Circle/Spiral Hill Revised, Centrum Beeldende Kunst, Emmen (SepNov. 2011), circa 2011 Includes born-digital records, see ER004.
Folder ER004	Broken Circle/Spiral Hill, Emmen, Complete Unedited Footage By Serge Paul, Digital Video Recording, 2011 0.938 Gigabytes (One computer file)
Box 2, Folder 26	Remaking When Attitudes Become Form, Fondazione Prada (JanNov. 2013), circa 2012-2013
Box 2, Folder 27	Robert Smithson in Texas, Dallas Museum of Art (Nov. 2103-Apr. 2014), circa 2012-2013

Series 4: Artwork and Project Documentation, circa 1969-2016

5.11 Gigabytes (ER005-ER014, ER024-ER026)

0.5 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents:

The artwork and project documentation series includes documentation of both recreated and historic works by Smithson, and features photographs and video documentation, certificates of authenticity, condition reports, and conservation documentation. Digital photographs and digital video recordings are included.

Box 3, Folder 1	Smithson in Private Collections, circa 1999-2015
Box 3, Folder 2	Smithson Works Owned by Nancy Holt, circa 1998-2002
Box 3, Folder 3	Certificates of Authenticity, circa 1999-2004
Box 3, Folder 4	Condition Reports, circa 2007-2015
Box 3, Folder 5	Conservation (Damaged Smithson Works), circa 1999-2011
	Works
Box 3, Folder 6	Cayuga Salt Mine Project: Affidavit and Project Descriptions, circa 1969-1980
Box 3, Folder 7	Corner Mirror History, Aldrich Museum, circa 2013
Box 3, Folder 8	Floating Island Images, circa 2005-2006 Contains born-digital records, see ER05-ER05-ER08.
Folder ER005	John Bartlestone Photographs of Floating Island, Digital Photographs, 2005 0.949 Gigabytes (Thirty-three computer files.)
Folder ER006	Andrew Cross Photographs of Floating Island, Digital Photographs, 2005 1.22 Gigabytes (Thirty-four computer files.)
Folder ER007	Stanley Greenberg Photographs of Floating Island, Digital Photographs, 2005 0.428 Gigabytes (Eighteen computer files.)
Folder ER008	Maggie Trakas Photographs of Floating Island, Digital Photographs, 2005 1.39 Gigabytes (Thirty-nine computer files.)
Box 3, Folder 9	Floating Island Press, circa 2004-2005
Box 3, Folder 10	Fugitive Mirror, Art Gallery of Ontario, circa 1996-2001
Box 3, Folder 11	Hotel Palenque, Guggenheim Museum, circa 2000-2006

Box 3, Folder 12	Mirror with Crushed Shells, circa 1969, 2000
Box 3, Folder 13	Mirrors and Shelly Sand, circa 1969-2000
Box 3, Folder 14	Petrified Coral with Mirrors, circa 1986-1999
Box 3, Folder 15	Spiral Jetty, circa 2014
Box 3, Folder 16	Spiral Jetty, Correspondence regarding Drilling, circa 2008
Box 3, Folder 17	Spiral Jetty, Press Regarding Drilling, circa 2008-2009
Folder ER009	Center for Land Use Interpretation, Photographs of Spiral Jetty, Digital Photographs, 2003-2004 0.068 Gigabytes (Twenty-four computer files.)
Folder ER010	Spiral Jetty with Nancy (Holt), Digital Photographs, 2004 0.031 Gigabytes (Sixty-two computer files.)
Folder ER011	Spiral Jetty by M. Hogue, Digital Photographs, 2004 0.004 Gigabytes (Eight computer files.)
Folder ER012	Texts onSpiral Jetty, Digital Documents, 2005 0.023 Gigabytes (Three computer files.)
Folder ER025	Spiral Jetty by Witkin, Digital Photographs, 2003 0.134 Gigabytes (One hundred sixty-six computer files.)
Folder ER026	Spiral Jetty by Witkin, Digital Video Recordings, 2003 0.033 Gigabytes (Eleven computer files.)
Folder ER024	Image of Venus/Reptile, Digital Photograph and Document, 2005 0.051 Gigabytes (Two computer files)
Box 3, Folder 18	Ziggurat, Restoration, circa 2015-2016
Folder ER013	Barge of Sulfur Drawing, Digital Photograph, 2003 0.005 Gigabytes (One computer file)
Folder ER014	Rundown, Digital Video Recording, 2004 0.779 Gigabytes (One computer file.)

Series 5: Inventories, circa 1970-2015

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)

Scope and Contents:

The inventories series includes a range of lists related to Smithson's Estate including storage inventories, Smithson's library inventory compiled shortly after his death, checklists, and

lists of works for sale, among others.

Box 3, Folder 28	Artwork Views Missing, circa 2000-2010
Box 3, Folder 29	Catalogue of Smithson's Library, Compiled by Valentin Tatransky, circa 1975, 2005
Box 3, Folder 30	Category Abbreviations for Drawings, circa 2000
Box 3, Folder 31	Films on or by Smithson, circa 1979-2014
Box 3, Folder 32	Fraudulent Works, circa 2007, 2013
Box 3, Folder 33	Insurance Appraisals, circa 1988-2008
Box 3, Folder 34	Smithson in MoMA Collection, circa 2014
Box 3, Folder 35	Smithson Sculptures Sold, circa 2010
Box 3, Folder 36	Smithson Slides Sent to Nancy Holt for Scanning, circa 1999-2007
Box 3, Folder 37	Unidentified Checklists, circa 2000-2010
Box 3, Folder 38	Works on Paper, Labels from Loan by Inventory Number, circa 1970s-1990s
Box 3, Folder 39	Works and Locations, circa 2005
Box 3, Folder 40	Works for Sale, Smithson, Shebairo Draft Lists, circa 2014
Box 3, Folder 41	Inventory Ledger Hahn Brothers, Jersey City, circa 1988-2005
Box 3, Folder 42	Inventory Ledger Hahn Brothers, Jersey City, circa 1999
Box 3, Folder 43	Works at Auction, circa 1998-2008
Box 3, Folder 44	Smithson Storage Report (James Cohan Gallery and Hahn Bros.), circa 1999
Box 3, Folder 45	Smithson Storage (James Cohan Gallery and Hahn Bros.), circa 2006-2007
Box 3, Folder 46	Smithson Storage (James Cohan Gallery and Hahn Bros.), circa 2008-2009
Box 3, Folder 47	Smithson Storage (James Cohan Gallery and Hahn Bros.), circa 2011

Box 4, Folder 1	Smithson Storage (James Cohan Gallery and Hahn Bros.), circa 2013
Box 4, Folder 2	Smithson in Texas Exhibition Catalogs, circa 2014-2015

Series 6: Writings, circa 1968-2013

10.6 Gigabytes (ER015-ER016)

0.1 Linear feet (Box 4)

Scope and Contents:

The writings series includes both copies of original writing by Smithson including work descriptions and certificates of authenticity, as well as articles and presentations by others including Nancy Holt and a symposium held at Whitney Museum of American Art in 2005. Also included are copies of notes by Lawrence Alloway on Smithson. Digital video recordings of the presentations are included.

	By Robert Smithson
Box 4, Folder 3	"Participation Degree Zero", circa 1968, 2000
Box 4, Folder 4	Miscellaneous Texts, circa 1969, 1974
	By Others
Box 4, Folder 5	Lawrence Alloway Notes on Smithson, circa
Box 4, Folder 6	"A Heap of Language: Robert Smithson and the American Hieroglyphic" by Richard Sieburth, circa 1999
Folder ER015	"Trips with Smithson and Friends" Lecture by Nancy Holt at LAMoCA, Digital Video Recording, circa 2006 4.16 Gigabytes (One computer file.)
Folder ER016	Whitney Museum Symposium on Robert Smithson (Sep. 24, 2005), Digital Video Recording, 2005 6.46 Gigabytes (Two computer files.)
Box 4, Folder 8	"In the Footsteps of Robert Smithson" by Phyllis Tuchman, circa 2013
Box 4, Folder 9	Smithson Bio, circa 2000

Series 7: Press Files, circa 1968-2014

1.3 Linear feet (Boxes 4-5)

Scope and Contents:

The press files series contains both original clippings and copies of published articles on Smithson maintained since 1968, and presumably was transferred from John Weber Gallery and then maintained at the James Cohan Gallery.

Box 4, Folder 10	1968, circa 1968	
Box 4, Folder 11	1969, circa 1969	
Box 4, Folder 12	1970, circa 1970	
Box 4, Folder 13	1973, circa 1973	
Box 4, Folder 14	1974, circa 1974	
Box 4, Folder 15	1975, circa 1975	
Box 4, Folder 16	1976, circa 1976	
Box 4, Folder 17	1977, circa 1977	
Box 4, Folder 18	1978, circa 1978	
Box 4, Folder 19	1979, circa 1979	
Box 4, Folder 20	1980, circa 1980	
Box 4, Folder 21	1981, circa 1981	
Box 4, Folder 22	1982, circa 1982	
Box 4, Folder 23	1983, circa 1983	
Box 4, Folder 24	1985, circa 1985	
Box 4, Folder 25	1986, circa 1986	
Box 4, Folder 26	1987, circa 1987	
Box 4, Folder 27	1988, circa 1988	
Box 4, Folder 28	1989, circa 1989	
Box 4, Folder 29	1990, circa 1990	
Box 4, Folder 30	1991, circa 1991	

Box 4, Folder 31	1992, circa 1992
Box 4, Folder 32	1993, circa 1993
Box 4, Folder 33	1994, circa 1994
Box 4, Folder 34	1995, circa 1995
Box 4, Folder 35	1996, circa 1996
Box 4, Folder 36	1997, circa 1997
Box 4, Folder 37	1999, circa 1999
Box 4, Folder 38	2000, circa 2000
Box 4, Folder 39	2001, circa 2001
Box 4, Folder 40	2002, circa 2002
Box 4, Folder 41	2003, circa 2003
Box 4, Folder 42-43	2004, circa 2004
Box 5, Folder 1	2004, circa 2004
Box 5, Folder 2-5	2005, circa 2005
Box 5, Folder 6	2006, circa 2006
Box 5, Folder 7	2007, circa 2007
Box 5, Folder 8	2008, circa 2008
Box 5, Folder 9	2009, circa 2009
Box 5, Folder 10	2011, circa 2012
Box 5, Folder 11	2012, circa 2012
Box 5, Folder 12	2013, circa 2013
Box 5, Folder 13	2014, circa 2014

Series 8: Photographic Material, circa 1960-2015

0.5 Linear feet (Box 5)

2.01 Gigabytes (ER017-ER023)

Scope and The photographic material series includes copies of slides and photographs of both Contents: Smithson and his artworks and projects.

Box 5, Folder 14	Smithson Portraits (1963-1967), circa 1963-1990s
Box 5, Folder 15	Smithson Portraits (1968-1969), circa 1968-1990s
Box 5, Folder 16	Smithson Portraits, Undated, circa 1960s-1990s
Box 5, Folder 17-18	Drawings and Sculptures - Slides, circa 1960s-1990s
Box 5, Folder 19	Installation of Upside Down Tree (1969), circa 1969-1990s
Box 5, Folder 20	Construction of Earthworks (1969-1972), circa 1969-1990s
Box 5, Folder 21	Earth Art 1969 Exhibition Images, circa 1969-1990s
Box 5, Folder 22	Smithson Contact Sheets, circa 1968-1975
Box 5, Folder 23	Miscellaneous Artwork Images, circa 1970s-2010
Folder ER017	Master Smithson Images 1, Digital Photographs, 2000-2001 0.548 Gigabytes (One hundred seventy-eight computer files.)
Folder ER018	Master Smithson Images 2, Digital Photographs, 2001-2002 0.627 Gigabytes (One hundred five computer files.)
Folder ER019	Master Smithson Images 3, Digital Photographs, 2002-2003 0.405 Gigabytes (Forty-four computer files.)
Folder ER020	MoCA Catalog PBW Images, Digital Photographs, 2004 0.093 Gigabytes (Two computer files.)
Folder ER021	Smithson, Christopher Burke Studio, Digital Photographs, 2004 0.052 Gigabytes (Two computer files.)
Folder ER022	Robert Smithson Images, Digital Photographs, 2004 0.046 Gigabytes (Three computer files.)
Folder ER023	Smithson Portraits, Digital Photographs, 2004 0.241 Gigabytes (Seven computer files.)