



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Patricia Johanson Papers, 1964-1998, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Patricia Johanson papers
Identifier:	AAA.johapatr
Date:	1964-1998
Creator:	Johanson, Patricia, 1940-
Extent:	1.5 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	Papers of sculptor Patricia Johanson include professional and personal correspondence, 1967-1998; writings on public art, articles, and reviews; a transcript of an interview of Johanson conducted by Jan Evans; a copy of a Master's thesis written on Johanson's sculpture; clippings, exhibition catalogs and announcements; and photographs of Johanson and her work. The collection measures 1.5 linear feet and dates from 1964 to 1998.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Patricia Johanson donated her papers in 1975, 1983, 1989, 1997, and 1998.

Processing Information

The papers were processed in August 2004 by Jetta Samulski.

Preferred Citation

Patricia Johanson papers, 1964-1998. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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Biographical Note

Patricia Johanson, born in 1940, is an environmental sculptor and architect who creates large scale public works to solve environmental problems and create habitat and public recreational space. She graduated

from Bennington College in 1962 and earned an M.A. in art history at Hunter College (1964). Johanson took civil engineering classes at New York's City College School of Architecture, earning a Bachelor's degree in Architecture in 1977. Inspired by the enormous canvases of the Abstract Expressionists, Johanson created huge sculptures such as *Stephen Long* (1968) which went beyond the field of vision and interacted with the environment. Johanson designed sculpture for Con Edison's Indian Point Nuclear Generating Plant (1972), the Whitney Colleges at Yale University (1972), and Columbus East High School, Columbus, Indiana (1973). Her architectural projects include Fair Park Lagoon in Dallas, Texas (1981-1982), Tidal Sculpture Garden for Pelham Bay Park in New York (1984), and the San Francisco baywalk which transformed a new sewer into a public amenity and work of art. Her *Park for the Amazon Rainforest* (1992), commissioned for the Earth Summit, is an environmental sculpture that provides access from ground level up through the forest canopy along the Amazon River near Obidos, Brazil. Johanson's more recent projects include a master plan and ecological playgrounds for Ulsan Dragon Park (1996), a 912-acre site in South Korea, and the Rocky Marciano Trail and Salisbury River Greenway in Brockton, Massachusetts. Her husband is art historian Eugene C. Goossen.

Scope and Content Note

Papers of sculptor Patricia Johanson include professional and personal correspondence, 1967-1998; writings on public art, articles, and reviews; a transcript of an interview of Johanson conducted by Jan Evans; a copy of a Master's thesis written on Johanson's sculpture; clippings, exhibition catalogs and announcements; and photographs of Johanson and her work. The collection measures 1.5 linear feet and dates from 1964 to 1998.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 5 series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1975-1997 (Box 1; 1 folder)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1967-1998, n.d. (Box 1; 17 folders)
- Series 3: Writings, 1968-1997, n.d. (Box 1 and OV 3; 7 folders)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1966-1998, n.d. (Boxes 1-2 and OV 3; 12 folders)
- Series 5: Photographs, 1962-1996, n.d. (Box 2 and OV 3; 8 folders)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century
Women artists
Women painters
Women sculptors

Types of Materials:

Articles
Interviews
Photographs
Transcripts

Occupations:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1975-1997

(Box 1; 1 folder)

Scope and Contents: Series 1 includes three curriculum vitae, written by Johanson; 2 biographical sketches from *Who's Who in America* (1 is a galley proof); a sketch from *Who's Who in the East* (galley); and one from *Who's Who of American Women* (galley).

Box 1, Folder 1 Biographical Sketches, 1975-1997

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1967-1998, n.d.

(Box 1; 17 folders)

Scope and Contents: This series deals primarily with art-related matters. Many letters have copies of Johanson's replies included. Most of the early letters are photocopies, but many of the later ones are originals, including several original letters from Helen Frankenthaler. There are congratulatory letters for Johanson's exhibitions, discussions of her projects, requests for slides, requests for her to lecture or participate in symposiums, requests for art and architectural proposals, requests for her writing, requests to publish photos of her work, letters from graduate students asking for work, interviews, and input on thesis ideas. There are many sympathy cards concerning the death of her husband, Eugene Goossen, in 1997.

Box 1, Folder 2-18 Letters and Cards to Patricia Johanson, 1967-1998, n.d.
(17 folders)

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Series 3: Writings, 1968-1997, n.d.

(Box 1 and OV 3; 7 folders)

Scope and Contents: This series includes two transcripts of interviews of Johanson. There are photocopied and ink drawings for her designs of works and proposals for work, including the Con Edison Indian Point Visitors Center (1972), Columbus East High School (1973), *Diphtheria* rock sculpture (1974), and proposals for public art in San Francisco and Rockland County, New York. There are blueprints for the *Fair Park Lagoon Sculpture* in Dallas, Texas. Writings include personal statements about her artwork, notebooks, collection records for the Museum of Modern Art, a slide lecture, and the convocation address given at the Massachusetts College of Art in May, 1995. Published writings include a 1992 monograph by Johanson and several magazine and newsletter articles. Writings by others include student papers written about Johanson including a master's thesis.

Box 1, Folder 19	Designs of Works, 1972-1982
Box 1, Folder 20	Proposals for Public Art, 1990, n.d.
Box 1, Folder 21	Writings and Notebooks by Patricia Johanson, 1968-1996
Box 1, Folder 22	Interview Transcripts, 1987, n.d.
Box 1, Folder 23	Writings by Others - Student Papers, 1979
Box 1, Folder 24	Writings by Others - Student Papers and Thesis, 1991-1997
Oversize 3	Project Plans and Blueprints, 1972-1982

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1966-1998, n.d.

(Boxes 1-2 and OV 3; 12 folders)

Scope and Contents: This series includes exhibition catalogs and announcements and three exhibition posters. There are magazine and newspaper clippings about Johanson and her work. There is one folder of articles published in magazines, pamphlets and other publications.

Box 1, Folder 25-31 Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1964-1996, n.d.
(7 folders)

Box 2, Folder 1 Publications with Articles about Johanson, 1987-1997, n.d.

Box 2, Folder 2-4 Clippings, 1966-1997, n.d.
(3 folders)

Oversize 3 Exhibition Posters, 1966-1982,

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Series 5: Photographs, 1962-1996, n.d.

(Box 2 and OV 3; 8 folders)

Scope and Contents: Photographs, both color and black and white, include snapshots, 8 x 10 glossy prints, and one oversized photograph. Subjects include Johanson from childhood until 1996, her husband Eugene C. Goossen, and her finished artwork as well as works in progress. There are several photos of artist Mark Rothko, and one photo of Johanson with Georgia O'Keeffe. There are photos of Johanson's architectural designs from 1972-1982. Also found are 58 color photocopies made in 1995 of the works of artist Doug Ohlson, whose work was included along with Johanson's in the 1964 exhibit "8 Young Artists," an exhibit organized and curated by Goossen.

Box 2, Folder 5-7	Photographs of Patricia Johanson, 1962-1996, n.d. (3 folders)
Box 2, Folder 8	Photographs of Johanson's Artwork, 1964-1977
Box 2, Folder 9	Photographs of Johanson's Architectural Designs, 1972-1982
Box 2, Folder 10-11	Color Photocopies of the Works of Doug Ohlson, 1995 (2 folders)
Oversize 3	Oversized Photograph of Patricia Johanson with Painting Minor Keith, 1967

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