



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Judith Weinshall Lieberman Papers, circa 1940-2003, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

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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:	Judith Weinshall Liberman papers
Identifier:	AAA.libejudi
Date:	circa 1940-2003
Creator:	Liberman, Judith Weinshall
Extent:	8.6 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of artist Judith Weinshall Liberman measure 8.6 linear feet and date from circa 1940-2003. The papers consist of biographical material regarding Liberman's family and art history; images, ephemera, and correspondence related to Liberman's artwork, exhibitions, and creative process, especially related to her <i>Holocaust Wall Hangings series</i> ; sound and video recordings of interviews, lectures, pannel discussions, and show openings; papers related to her career as a writer; and some papers related to her academic career.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was donated by Judith Weinshall Liberman in 2003.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid was written by Christopher DeMairo in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Judith Weinshall Liberman papers, circa 1940-2003. 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 audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Judith Weinshall Liberman (1929-) is a painter, ceramicist, and illustrator in Boston, Massachusetts.

Born in Haifa, Israel (then Palenstine), Judith Weinshall Liberman came to the United States after completing high school in Haifa. She earned four American degrees, including a J.D. degree from the University Chicago Law School and an LL.M. from the University of Michigan Law School. After settling in the Boston area in 1956, she studied art at the Art Institute of Boston, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, DeCordova Museum School, and the Massachusetts College of Art. She also received an M.F.A. degree in Art Education from Boston University School for the Arts.

Liberman explored a variety of materials and techniques throughout her career including oil and acrylic paint, block printing, transfer printing, sewing, embroidery, and ceramics. Her major series of work, *Holocaust Wall Hangings*, *Holocaust Paintings*, and *Self Portraits of Holocaust Artist*—recieved critical acclaim as she exhibited her work in solo and group exhibitions in the United States and Israel. She eventually donated a majority of her artwork to private, public, and religious institutions.

Scope and Contents

The papers of artist Judith Weinshall Liberman measure 8.6 linear feet and date from circa 1940-2003. The papers consist of biographical material regarding Liberman's family and art history; images, ephemera, and correspondence related to Liberman's artwork, exhibitions, and creative process, especially related to her *Holocaust Wall Hangings series*; sound and video recordings of interviews, lectures, panel discussions, and show openings; papers related to her career as a writer; and some papers related to her academic career.

The bulk of the collection was in labeled binders upon donation; the contents of these binders were kept intact. The binders were created by Judith Liberman circa 2003, and each consists of introductions to the material as well as a rough table of contents. The binders cover a variety of topics including biographical and geneological histories; records of Liberman's donated material; papers related to Liberman's major series of works and exhibitions; and photographs and slides of Liberman's work. This collection also includes videocassette and audiocassette tapes containing lectures, interviews, pannel discusions, and show openings.

In addition to Liberman's career as an artist, material related to Liberman's education as a lawyer as well as her life-long interest in writing fiction and non-fiction is found in this collection. Academic papers consist of ephemera, transcripts, correspondence, and resumes; and material related to Liberman's writing includes drafts, published copies, interviews, and reviews. Most notable are a published copy of her children's book *The Bird's Last Song*, with related interviews, and an edited manuscript of *Miriam's Diary*.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 5 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1940-2003 (1.1 linear feet; Boxes 1-2, 9-10)
- Series 2: Writings, circa 1947-2003 (14 folders; Box 2)
- Series 3: Art Projects, 1987-2003 (4.5 linear feet; Boxes 2-6, 9)
- Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1972-2003 (8 folders; Boxes 7, 9)
- Series 5: Photographs, circa 1960-2003 (1.0 linear foot; Boxes 7-8)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945), in art
- Jewish artists
- Women artists
- Women ceramicists
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings
- Video recordings

Occupations:

- Ceramicists -- Massachusetts -- Boston
- Illustrators -- Massachusetts -- Boston
- Painters -- Massachusetts -- Boston

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1940-2003

1.1 Linear feet (Box 1-2, 9-10)

Scope and Contents: This series includes a few folders on Liberman's family history dating back to the 16th century; a collection of papers and material that Liberman compiled regarding the history of her life and artwork; a record of the art Liberman donated; and a few interviews and lectures discussing Liberman's life and career.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Family History, circa 1940-2003, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Family History, circa 1940-2003
Box 1, Folder 4	Academic Record, circa 1946-2003
Box 1, Folder 5	Academic Record, 1947-1989
Box 1, Folder 6	Tel Aviv School of Law and Economics Calendar, 1954-1955
Box 1, Folder 7	Assorted Resumes and Related Materials, circa 1960-2003
Box 9, Item 3	Art Scrapbook, I, 1954-1976
Box 10, Item 1-2	Art Scrapbook, II-III, 1996-2001
Box 1, Folder 8-11	History of Liberman's Art and Life, circa 2003
Box 1, Folder 12	"Looking Back," Miscellaneous Artist Timetable and Statements, circa 1994-2003
Box 1, Folder 13-17	Donated Art, circa 1989-2003
Box 1, Folder 18	Audio Cassette Tapes Regarding Liberman's Art, Memo, circa 2003
Box 1, Folder 19	Interview on WBUR; Sounds from Show at Gallery of World Art, circa 1973 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 20	"My Art Development", 1977 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 21	Talk to Solomon Schechter School, 1990 3 Sound cassettes (microcassette)
Box 2, Folder 1	"Conversations About My Life", 1992

2 Sound cassettes

Box 2, Folder 2

Interview and Lecture for Decordova Show, 1994
2 Sound cassettes
1 Sound cassettes (microcassette)

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Series 2: Writings, circa 1947-2003

14 Folders (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Included in this series are edited manuscripts, drafts of plays and short stories, a bound compilation of poems, and a book written in Hebrew on public law authored by Liberman in 1954. In addition, there is a published copy of Liberman's children's book, *The Bird's Last Song*, along with recordings of interviews on the book as well as writings and talks on illustrated children's books in general.

Box 2, Folder 3-5	"Miriam's Diary", 1947-1960
Box 2, Folder 6	"Victory Song", 1949
Box 2, Folder 7	Book on Public International Law, 1955
Box 2, Folder 8	"The Bird's Last Song", 1976
Box 2, Folder 9	"The Bird's Last Song," Lecture at National League of American Pen Women; Mason Rice School Talk with Kids, 1976-1977 3 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Folder 10	The Effects of Book Illustrations on Children, undated
Box 2, Folder 11	Collection of Statements on Work and Related Writings, circa 1985-2003
Box 2, Folder 12	"Ice Cream Snow", circa 1993
Box 2, Folder 13	"Attachment", undated
Box 2, Folder 14	Poems, undated
Box 2, Folder 15	"Poor Girl," Draft, undated
Box 2, Folder 16	"Selma Green", undated

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Series 3: Art Projects, 1987-2003

4.5 Linear feet (Box 2-6, 9)

Arrangement: This series is arranged as 2 subseries

- 3.1: Holocaust Wall Hangings, 1988-2003
- 3.2: Other Works, 1987-2003

Scope and Contents: This series includes images, reproductions, audio and visual recordings correspondence, artist's statements, and narratives describing the process of numerous series that Liberman worked on throughout her career. The bulk of this series covers Liberman's famed *Holocaust Wall Hangings*, and includes papers and audio and visual recordings related to the creation of the art, the series' catalog, informational video, and book, *Holocaust Wall Hangings* (2002).

3.1: *Holocaust Wall Hangings*, 1988-2003

Box 2, Folder 17	Early Materials, 1988-1995
Box 2, Folder 18	Sketches and Notes, 1989-1993
Box 2, Folder 19	Reviews and Reproductions, 1990-2003
Box 2, Folder 20	Show Notifications , circa 1995
Box 2, Folder 21	Panel Discussion at Jewish Community Center, 1990 1 Sound cassettes (microcassette)
Box 2, Folder 22-23	"Good Morning Israel," Israel T.V., 1992 2 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 3, Folder 1	Show Opening at Mishka Le'Omanut, Ein Harod, Israel, 1992 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Folder 2	Show Opening, Comments, and Talk to Volunteers, Yad Vashem, Israel, 1992 3 Sound cassettes
Box 3, Folder 3-8	Show at Yad Vashem, Israel, 1992 6 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 3, Folder 9	Slide Talk at Tivon, Israel, 1993 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Folder 10-11	Show Opening at University of Connecticut, 1995 2 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 3, Folder 12	Florida Radio Interview, 1999 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Folder 13	Preparation for Cleveland Talk, 2003

1 Sound cassette

Box 4, Folder 1	Show Opening at Temple-Tifeth, Israel; Dedication of the Hanaver-Myers Gallery, 2003 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 4, Folder 2	Catalog, 1992
Box 4, Folder 3	Catalog, Correspondence, circa 1992
Box 4, Folder 4	Catalog, Drafts, circa 1992
Box 4, Folder 5-6	Catalog, Layouts, circa 1992
Box 4, Folder 7	Catalog, Plate Sizes for Reproductions, circa 1992
Box 4, Folder 8	Catalog, Uncut Plates, Circa 1992
Box 9, Item 1	Catalog, Fabric Samples Taken For Printing, 1992
Box 9, Item 2	Catalog, Original Print for Catalog Cover, 1992
Box 4, Folder 9-10	Video Documentary, Holocaust Wall Hangings, History, 1994-1998
Box 4, Folder 11-15	Video Documentary, Holocaust Wall Hangings, 1994-1996 5 Videocassettes (VHS) Notes: Production tapes including unedited camera tapes and interview with co-producer Bob Lewis.
Box 5, Folder 2-7	Video Documentary, Holocaust Wall Hangings, 1995-1996 5 Videocassettes (VHS) 1 Videocassettes (Betacam) 2 Sound cassettes Notes: Production tapes including unedited camera tapes, narration, and music.
Box 5, Folder 8	Book, 2002
Box 5, Folder 9-11	Book, History, 2001-2002
Box 5, Folder 12	Book, Annotations to the Wall Hangings on History and Art, circa 2000-2001
Box 5, Folder 13	Book, Printed Mentions, 2003
Box 5, Folder 14	Book, Reviews, circa 2003

3.2: Other Works, 1987-2003

Box 6, Folder 1	Major Series, circa 1988-2003
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Box 6, Folder 2	Holocaust Bibliographical Notebook, circa 1987-2002
Box 6, Folder 3-4	The Holocaust Paintings, Institute for Holocaust Studies, Haifa, Israel, 1988 2 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 6, Folder 5-6	The Holocaust Paintings, Interview, WSHS, 1989 2 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 6, Folder 7-8	The Holocaust Paintings, Interview, Newton News, 1996 2 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 6, Folder 9	The Holocaust Paintings, Interview, "At the Library" with Beth Purcell, 1996 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 6, Folder 10	The Holocaust Paintings and Self Portraits of a Holocaust Artist, New England Biolabs, 1997 1 Sound cassette Notes: File includes artist's statement and insurance papers from show at New England Biolabs.
Box 6, Folder 11	The Holocaust Paintings, 1999 1 Sound cassette
Box 6, Folder 12-13	Mankind, 10 Major Series, circa 2001
Box 6, Folder 14	Jewish Wall Hangings, Sketches and Notes, circa 2003

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Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1972-2003

8 Folders (Boxes 7, 9)

Scope and Contents: Included are exhibition and show announcements and ephemera, reviews of Liberman's shows and art, mentions of Liberman in miscellaneous printed material, and a copy of the 1987 Boston University Law Review which was dedicated to Liberman's husband, Bob Liberman.

Box 7, Folder 1-5 Exhibitions and Events, Announcements and Brochures, circa 1972-2003

Box 7, Folder 6 Reviews and Materials on Liberman's Shows, circa 1973-2003

Box 7, Folder 7 Publicity, 1978-2002

Box 7, Folder 8 Boston University Law Review, "Tribute to Professor Robert Liberman", 1987

Box 9, Folder 1-2 Warde-Nasse, Salon Exhibition Catalog, 1972-1977

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Series 5: Photographs, circa 1960-2003

1 Linear foot (Box 7-8)

Scope and Contents: This series is composed of files of loose photographs, photographic albums, and slides that are arranged by both chronology and project. Although mostly images of her work only, there are a few candid snapshots of Liberman posing with her work, during a video shoot, and giving an exhibit tour.

For more pictures of Liberman, see also Series 1: Biographical.

Box 7, Folder 9	Timetable of Liberman's Art, 1965-1999, circa 2003
Box 7, Folder 10-16	Assorted Slides, I-IV, circa 1980-2003
Box 7, Folder 17	Assorted Slides of Serious Work, circa 1996
Box 7, Folder 18	Assorted Slides of Work, circa 1996
Box 7, Folder 19	Assorted Slides for Artist's Cards, circa 1999
Box 7, Folder 20	Early Work, circa 1960-1970
Box 7, Folder 21	Ceramic Works, circa 1985-1986, circa 2001
Box 8, Folder 1	Ceramics and Mosaics, circa 1985-1986
Box 8, Folder 2	Holocaust Paintings Series, circa 1987-2000, undated
Box 8, Folder 3	Selection from Holocaust Paintings, circa 1987-2000, undated
Box 8, Folder 4	Assorted Slides of Self Portraits of a Holocaust Artist and Holocaust Paintings , circa 1997
Box 8, Folder 5-6	Holocaust Wall Hangings, circa 1988-2002, undated
Box 8, Folder 7-8	Homo Sapiens, circa 1996
Box 8, Folder 9	Assorted Slides, Self Portraits of a Holocaust Artist, circa 1997
Box 8, Folder 10	Self Portraits of Holocaust Artist, circa 1997
Box 8, Folder 11	Video Shoot and Exhibitions, circa 1988-1992

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