



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Kevin MacDonald papers, 1958-2006, in the Archives of American Art

Erin Kinhart

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Kevin MacDonald papers
Date:	1958-2006
Identifier:	AAA.macdkevi
Creator:	MacDonald, Kevin John, 1946-2006
Extent:	8 Linear feet
Language:	Collection is in English.
Summary:	The papers of Washington, D.C. painter and printmaker Kevin MacDonald measure 8 linear feet, and date from 1958-2006. The collection contains correspondence with friends and colleagues; journals, notebooks, and other writings; printed material; artwork by MacDonald and others; 29 sketchbooks; sound and video recordings; and home movies. Of note are several files regarding his work with the Washington Project for the Arts.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated in 2012 by Robin Moore, Kevin MacDonald's widow.

Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Erin Kinhart in 2014-2015. 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. Motion picture film reels were inspected and re-housed in 2017 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

Kevin MacDonald papers, 1958-2006. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. research facility. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

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Biographical / Historical

Kevin MacDonald (1946-2006) was a painter and printmaker in Washington, D.C. He received a BFA from George Washington University in 1969, and also took courses at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. From 1967 to 1977 he worked at the Phillips Collection. After leaving the Phillips he worked full-time as an artist, taking an active role in the D.C. arts community. He was co-curator of "The Washington Show" at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in 1986, and served on the Board of Directors for both the Washington Project for the Arts (1986-1992) and Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts (1991-1997). MacDonald regularly exhibited his work at the Lunn Gallery and David Adamson Gallery, and had artist residencies at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (1995) and Oglebay Institute (1993). MacDonald also had an interest in music, and served as art director of a short-lived music fanzine called "Infiltrator." He was in Twisted Teenage Plot, a band organized by fellow artist Michael Clark, and worked with artist and musician Robin Rose on a collaboration called "Scriptronics." He lived most of his life in Silver Spring, Maryland, a suburb of D.C., and was married to art consultant Robin Moore.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Washington, D.C. painter and printmaker Kevin MacDonald measure 8 linear feet, and date from 1958-2006. The collection contains correspondence with friends and colleagues; journals, notebooks, and other writings; printed material; artwork by MacDonald and others; 29 sketchbooks; sound and video recordings, and home movies. Of note are several files regarding his work with the Washington Project for the Arts.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 8 series.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1968-2006 (1.9 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
 - Series 2: Notebooks and Journals, 1968-2005 (1.3 linear feet; Boxes 2-4)
 - Series 3: Writings, 1970s-1999 (0.3 linear feet; Box 4)
 - Series 4: Project Files, 1958-2005 (1.1 linear feet; Boxes 4-5, 9)
 - Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1970-2004 (1.0 linear foot; Boxes 5-6, 9)
 - Series 6: Artwork, 1960s-2000s (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 6, 9)
 - Series 7: Sketchbooks, circa 1969-2006 (1.1 linear feet; Boxes 6-7, 9)
 - Series 8: Sound Recordings and Moving Images, circa 1970s-1990s (0.8 linear feet; Boxes 7-8, FC 10-12)
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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:

Printmakers -- Washington (D.C.)

Types of Materials:

- Diaries
- Motion pictures (visual works)
- Notebooks
- Sketchbooks
- Sound recordings
- Video recordings

Names:

- Washington Project for the Arts (D.C.)

Occupations:

- Painters -- Washington (D.C.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1968-2006

1.9 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence, mostly of a personal nature, is with friends and fellow artists. Included are many handmade holiday and greeting cards, mail art, and illustrated letters. Much of MacDonald's correspondence with friends extends over two decades or more. Of note is correspondence with artists Wilfred Brunner, Michael Clark, Don Cook, Joe Holbach, Susan Kaprov, and Dana Zed.

Box 1, Folder 1	A, Miscellaneous, 1987-2002
Box 1, Folder 2	Bisese, Eddie and Liza Kirwin, 1992-2002
Box 1, Folder 3	Bodnarchuk, Raya, 1983-1996
Box 1, Folder 4	Brunner, Wilfred and Joyce Jewell, circa 1976-1997
Box 1, Folder 5	B, Miscellaneous, 1988-2001
Box 1, Folder 6	Chavanat, Damien, 1992-2001
Box 1, Folder 7-8	Clark, Michael, 1974-2003, undated
Box 1, Folder 9-10	Cook, Don, circa 1980s-2004
Box 1, Folder 11	C, Miscellaneous, 1981-2005
Box 1, Folder 12	D, Miscellaneous, 1975-2006
Box 1, Folder 13	F, Miscellaneous, 1982-1984
Box 1, Folder 14	G, Miscellaneous, 1977-2006
Box 1, Folder 15-19	Holbach, Joe, circa 1974-1998
Box 1, Folder 20	H, Miscellaneous, 1981-2006
Box 1, Folder 21	J-K, Miscellaneous, 1984-1988, 2005
Box 1, Folder 22-29	Kaprov, Susan, 1971-2000
Box 1, Folder 30-33	Leary, Mary, 1977-1999
Box 1, Folder 34	Littlefield, Cynthia, 1988-1996

Box 1, Folder 35	L, Miscellaneous, 1982, circa 2002
Box 1, Folder 36	M, Miscellaneous, 1977-circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 37-40	Nelson, Cathie France, circa 1968-1984
Box 2, Folder 1	Nelson, Cathie France, 1985-1990
Box 2, Folder 2	Nelson, Cathie France, undated
Box 2, Folder 3	N-R, Miscellaneous, 1978-2001
Box 2, Folder 4	Stahlhuth, Harold Val, 1975-1979
Box 2, Folder 5	S, Miscellaneous, circa 1986-2004
Box 2, Folder 6	W, Miscellaneous, 1976-2000
Box 2, Folder 7	Yelloz, Catherine, 1994-2002
Box 2, Folder 8-21	Zed, Dana Smith, 1980-2005
Box 2, Folder 22-25	Zimmerman, Peter, 1982-2005
Box 2, Folder 26-27	Outgoing Letters (Copies), 2004, 1971-1999
Box 2, Folder 28-29	First Names Only and Unidentified, circa 1976-2006

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Series 2: Notebooks and Journals, 1968-2005

1.3 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4)

Scope and Contents: Journals and notebooks contain various writings by Kevin MacDonald. Journals mostly include dated entries containing thoughts on his life and art. Some poetry is also included. Other notebooks contain poetry, travel logs, ideas and sketches for artwork, and thoughts on art.

Arrangement: Journals are arranged in chronological order followed by titled notebooks. Other notebooks are arranged in rough chronological order at the end of the series.

Box 2, Folder 30	Journal, 1968-1970
Box 2, Folder 31	Journal, 1971-1972
Box 2, Folder 32	Journal, 1972
Box 3, Folder 1	Journal, 1972-1976
Box 3, Folder 2	Journal, 1976-1977
Box 3, Folder 3	Journal, 1977-1978
Box 3, Folder 4	Journal, 1978-1979
Box 3, Folder 5	Journal, 1979
Box 3, Folder 6	Journal, 1980-1981
Box 3, Folder 7	Journal, 1982
Box 3, Folder 8	Journal, 1982-1983
Box 3, Folder 9	Journal, 1983
Box 3, Folder 10	Journal, 1982-1984
Box 3, Folder 11	Journal, 1984-1985
Box 3, Folder 12	Journal, 1985-1987
Box 3, Folder 13	Journal, 1988-1991
Box 3, Folder 14	Journal, 1991-2005
Box 3, Folder 15	Notebook, "Four (4) Short Poems", undated
Box 3, Folder 16	Notebook, "Frances and Kevin in New Mexico", 2000

Box 3, Folder 17	Notebook, "Idea & Workbook", 1982-1987
Box 3, Folder 18	Notebook, "Idea & Workbook", 1987-1994
Box 3, Folder 19	Notebook, "Idea & Workbook", 1994-2001
Box 3, Folder 20	Notebook, Income and Expenses, 1974-1980
Box 3, Folder 21	Notebook, "Travel Book", circa 1977-1982
Box 3, Folder 22	Notebook, "Travel Book", 1982-1995
Box 3, Folder 23	Notebook, 1968
Box 3, Folder 24	Notebook, 1970
Box 4, Folder 1	Notebook, circa 1970
Box 4, Folder 2	Notebook, circa 1971
Box 4, Folder 3	Notebook, 1974
Box 4, Folder 4	Notebook, circa 1994
Box 4, Folder 5	Notebook, circa 2000-2005
Box 4, Folder 6	Notebook, undated
Box 4, Folder 7	Notebook, undated

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Series 3: Writings, 1970s-1999

0.3 Linear feet (Box 4)

Scope and Contents: Writings are by Kevin MacDonald and others. MacDonalds writings include many notes on art and philosophy, performance ideas, song lyrics and poetry. Also found are a few draft essays and talks. Writings by others include poetry and creative writing pieces.

Box 4, Folder 8	Essay, "The Washington Show", circa 1985
Box 4, Folder 9	Miscellaneous Writings, 1970s
Box 4, Folder 10	Notes, 1975-1976
Box 4, Folder 11	Notes on I-Ching and Tarot, circa 1983-1994
Box 4, Folder 12	Notes on Painting, circa 1980s
Box 4, Folder 13	Notes on Philosophy and Creativity, circa 1980s
Box 4, Folder 14	Performance Ideas, circa 1980s-1993
Box 4, Folder 15	Poetry, circa 1970s-1990s
Box 4, Folder 16	Song Lyrics, circa 1980-1985
Box 4, Folder 17	Talk, "Bringing Art Home: Surviving Outside of New York", undated
Box 4, Folder 18	Talk on Carroll Sockwell, 1999
Box 4, Folder 19	Writings on Lewes, Delaware, 1979
Box 4, Folder 20	"Pictures From Seurat," Poems by Bob Wickless, circa 1994
Box 4, Folder 21	Writings by Joe Holbach, circa 1970s-1980s
Box 4, Folder 22	Writings by Others, 1977-1980s

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Series 4: Project Files, 1958-2005

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 4-5, 9)

Scope and Contents: Found here are Kevin MacDonald's files regarding his various projects as a professional artist. Included are files on project ideas, research, proposals, commissions, artist-in-residence, and exhibitions. Of note are his files on the Washington Project for the Arts, for which he served on the Board of Directors, and exhibition files for "The Washington Show," which he co-curated at the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

Box 4, Folder 23	Artist-in-Residence, Wheeling, West Virginia, 1993
Box 4, Folder 24	Bookworks, 1986-1991
Box 4, Folder 25	Corcoran Gallery of Art, 1980-1982
Box 4, Folder 26	Dinner at Herbs, circa 1990
Box 4, Folder 27-28	Don Cook Projects and Proposals, circa 1989-1996
Box 4, Folder 29	Emblemata du Coeur, undated
Box 4, Folder 30-31	Exhibition, "Public Space/Public Place", circa 1980-1995
Box 4, Folder 32-35	Exhibition, "The Washington Show", 1984-1985
Box 4, Folder 36	Exhibition Installation Photographs, circa 1982
Box 4, Folder 37	Faces of the Fallen Memorial, 2005
Box 4, Folder 38	Infiltrator Magazine, 1979
Box 5, Folder 1-4	History of Silver Spring, 1958-2003
Box 5, Folder 5	Montgomery College Teaching Records, circa 1999
Box 5, Folder 6	Mythology and Celtic History, circa 1971-1990s
Box 5, Folder 7	Patti Smith Fan Club, 1976-1977
Box 5, Folder 8	"Physics" Performance and Book, circa 1993
Box 5, Folder 9	Project Ideas and Proposals, circa 1991-2005
Box 5, Folder 10	Research, circa 1970s-1990s
Box 5, Folder 11	Source Photographs and Images, circa 1990s

Box 5, Folder 12	Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts, 1986
Box 5, Folder 13-17	Washington Project for the Arts, 1986-1992 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 2
Box 5, Folder 18	Washington Project for the Arts, Botswana, circa 1986-1988
Box 5, Folder 19-20	Washington Project for the Arts, Cabaret Re-Voltaire, 1992 Includes 1 videocassette (VHS)
Box 9, Folder 1	Oversized, Washington Circle Gallery of Fine Art, undated
Box 9, Folder 2	Oversized, Washington Project for the Arts, from Box 5, Folder 13, circa 1981

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Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1970-2004

1 Linear foot (Boxes 5-6, 9)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes exhibition catalogs, announcements, and invitations, as well as magazines and news clippings about MacDonald and other Washington, D.C. artists. Additionally, there are several zines and photocopied event flyers containing artwork by MacDonald. Also of note is a published booklet about the experimental music and art collaboration between Kevin MacDonald and Robin Rose called "Scriptronics."

Box 5, Folder 21	Booklet, "Scriptronics", circa 1981
Box 5, Folder 22	Event Flyers, 1980s-1990s
Box 5, Folder 23-25	Exhibition Announcements and Invitations, circa 1976-2004
Box 5, Folder 26-28	Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1974-2002
Box 6, Folder 1	Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1978-2002
Box 6, Folder 2-3	Magazines, 1981-2000 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 3
Box 6, Folder 4	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1970-1992
Box 6, Folder 5	News Clippings, 1982-2002
Box 6, Folder 6	News Clippings regarding Physics, circa 1996-2003
Box 6, Folder 7	Newsletters, circa 2000
Box 6, Folder 8	Zine, 11th Street Ruse, circa 1992-1996
Box 6, Folder 9	Zine, Abortion, circa 1978-1980
Box 6, Folder 10	Zine, Infiltrator, 1979 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 4
Box 6, Folder 11	Zines, Miscellaneous, 1980-1981
Box 9, Folder 3	Oversized Magazine, Washington Review, from Box 6, Folder 2, 1989
Box 9, Folder 4	Oversized Zine, Infiltrator, from Box 6, Folder 10, 1979

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Series 6: Artwork, 1960s-2000s

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 6, 9)

Scope and Contents: Artwork by Kevin MacDonald includes drawings and paintings used as preliminary studies for finished works, handmade Christmas cards, collages, "xerox books," and original collages that were used for event flyers. Also found is one paintbrush belonging to MacDonald. Additionally there are collages, art books, and watercolors by other artists including friend Joe Holbach.

Box 6, Folder 12	Book Illustrations, undated
Box 6, Folder 13	Christmas and Greeting Cards, circa 1970s-2000s
Box 6, Folder 14	Collages, circa 1979 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 5
Box 6, Folder 15-16	Color Studies, circa 1970s
Box 6, Folder 17-18	Drawings, circa 1960s-1970s, undated
Box 6, Folder 19-20	Drawings and Paintings, circa 1970s, undated Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 6
Box 6, Folder 21	Drawings for Brandeis Art Exhibit, undated
Box 6, Folder 22	Oil Pastel Drawings, undated
Box 6, Folder 23	Original Flyers (Collage), 1970s-1980s
Box 6, Folder 24	Paintbrush, undated
Box 6, Folder 25-26	Xerox Books, 1975-1990
Box 6, Folder 27	Xerox Book Pages and Collages, 1970s-1990s
Box 6, Folder 28	Joe Holbach, "Last Call", 1982
Box 6, Folder 29	Joe Holbach, Xerox Books, 1991, undated
Box 6, Folder 30	Unidentified Artist, Handmade Book, undated
Box 6, Folder 31	Artwork by Others, circa 1970s-1990s Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 9, Folder 7
Box 9, Folder 5	Oversized Collages, from Box 6, Folder 14, circa 1994
Box 9, Folder 6	Oversized Drawings and Paintings, from Box 6, Folder 19, undated

Box 9, Folder 7

Oversized Artwork by Others, from Box 6, Folder 31, 1975-1981

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Series 7: Sketchbooks, circa 1969-2006

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 6-7, 9)

Scope and Contents: Twenty-nine sketchbooks belonging to Kevin MacDonald depict preliminary ideas and studies for finished works. Sketches are in pencil, ink, colored pencil, watercolor, and pastel.

Box 6, Folder 32-34	Sketchbooks, undated
Box 7, Folder 1-11	Sketchbooks, undated
Box 7, Folder 12	Sketchbook, circa 1969
Box 7, Folder 13	Sketchbook, 1970-1975
Box 7, Folder 14	Sketchbook, 1979
Box 7, Folder 15	Sketchbook, 1988-1990
Box 7, Folder 16	Sketchbook, 1990-1993
Box 7, Folder 17	Sketchbook, 1993
Box 7, Folder 18	Sketchbook, 2000s
Box 7, Folder 19	Sketchbook, 2006
Box 9, Folder 8-9	Oversized Sketchbooks, undated
Box 9, Folder 10	Oversized Sketchbook, 1992

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Series 8: Sound Recordings and Moving Images, circa 1970s-1990s

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 7-8, FC 10-12)

Scope and Contents: Found here is one videocassette containing two interviews with Kevin MacDonald. Also found are 14 sound cassettes containing music by Kevin MacDonald and others. Of note is a cassette containing recordings of MacDonald's band Twisted Teenage Plot and a live recording of Scriptronics, his experimental music collaboration with artist Robin Rose. Additionally, there are three silent, Super 8 mm film reels of home movies showing a farm, a home, and a band playing.

Box 7, Folder 20	Interviews with Kevin MacDonald, undated 1 Videocassettes (VHS)
Box 8, Item 1	"Dana - I Wish You Could Hear the Piano", 1980s 1 Sound cassette Notes: Cassette label lists music by Brian Eno and David Byrne, selections from Teenage Jesus and the Jerks and DNA, and four untitled compositions by Michael [illegible] and Dale Scott
Box 8, Item 2	Frankel MacDonald Rose, Patti Smith "Live In London", circa 1976 1 Sound cassette
Box 8, Item 3	llab, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 8, Item 4	Kevin & Judith: String Duo, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 8, Item 5	LA Conversation, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 8, Item 6	Rose/Clark/MacDonald, 1981 1 Sound cassette
Box 8, Item 7	Russolo's Revenge, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 8, Item 8	Scriptronics Live: New Music America, Scriptronics Sampler, 1980s 1 Sound cassette
Box 8, Item 9	Spontaneous Human Combustion, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 8, Item 10	Solemn French Choirboys, "This is the Order", undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 8, Item 11	Twisted Teenage Plot, 1980s

	1 Sound cassette
Box 8, Item 12	Urban Verbs, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 8, Item 13	Urban Verbs at Cellar Door 2/28/79, Blondie, John Lennon, 1979 1 Sound cassette
Box 8, Item 14	Urban Verbs at Corcoran Ball, 1978 1 Sound cassette
Item FC 10	Home Movie: Rock Band, circa 1977 1 Film reel (Super 8mm)
Item FC 11	Home Movie: Band and Farm, circa 1977 1 Film reel (Super 8mm)
Item FC 12	Home Movie: Interior and Exterior, House, circa 1977 1 Film reel (Super 8mm)

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