



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Nanae Momiyama Papers, 1928-circa 2000, bulk 1948-1990s, in the Archives of American Art

Joy Weiner

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Nanae Momiyama papers
Date:	1928-circa 2000 (bulk 1948-2000)
Identifier:	AAA.mominana
Creator:	Momiyama, Nanae, 1924-2002
Extent:	3 Linear feet
Language:	Collection is in English. A large portion of the materials are in Japanese.
Summary:	The papers of New York painter, calligrapher, and educator, Nanae Momiyama measure 3.0 linear feet and date from 1928-circa 2000, with the bulk of the materials dating from 1948-1990s. The collection traces Momiyama's career as a first wave post-World War II Japanese-American artist through biographical material, correspondence, writings and notes, business records, printed material, scrapbooks, sketches and sketchbooks, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The collection was donated by Haniwa Gottlieb, Nanae Momiyama's daughter, in 2009.

Processing Information

The papers were processed by Joy Weiner in 2012.

Preferred Citation

Nanae Momiyama papers, 1928-circa 2000, bulk 1948-1990s. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

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Biographical Note

Nanae Momiyama (1924-2002) was a Japanese American painter, calligrapher, and educator based in New York City, New York and Greenwich, Connecticut.

In 1924, Nanae Momiyama was born in Tokyo, Japan. In 1944, she graduated from Bunka Gakuin College in Tokyo, where she later taught painting and drawing. In 1954, under the sponsorship of the Japanese government, Nanae Momiyama attended the Art Students' League in New York City, where she was mentored by the painter, Morris Kantor. During this period, Momiyama participated in exhibitions organized by the cooperative galleries on East Tenth Street in New York City that were promoting the works of Abstract Expressionist artists.

Nanae Momiyama's artistic interests extended to the teaching of Japanese calligraphy and Sumi-e paintings at colleges, universities, and art institutions, including the National Teacher's Convention for Asian Studies at Brooklyn College, Columbia University, and Japan Society. During her career, Momiyama received commissions to design posters for movies, plays, and concerts and to illustrate books and magazines. In addition, she wrote *Sumi-e, An Introduction to Ink Painting* that became a standard text on the subject.

Nanae Momiyama participated in many solo and group exhibitions in the United States and abroad: Brata Gallery, the Bruce Museum, Gima Gallery, Ligoa Duncan Gallery, and Seibu Galleries, among others.

Nanae Momiyama was a long time resident of Greenwich, Connecticut. She died in 2002.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of New York painter, calligrapher, and educator, Nanae Momiyama measure 3.0 linear feet and date from 1928-circa 2000, with the bulk of the materials dating from 1948-1990s. The collection traces Momiyama's career as a first wave post-World War II Japanese-American artist through biographical material, correspondence, writings and notes, business records, printed material, scrapbooks, sketches and sketchbooks, and photographs.

Biographical material includes resumes, a graduation certificate, passports, artist's statements, a calendar of lectures, address books, miscellaneous biographical material, and a 1972 WGCH radio interview with Nanae Momiyama.

Correspondence is mostly professional and consists of incoming and outgoing letters with arts organizations, museums, and galleries, such as the Bruce Museum, the Japanese Artists' Association, Kenkeleba House, and the National Association of Women Artists. There is some personal correspondence from family and friends, including Yayoi Kusama and Johanna Secor.

Writings and notes contain writings and notes by Nanae Momiyama and others. Writings and notes mostly consist of drafts of lectures and press releases relating to Momiyama's class demonstrations on Sumi-e painting.

Business records include annotated painting lists, consignments, a loan agreement, a contract, and scattered receipts. Painting lists and sales receipts provide a detailed record of works sold by Nanae Momiyama from 1974-1987.

Nanae Momiyama's activities as an artist are well-documented through printed materials, including press releases, clippings, periodicals, exhibition invitations, announcements, and catalogs, periodicals, annotated checklists, and brochures. Also found is Momiyama's monograph on Sumi-e painting.

Five scrapbooks contain exhibition-related material, such as announcements, invitations, brochures, reviews, installation shots, and artwork. One scrapbook is of a more personal nature and includes notes, handmade holiday cards by the artist, and photographs of Momiyama's children.

Artwork comprises sketches, drawings, and graphic designs. Sketches are mostly studies for Nanae Momiyama's paintings. Also included are five sketchbooks; one sketchbook is devoted to Momiyama's calligraphy.

Photographs are of Nanae Momiyama and others, exhibition installations and artwork, miscellaneous photographs, and slides of artwork. Also found are six photograph albums of images of Nanae Momiyama with family, friends, and colleagues. Of interest, are two photograph albums depicting Nanae Momiyama's school life and social activities in Japan from 1928-1940s.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 9 series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1948-1995 (Box 1; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1953, 1970s-1993 (Box 1; 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1950s-1995 (Box 1; 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 4: Business Records, 1962-1987 (Box 1; 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1950s-1995 (Box 1; 0.8 linear feet)
- Series 6: Scrapbooks, 1948-1978 (Box 2; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 7: Sketches and Drawings, circa 1950s-1970s (Box 2; 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 8: Sketchbooks, circa 1975-1997 (Box 2; 0.1 linear feet)
- Series 9: Photographs, 1928-circa 2000 (Box 3; 1.0 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Asian American art
Asian American artists
Asian American educators
Asian American painters
Calligraphy, Japanese
Japanese American art
Japanese American artists
Women artists
Women educators
Women illustrators
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Greeting cards
Interviews
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks
Sketches
Sound recordings

Names:

Bruce Museum

Kenkeleba House
Kusama, Yayoi, 1929-
National Association of Women Artists (U.S.)
Secor, Johanna

Occupations:

Calligraphers
Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Places:

Japan

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1948-1995

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Numerous versions of Nanae Momiyama's revised and edited resumes provide an overview of her professional activities over a thirty year period. This series includes some awards and prizes received by Nanae Momiyama, including the Twenty-third Grand Prix International de Peinture; the Grand Prix Humanitaire de France, Musee d'Art Modern de Ville de Paris; and the Gold Medal from the Accademia Italia.

Arrangement: Files are arranged by subject and thereafter in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Resumes, circa 1970s-1990s 2 Folders
Box 1, Folder 3	Graduation Certificate, Bunka Gakuin College of Fine Arts, 1954
Box 1, Folder 4	Passports, 1953-1988
Box 1, Folder 5	Admission to International House, undated, 1948-1960
Box 1, Folder 6	Artist's Statements, circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 7	Calendar of Lectures and Interviews, 1980-1995
Box 1, Folder 8	Awards, 1972-1985
Box 1, Folder 9	Memberships, undated, 1983-1984
Box 1, Folder 10-11	Address Books, undated, circa 1970s-1975 2 Folders
Box 1, Folder 12	Interview with Nanae Momiyama, 1972-1973 2 Sound tape reels
Box 1, Folder 13	Miscellaneous Biographical Material, 1954, 1981-1986

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1953, 1970s-1993

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence includes letters, drafts, postcards, and greeting cards. Letters reference Nanae Momiyama's participation in various arts organizations, the scheduling of exhibitions and lecture demonstrations, as well as her commissioned projects. Much of the correspondence is in Japanese.

Arrangement: Files are arranged in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence, circa 1960-1969
Box 1, Folder 15	Correspondence, 1953, circa 1970-1976
Box 1, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1977-1979
Box 1, Folder 17	Correspondence, 1980-1984
Box 1, Folder 18	Correspondence, 1985-1993, undated
Box 1, Folder 19	Correspondence, undated
Box 1, Folder 20	Unidentified Correspondents, undated, 1959-1981
Box 1, Folder 21	Loose Envelopes, undated, 1963-1985

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Series 3: Writings and Notes, circa 1950s-1995

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series includes writings and notes by Nanae Momiyama and by others. Included are Nanae Momiyama's drafts of her class presentations on calligraphy and Sumi-e painting.

The article on Nanae Momiyama's work by art critic Alfred Werner is unpublished.

Arrangement: Files are arranged by subject and thereafter filed in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 22	Typescripts of Presentations, circa 1950s-1970
Box 1, Folder 23	Press Releases, circa 1970s-1980s
Box 1, Folder 24	Research Notes, circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 25	Miscellaneous Writings and Notes, undated, circa 1960s-1995
Box 1, Folder 26	Drafts of Article on Nanae Momiyama's artwork, 1977

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Series 4: Business Records, 1962-1987

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Business records include annotated painting lists. Found is Nanae Momiyama's agreement to promote a Yves Saint Laurent fragrance for Charles of the Ritz, Ltd. as part of the company's marketing campaign.

Arrangement: Files are arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 27	Painting Lists, undated, 1974-1987
Box 1, Folder 28	Consignments and Loan Agreement, 1975-1986
Box 1, Folder 29	Contract with Charles of the Ritz Group, Ltd., 1982
Box 1, Folder 30-31	Scattered Receipts, undated, 1962-1983 2 Folders

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Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1950s-1995

0.8 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Clippings, exhibition invitations, announcements, and catalogs trace Nanae Momiyama's exhibition history from the 1950s-1990s. There are a number of clippings from Japanese-American newspapers. Some checklists are annotated.

Printed material can also be found in Series 6: Scrapbooks.

Arrangement: Files are arranged by record type and filed thereafter in chronological order.

Box 1, Folder 32 [Press Releases, undated, 1958-1993](#)

Box 1, Folder 33-38 Clippings About Nanae Momiyama, 1958-1995
6 Folders

Box 1, Folder 39 Clippings, General, undated, 1956-1987

Box 2, Folder 1 Unidentified Clippings in Japanese, circa 1950s-1995

Box 2, Folder 2 Periodicals, undated, 1953-1970

Box 2, Folder 3 [Invitations, undated, 1953-1983](#)

Box 2, Folder 4-6 Announcements, undated, circa 1956-1995
3 Folders

Box 2, Folder 7 [Exhibition Catalogs, undated, 1952-1983](#)

Box 2, Folder 8 Checklists, 1970-1992

Box 2, Folder 9 Brochures, undated, 1953-1986

Box 2, Folder 10 Reproductions of Artwork, undated, circa 1974-1978

Box 2, Folder 11 Miscellaneous Printed Material, undated, circa 1950s-1991

Box 2, Folder 12 Monograph, Sumi-E: An Introduction to Ink Painting, 1965

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Series 6: Scrapbooks, 1948-1978

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: There are five scrapbooks. Four scrapbooks were received disbound and the pages are brittle. Volume 5 includes notes, handmade holiday cards by the artist, and photographs of Momiyama's children, and miscellaneous items.

Printed material can also be found in Series 6: Scrapbooks.

Arrangement: Scrapbooks are arranged in chronological order.

Box 2, Folder 13	Scrapbook 1, 1948-1953 1 Volume (Disbound)
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Box 2, Folder 14	Scrapbook 2, 1950s 1 Volume (Disbound)
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Box 2, Folder 15	Scrapbook 3, 1953 1 Volume (Disbound)
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Box 2, Folder 16	Scrapbook 4, 1956-1977 1 Volume (Disbound)
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Box 2, Folder 17	Scrapbook 5, 1962-1978 1 Volume (Disbound)
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Series 7: Sketches and Drawings, circa 1950s-1970s

0.1 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Sketches are done in ink, watercolor, and charcoal on paper and board, depicting mainly landscapes, flowers, and objects from nature, such as small insects and birds. Sketches include studies and finished drawings. Sketches are generally undated. Also included are Momiyama's logo design that was used on her stationery and exhibition announcements.

Sketches and Drawings can also be found in Series 9: Photographs.

Arrangement: Sketches are arranged in chronological order.

Box 2, Folder 18	Sketches and Drawings, circa 1950s-1970s
Box 2, Folder 19	Sketches and Drawings, 1962-circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 20	Sketches and Drawings, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 21	Graphic Design Sketches, undated, circa 1970

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Series 8: Sketchbooks, circa 1975-1997

0.1 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: This series comprises 7 sketchbooks of sketches or studies done in ink, wash, and pencil. Three small sketchbooks contain mostly genre scenes and buildings.

Vol. 5 contains drawings by the artist after she suffered a stroke; most of the drawings are head studies and a few drawings are annotated.

Arrangement: Sketchbooks were arranged in chronological order.

Box 2, Folder 22	Sketchbooks 1-3, circa 1975-1979 3 Volumes
Box 2, Folder 23	Sketchbook 4, undated, 1991 1 Volume
Box 2, Folder 24	Sketchbook 5, "Nanae Momiyama, Post Stroke," 1997 1 Volume

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Series 9: Photographs, 1928-circa 2000

1 Linear foot (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Most of the individuals and venues in photographs are unidentified. Included are photographs of Nanae Momiyama in traditional kimono holding a brush used in calligraphy; many of the photos were used for publicity purposes.

Included are six photograph albums; three albums were received disbound. Interspersed among the pages of the volumes 1 and 2 are sketches by Nanae Momiyama and loose photographs. Photograph albums also contain personal snapshots and photographs of Momiyama's paintings.

Arrangement: Photographs are arranged by subject and arranged in chronological order thereafter.

The series is arranged as 5 subseries:

- 9.1: Photographs of Nanae Momiyama and Others, 1928-circa 2000
- 9.2: Exhibition Installations and Artwork, 1959-circa 1995
- 9.3: Miscellaneous Photographs, 1983
- 9.4: Slides of Artwork, 1975-1995
- 9.5: Photograph Albums, 1938-circa 1990s

Subseries 9.1:: Photographs of Nanae Momiyama and Others, 1928-circa 2000

Box 3, Folder 1-2 Nanae Momiyama, 1940s-circa 2000
2 Folders

Box 3, Folder 3-4 Nanae Momiyama with Family, Friends, and Colleagues, 1928-1990s
2 Folders

Box 3, Folder 5-6 Family, Friends, and Colleagues, circa 1940s-1980s
2 Folders

Subseries 9.2: Photographs of Exhibition Installations and Artwork, 1959-circa 1995

Box 3, Folder 7 [Exhibition Installations, undated, 1959-1993](#)

Box 3, Folder 8-11 Artwork, undated, 1972-circa 1995
4 Folders

Box 3, Folder 12 Transparencies, undated, 1968-1975

Subseries 9.3:: Miscellaneous Photographs, circa 1980s-1983

Box 3, Folder 13 Nanae Momiyama Residence, Rye Brook, New York, circa 1980s

Box 3, Folder 14 Unidentified Buildings, undated, 1983

Subseries 9.4:: Slides of Artwork, 1975-1995

Box 3, Folder 15	Slides of Artwork, 1975-1979
Box 3, Folder 16	Slides of Artwork, 1978-1995
Box 3, Folder 17	Slides of Artwork, 1981-1987, 1995

Subseries 9.5:: Photograph Albums, 1938-circa 1990s

Box 3, Folder 18	Vol. 1: Nanae Momiyama with Family and Friends, circa 1938-1940
Box 3, Folder 19	Vol. 2: Nanae Momiyama with Family and Friends, undated, 1938-1943
Box 3, Folder 20	Vol. 3: Nanae Momiyama with Family, Friends, and Colleagues, circa 1958-1970s 1 Volume (Disbound)
Box 3, Folder 21	Vol. 4: Nanae Momiyama with Family, circa 1970s-1980s 1 Volume (Disbound)
Box 3, Folder 22	Vol. 5: Nanae Momiyama with Colleagues and Students, circa 1980s-1990s
Box 3, Folder 23	Vol. 6: Artwork, circa 1979 1 Volume (Disbound)

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