



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the John Outterbridge Papers, 1953-1997, in the Archives of American Art

Rihoko Ueno

2016 October 7

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Collection Overview

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | John Outterbridge papers |
| Date: | 1953-1997 |
| Identifier: | AAA.outtjohn |
| Creator: | Outterbridge, John, 1933-2020 |
| Extent: | 4.8 Linear feet |
| Language: | Collection is in English. |
| Summary: | The papers of Los Angeles African American painter, sculptor, and arts administrator John Outterbridge measure 4.8 linear feet and date from 1953 to 1997. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, writings, professional and project files, Watts Towers Arts Center files, exhibition files, printed material, photographs, a scrapbook, and one motion picture film reel. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The John Outterbridge papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by John Outterbridge in 1997.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also has an oral history interview with John Outterbridge conducted by Allen Bassing in 1973.

A copy of the film *John Outterbridge: Black Artist* is available in the Samella Lewis papers, in the Rose Library at Emory University.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid created by Rihoko Ueno in 2016. A motion picture film reel was inspected and re-housed in 2016 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

John Outterbridge papers, 1953-1997. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

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Biographical / Historical

John Outterbridge is an African American painter, sculptor and arts administrator in Los Angeles, California.

John Wilfred Outterbridge was born in Greenville, North Carolina in 1933. He attended Agricultural and Technical University in Greensboro, North Carolina and studied engineering for one year before joining the U.S. Army in 1953. He served two years in Europe where he started painting street scenes in his spare time. His paintings were liked and his Captain found a studio space for him, where he painted murals and artwork in offices, clubs, and American schools.

Outterbridge decided that he needed a formal education in art and after his discharge from the Army in 1955, he relocated to Chicago and enrolled first in the Chicago Academy of Art, and later in the American Academy of Art. He became active in the Chicago art scene and opened a gallery with artists John Pinkney, Elliot Hunter, and Jose Williams. While attending school, he also worked for a graphic arts firm running errands and as a Chicago Transit Authority bus driver.

Outterbridge married his wife Beverly in 1960 and they moved to Los Angeles in 1963. He worked at a production studio for a while and got an offer from another studio to become its art director. After a few years, Outterbridge took two years off and began experimenting with with other medium, such as found objects and sculpture.

Outterbridge then took a job in the art installation department of the Pasadena Art Museum where he met artists such as Peter Alexander, Richard Serra, Robert Rauschenberg, and Andy Warhol while helping with their exhibits. In addition to working on installations, Outterbridge taught sculpture classes at the museum and at several colleges such as Pasadena City College, Claremont College, Cal State Dominguez Hills, and University of California at Irvine.

From 1969-1975, Outterbridge was the director of the Compton Communicative Arts Academy. From 1975-1993, Outterbridge was the director of the Watts Towers Arts Center, a focal point in Los Angeles for African American visual and theatrical arts and the sponsor of the Watts Towers Jazz Festival and Day of the Drum Festival. He retired in 1993 to dedicate more time to his art.

Outterbridge's art can be found at the California African American Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He has received awards throughout his career including fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation, Getty Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. He received an honorary doctorate from Otis College of Art and Design in 1994.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Los Angeles African American painter, sculptor, and arts administrator John Outterbridge measure 4.8 linear feet and date from 1953 to 1997. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, writings, professional and project files, Watts Towers Arts Center files, exhibition files, printed material, photographs, a scrapbook, and one motion picture film reel.

Biographical material includes life documents, awards, interview transcripts, a few sketches, teaching certificates, and a motion picture film reel entitled *John Outterbridge: Black Artist*.

The bulk of the correspondence consists of letters to John Outterbridge from family, artists, colleagues, museums, and universities. Notable correspondents include Maya Angelou, Johnny Otis, and Charles White.

Writings include teaching notes, an artist statement, nine typescript essays by Outterbridge, as well as papers written by students, and poems by various artists.

Professional and project files document Outterbridge's involvement in conferences, symposiums, membership records, and fellowships. There are grant and job applications, contracts, correspondence, project plans, and administrative records. There is documentation of the Metro Art for Rail Transit project and of his work as director of the Communicative Arts Academy. Outterbridge's directorship of the Watts Towers Arts Center (WTAC) are arranged in a separate series; files document administration, annual programs and events, and special projects.

Exhibition files are found for several exhibitions in which Outterbridge participated in the mid-1990s. Printed material includes clippings about John Outterbridge and the Watts Towers Arts Center, exhibition catalogs, announcements, books, and magazines.

There is one scrapbook that contains clippings, award certificates, and photographs of the Watts Towers Arts Center events. There are photographs of Johnny Otis, Nina Simone, and L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley.

Photographs are of John Outterbridge and his artwork, studio, family, friends, and events. Among those depicted in the photographs are Bob Marley and Gregory Hines.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 9 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1953-1997 (0.7 linear feet; Box 1, OV 6, FC 9)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1970-1997 (1.1 linear feet; Boxes 1-2, OV 7)
- Series 3: Writings, circa 1980-1996 (0.2 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 4: Professional and Project Files, circa 1970-1997 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 2-3, OV 8)
- Series 5: Watts Towers Arts Center, 1976-1997 (0.4 linear feet; Box 3)
- Series 6: Exhibition Files, 1992-1996 (0.2 linear feet; Box 3)
- Series 7: Printed Materials, 1968-1997 (1.1 linear feet; Boxes 3-4)
- Series 8: Scrapbook, 1968-1997 (0.5 linear feet; Box 5)
- Series 9: Photographs, 1953-1995 (0.2 linear feet; Box 4-5)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

African American artists
Artists' studios -- Photographs
Sculptors -- California -- Los Angeles
Towers -- California -- Los Angeles

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Motion pictures (visual works)
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sketches

Transcripts
Video recordings

Names:

Angelou, Maya
Bradley, Tom, 1917-
Hines, Gregory
Marley, Bob
Otis, Johnny, 1921-
Simone, Nina, 1933-2003
Watts Towers Art Center
White, Charles (1918-1979)

Occupations:

Arts administrators -- California -- Los Angeles
Painters -- California

Places:

Watts (Los Angeles, Calif.) -- Buildings, structures, etc

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1953-1997

0.7 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 6, FC 9)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes life documents, numerous award and honors, business cards, interview transcripts, retirement information, a few drawings, one motion picture film reel about John Outterbridge, and other miscellaneous materials.

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Box 1 | Award Certificates and Honors |
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Bennett College Award, 1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | City of Los Angeles Certificates of Appreciation, 1980-1995 Notes: Oversized certificates housed in OV 6. |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Malcolm X Freedom Awards Banquet, 1990 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Museum of African American Art Benefit, 1988 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Otis College Honorary Doctorate, 1994 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 6. |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | United Negro College Fund Award, 1986 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" Certificate of Recognition, 1994 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Watts Branch NAACP Certificate of Appreciation, 1992 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Watts Cultural Crescent Advisory Committee Certificates, 1991-1992 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Western Region NAACP 14th Annual ACT-SO Luncheon Honoree, 1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Miscellaneous Certificates of Appreciation, 1981-1993 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 6. |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Birth Certificate Photocopy, 1953 |
| Box 1, Folder 13-14 | Business Cards, circa 1970-1997 |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | Contract for Archives of American Art Oral History Program, 1994 |
| Box 1 | Interview Transcripts |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Group Interview of Dale Davis, Cecil Ferguson, and John Outterbridge, 1994 |

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| Box 1, Folder 17-22 | UCLA Oral History Program Interview of John Outterbridge, 1989 |
| Box 1, Folder 23 | John Outterbridge: Black Artist, circa 1985 Notes: Motion picture film stored separately in film can numbered FC 9. |
| Box 1, Folder 24 | Marriage and Divorce Certificates, 1960-1990 |
| Box 1, Folder 25 | Military Service Records, 1953-1961 |
| Box 1, Folder 26 | Memorial Service for Curtis E. Tann, 1992 |
| Box 1, Folder 27 | Miscellaneous Receipts, 1979-1992 |
| Box 1, Folder 28 | Original Drawings and Reproductions, 1978-1980 |
| Box 1, Folder 29 | Passport and Visa Applications, 1986-1994 |
| Box 1, Folder 30 | Retirement Letter and Commendation from LA County, 1992 |
| Box 1, Folder 31 | Shipping Receipts for Art Loans, 1993-1997 |
| Box 1, Folder 32 | Teaching Certificates, 1970-1991 |
| Oversize OV 6 | Oversized City of Los Angeles Certificates from Box 1, Folder 2, 1980-1995 |
| Oversize OV 6 | Oversized Otis College Degree from Box 1, Folder 5, 1994 |
| Oversize OV 6 | Oversized Miscellaneous Certificates from Box 1, Folder 11, 1981-1993 |
| Item FC 9 | Motion Picture Film Reel of John Outterbridge: Black Artist from Box 1, Folder 23, circa 1985 1 Film reel |

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1970-1997

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, OV 7)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is from family, artists, friends, colleagues, museums, galleries, and universities. The topics covered include exhibition arrangements, travel, teaching, and programs and activities related to arts administration. Notable correspondents include Maya Angelou, Johnny Otis, Jere Van Syoc, and Charles White. Many named folders only include one or two letters.

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|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 33 | Family and Personal Correspondence, 1970-1987 |
| Box 1, Folder 34 | Family and Personal Correspondence, 1990-1997 |
| Box 1, Folder 35 | 29 Art, 1997 |
| Box 1, Folder 36 | African Market Place and Cultural Faire, 1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 37 | Alkebu-Lan Cultural Center, 1992 |
| Box 1, Folder 38 | Angelou, Maya, 1994 |
| Box 1, Folder 39 | Arizona State University, 1988 |
| Box 1, Folder 40 | Armory Center for the Arts, 1994-1995 |
| Box 1, Folder 41 | The Arts Company, 1993-1994 |
| Box 1, Folder 42 | Barkin, Ben, 1984 |
| Box 1, Folder 43 | Barkin, Coleman, 1996 |
| Box 1, Folder 44 | Beverly Hills (City of), 1992-1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 45 | Bhalla, Hans, 1971 |
| Box 1, Folder 46 | Bowman, Judith, 1983 |
| Box 1, Folder 47 | Brockman Gallery, 1976 |
| Box 1, Folder 48 | Brookes, Mona, 1982 |
| Box 1, Folder 49 | Brown, David Beck, 1992-1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 50 | Brown, David G., 1993-1995 |
| Box 1, Folder 51 | Build Crenshaw Arts, 1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 52 | California Afro-American Museum, 1988-1996 |

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|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 53 | California Institute of the Arts, 1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 54 | California International Arts Foundation, 1993-1994 |
| Box 1, Folder 55 | California State University - Dominguez Hills, 1988 |
| Box 1, Folder 56 | California State University - Northridge, 1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 57 | Center for the Study of Political Graphics, 1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 58 | Chambers, Eddie, 1989 |
| Box 1, Folder 59 | Community Arts Resources, Inc., 1994 |
| Box 1, Folder 60 | Community Redevelopment Agency, 1991-1995 |
| Box 1, Folder 61 | Craft and Folk Art Museum, 1991-1995 |
| Box 1, Folder 62 | Crystal Stairs, Inc., 1994 |
| Box 1, Folder 63 | Dawson, Robert G., 1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 64 | El Camino College, 1995-1997 |
| Box 1, Folder 65 | Ehrlich, Susan, 1994-1996 |
| Box 1, Folder 66 | ES 96 Tijuana, 1995 |
| Box 1, Folder 67 | Exhibitionists Inc., 1984 |
| Box 1, Folder 68 | Fellows of Contemporary Art, 1991-1995 |
| Box 1, Folder 69 | Foundation for Cultural Arts and the Media, 1988 |
| Box 1, Folder 70 | Freeman, Verla J., 1992 |
| Box 1, Folder 71 | Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities, 1992-1996 |
| Box 1, Folder 72 | Goldman, Shifra, 1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 73 | Goldstone, N. J., 1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 74 | The Great Circus Parade, Inc., 1996 |
| Box 1, Folder 75 | Griffin, Alicia, 1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 76 | Hartman and Company, 1994 |

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| Box 1, Folder 77 | Hebrew Union College, 1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 78 | Herbert Ryman Living Masters Program, 1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 79 | Homowa Foundation for African Arts and Cultures, 1992 |
| Box 1, Folder 80 | Hopkins, Henry, 1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 81 | Jacques, Truman, 1984 |
| Box 1, Folder 82 | Karlstrom, Paul, circa 1996 Notes: Includes 2 photographs of John Outterbridge and Diane Hall |
| Box 1, Folder 83 | KCET "Life and Times" Program, 1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 84 | KLCS TV station, 1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 85 | KM Machine Fabricating, Inc., 1981 |
| Box 1, Folder 86 | KPAS Artbeats Show, 1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 87 | Lila Wallace Reader's Digest, 1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 88 | LeFalle-Collins, Lizzetta, 1993-1995 |
| Box 1, Folder 89 | Le Gendre, Conchita, 1995 |
| Box 1, Folder 90 | Letters of Appreciation from Children at 96th Street School, 1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 91 | Letters of Appreciation from Children at Hancock Park School, 1995 |
| Box 1, Folder 92 | Letters of Appreciation from Children of Unidentified School, 1996 |
| Box 1, Folder 93 | Letters of Appreciation from Children of Unidentified School, circa 1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 1 | Lew Allen Gallery, 1993 |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Lincoln Center for the Performance Arts, 1995-1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Lindsey, Kay, 1990-1991 |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Locke High School Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, 1997 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Los Angeles (City of), 1978-1997 |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | Los Angeles Artcore Center, 1995 |

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| Box 2, Folder 7 | Los Angeles City Council, circa 1978 Notes: Oversized "visual letter" to Los Angeles City Council protesting art funding cuts housed in OV 7. |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Los Angeles Consortium on African and African-American Art, 1995 |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1993-1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, circa 1990-1997 |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, 1991-1992 |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Los Angeles Times, 1992 |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Majority People's Fund for the 21st Century, 1992-1994 |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Marquette University, 1992-1993 |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | Marshall, Howard, Jr., 1992 |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | Matshidiso, Daniel, 1987 |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | McDonald, Cat, 1991 |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | Media Associates, 1979 |
| Box 2, Folder 19 | Memphis College of Art, 1994 |
| Box 2, Folder 20 | Merging One Gallery, 1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 21 | Museum of Contemporary Art, 1991-1997 |
| Box 2, Folder 22 | National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, 1991-1993 |
| Box 2, Folder 23 | National Civil Rights Museum, 1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 24 | National Endowment for the Arts, 1994-1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 25 | New Art Examiner, 1991 |
| Box 2, Folder 26 | Odie, 1997 |
| Box 2, Folder 27 | Ohland, Gloria, 1991 |
| Box 2, Folder 28 | Otis, Johnny, 1994 |
| Box 2, Folder 29 | Otis School of Art and Design, 1993-1997 |

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| Box 2, Folder 30 | Pasadena (City of), 1992 |
| Box 2, Folder 31 | Pasadena Robinson Memorial, 1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 32 | Pittsburgh Children's Museum, 1992 |
| Box 2, Folder 33 | Plaza Dela Raza Cultural Center for Arts Education, 1984 |
| Box 2, Folder 34 | Porter Troupe Gallery, circa 1995 |
| Box 2, Folder 35 | President's Committee on Arts and Humanities, 1984 |
| Box 2, Folder 36 | Project Row Houses, 1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 37 | Public Art: Realities, Theories, and Issues (PARTI), 1993 |
| Box 2, Folder 38 | Reaves, Sandi Rodia, 1992 |
| Box 2, Folder 39 | Ross, Kenneth, 1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 40 | San Antonio Art Institute, 1990 |
| Box 2, Folder 41 | Santa Monica Museum of Art, 1992-1995 |
| Box 2, Folder 42 | Side Street Projects, 1993-1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 43 | Skirball Museum, 1995-1997 |
| Box 2, Folder 44 | Social and Public Art Resource Center, 1991-1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 45 | Southern California Women's Caucus for Art, 1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 46 | Spirit Square Center for Arts Education, 1996-1997 |
| Box 2, Folder 47 | Star News, 1986 |
| Box 2, Folder 48 | St. James Press, 1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 49 | Studio Museum in Harlem, 1995 |
| Box 2, Folder 50 | Taft College, 1993-1994 |
| Box 2, Folder 51 | Teasley, Lisa, 1992-1995 |
| Box 2, Folder 52 | United Negro College Fund, 1991 |
| Box 2, Folder 53 | University of California Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Art Gallery, 1988 |

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| Box 2, Folder 54 | University of California Los Angeles Oral History, 1990-1994 |
| Box 2, Folder 55 | University of Southern California Fisher Gallery, 1986 |
| Box 2, Folder 56 | University of Southern California School of Fine Arts, 1994 |
| Box 2, Folder 57 | Urban Innovations Group, 1993 |
| Box 2, Folder 58 | Van Syoc, Jere, 1986 |
| Box 2, Folder 59 | Venue Marketing, 1988 |
| Box 2, Folder 60 | Vernacular Magazine, 1992-1993 |
| Box 2, Folder 61 | Volunteer Center for Los Angeles, 1991 |
| Box 2, Folder 62 | Waddy, Ruth G., 1980 |
| Box 2, Folder 63 | Walker, Dana E., 1990 |
| Box 2, Folder 64 | Waste Management of North America, 1992 |
| Box 2, Folder 65 | Watts-Century Latino Organization, 1993-1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 66 | Watts Health Foundation, Inc., 1991 |
| Box 2, Folder 67 | Watts Labor Community Action Committee, 1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 68 | Western Carolina University Art Department, 1993-1995 |
| Box 2, Folder 69 | White, Charles, circa 1970 |
| Box 2, Folder 70 | Zorthian, Jirayr, circa 1983 |
| Box 2, Folder 71 | Chronological Letters, 1971-1979 |
| Box 2, Folder 72-76 | Chronological Letters, 1990-1997 |
| Box 2, Folder 77 | Miscellaneous Undated Letters, circa 1980-circa 1996 |
| Oversize OV 7 | Oversized Los Angeles City Council letter from Box 2, Folder 7, circa 1978 |

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Series 3: Writings, circa 1980-1996

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: There are teaching notes and an artist statement by John Outterbridge, as well as typescript drafts of articles. There are also a few student papers and poems written by others.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 78 | John Outterbridge's African-American Art History Notes, circa 1980 |
| Box 2, Folder 79 | John Outterbridge's Artist Statement, circa 1990 |
| Box 2 | Essays and Articles |
| Box 2, Folder 80 | "Artist as Alien: The End of Censorship in the Visual Arts in Los Angeles, 1951-1966" by Richard Candida Smith, 1990 |
| Box 2, Folder 81 | "Catfish and Coltrane: A Conversation on Making a Homesite" by Peter Tolkin and Mabel Wilson, circa 1995 |
| Box 2, Folder 82 | "Double Voiced Assemblage: The Art and Architecture of John Outterbridge" by Mabel O. Wilson, 1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 83 | "From the Rose Parade's Queen to Marilyn Monroe's Curves" by Nora Halpern Brouger, circa 1990 |
| Box 2, Folder 84 | "John Outterbridge: Poetic Gestures" by Lizzetta LeFalle-Collins, 1993 |
| Box 2, Folder 85 | "John Outterbridge: A Retrospective Keeper of Traditions" by anonymous, circa 1993 |
| Box 2, Folder 86 | "Lamentations: Visual Analysis for an Ethical Approach to Contemporary Issues" by Noreen Dean Dresser, 1994 |
| Box 2, Folder 87 | "The Poetics of Politics, Iconography and Spirituality" by Lizzetta LeFalle-Collins, 1994 |
| Box 2, Folder 88 | "The Sankota Diary of a Cultural Worker" by Greg Angaza Pitts, circa 1993 |
| Box 2 | Student Papers |
| Box 2, Folder 89 | "The City of Watts: 1907-1926" by MaryEllen James Ray, 1985 |
| Box 2, Folder 90 | "John Outterbridge" by Lori Hitselberger, 1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 91 | "John W. Outterbridge" by Brian McDougal, 1995 |

Box 2, Folder 92

Poems by Various Writers, 1991-1996

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Series 4: Professional and Project Files, circa 1970-1997

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, OV 8)

Scope and Contents: Professional and project files document conferences, symposiums, programs, memberships in organizations, grant and job applications, and fellowships. There is also documentation of the Metro Art for Rail Transit project and Outterbridge's directorship of the Communicative Arts Academy.

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| Box 2, Folder 93 | "Aesthetics of Community-Based Art Making" Symposium, 1993-1995 |
| Box 2, Folder 94 | Art in Embassies Program, 1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 95 | Bodacious Buggerrilla Expansion Arts Program Application, circa 1980 |
| Box 2, Folder 96 | Book Proposal for John Outterbridge Monograph, circa 1993 |
| Box 2, Folder 97 | California Arts Council Photocopy of Expenses, 1980 |
| Box 2, Folder 98 | California Community Foundation Getty Fellowships, 1993-1994 |
| Box 2, Folder 99 | CHCG Building Sculpture Contract, 1991-1992 |
| Box 2, Folder 100 | Communicative Arts Academy By-Laws, circa 1972-1975 |
| Box 2, Folder 101 | Communicative Arts Academy Press Release, circa 1975 |
| Box 2, Folder 102 | Communicative Arts Academy Prospectus, circa 1970 |
| Box 2, Folder 103 | CSADP Conference, 1997 |
| Box 2, Folder 104 | Dashin Galleries Project Proposal, 1992 |
| Box 2, Folder 105 | Job Applications and Appointments, 1992-1997 |
| Box 2, Folder 106 | Los Angeles County Museum of Art "Hold It!" Auction, 1996 |
| Box 2 | Metro Art for Rail Transit Project |
| Box 2, Folder 107 | Correspondence, 1991-1995 |
| Box 2, Folder 108 | Contracts and Invoices, 1991-1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 109 | Avalon Transit Station Plan and Blueprints, 1991-1992 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 8. |
| Box 2, Folder 110 | Avalon Station Pyramid Sculpture Redesign and Photographs, 1992-1993 |
| Box 2, Folder 104 | Road Cloud Art Company Loan Agreement, 1994 |

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| Box 2, Folder 111 | Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) Art Program Contract, 1980 |
| Box 2, Folder 112 | New Zealand Maori Artists and Writers Festival-Conference, 1985-1986 |
| Box 2, Folder 113 | Road Cloud Art Company Loan Agreement, 1994 |
| Box 3, Folder 1 | University of Kentucky Lecture Program, 1993 |
| Box 3, Folder 2 | Urban Visual Artists Symposium, circa 1975 |
| Box 3, Folder 3 | Washington Irving Branch Library Adaptive Reuse Plans, 1991 |
| Box OV 8 | Oversized Avalon Station Plans from Box 2, Folder 109, 1991-1992 |

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Series 5: Watts Towers Arts Center Files, 1976-1997

0.4 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: The Watts Towers Arts Center (WTAC) files consist of materials from John Outterbridge's time as a director. There are files on arts programs and events run by the WTAC, by-laws, budgets, fundraising, reports, correspondence, program proposals, printed materials, and information on the jazz, art, and drum festivals. There are also files on various organizations that worked in tandem with WTAC in order to provide services and art programming to the Watts area of Los Angeles.

| Box 3 | Watts Towers Arts Center |
|---------------------|---|
| Box 3, Folder 4 | 10th Annual Watts Towers Music Festival, circa 1986 |
| Box 3, Folder 5 | Advisory Board, 1976 |
| Box 3, Folder 6 | Arts and Heritage Program, circa 1977 |
| Box 3, Folder 7 | Arts, Jazz and Music Festivals, 1987-1994 |
| Box 3, Folder 8 | Augmented Budget Expenditure Plan, 1992-1993 |
| Box 3, Folder 9 | By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, circa 1976 |
| Box 3, Folder 10 | California Arts Council Grant Application, 1980 |
| Box 3, Folder 11 | Day of the Drum Festival, 1984-1987 |
| Box 3, Folder 12 | Day of the Drum Festival, 1992 |
| Box 3, Folder 13 | Financial Records, 1990 |
| Box 3, Folder 14 | "Fundraising Planning Study: Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts", 1984 |
| Box 3, Folder 15 | Jazz Project with CalArts, 1990-1992 |
| Box 3, Folder 16 | Musicians for Festivals - Obo Addy, circa 1992 |
| Box 3, Folder 17 | Musicians for Festivals - Odadaa, 1992 |
| Box 3, Folder 18-19 | Printed Material, 1976-1997 |
| Box 3, Folder 20 | Proposal to Rename Gallery After John Outterbridge, 1996 |
| Box 3, Folder 21 | Watts Artists Tutor Team System Proposal, 1977 |
| Box 3, Folder 22 | Miscellaneous, 1991-1992 |

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| Box 3, Folder 23 | "Build Watts Towers: History of Watts Towers" Festival Event, 1996 |
| Box 3, Folder 24 | Watts Cinema and Education Center, 1997 |
| Box 3, Folder 25 | Watts Redevelopment Project Biennial Report, 1991 |
| Box 3, Folder 26 | Watts Towers Exploratorium Proposal for Showcase L.A., 1992 |
| Box 3, Folder 27 | Watts Towers Community Action Council, 1991-1992 |
| Box 3, Folder 28 | Watts Towers Community and Conservation Trust, Inc., 1984-1985 |
| Box 3, Folder 29 | Watts Towers Cultural Crescent Master Plan, 1992-1994 |

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Series 6: Exhibition Files, 1992-1996

0.2 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Exhibition files consists of correspondence, exhibition lists, receipts, travel itineraries, catalogs, and reports mostly related to several biennial exhibitions Outterbridge participated in, such as the *Sao Paulo Biennial* and the *Africus Johannesburg Biennial*. There are a few exhibition proposals and miscellaneous materials.

Box 3, Folder 30 Exhibition Proposal for Show about Presidential Candidates, 1992

Box 3 22nd Sao Paulo Biennial (1994)

Box 3, Folder 31 Travel Records and Itinerary, 1994

Box 3, Folder 32 Expenses and Receipts, 1994

Box 3, Folder 33 Art of Betye Saar and John Outterbridge (1994), 1994

Box 3, Folder 34-35 inSITE94 (1994), 1993-1995

Box 3, Folder 36 Africus Johannesburg Biennale (1995), 1994-1995

Box 3, Folder 38 African Influences - Contemporary Art (1996), 1996

Box 3, Folder 39 Assorted Exhibition Labels, 1993-1995

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Series 7: Printed Material, 1968-1997

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes clippings about John Outterbridge and Watts Towers, exhibition catalogs, announcements, books, and magazines.

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| Box 3, Folder 40-44 | Clippings about John Outterbridge, 1970-1997 |
| Box 3, Folder 45 | Clippings about Watts Towers, 1980-1985 |
| Box 4, Folder 1 | Clippings about Watts Towers, 1980-1985 |
| Box 4, Folder 2 | Clippings about Other Gods: Containers of Belief Exhibition, 1987 |
| Box 4 | Exhibition Catalogs |
| Box 4, Folder 3 | Sixth Annual Southern California Art Exhibition (1968), 1968 |
| Box 4, Folder 4 | 5: Benny, Bernie, Betye, Noah and John (1971), 1971 |
| Box 4, Folder 5 | An Exhibition of Street Art by Black Americans (1973), 1973 |
| Box 4, Folder 6 | The Black Image (1974), 1974 |
| Box 4, Folder 7 | A Tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. (1976), 1976 |
| Box 4, Folder 8 | Afro-American Artists: North Carolina, USA (1980), 1980 |
| Box 4, Folder 9 | East/West: Contemporary American Art (1984-1985), 1984-1985 |
| Box 4, Folder 10 | Artists Select: Contemporary Perspectives by Afro-American Artists (1986), 1986 |
| Box 4, Folder 11 | Artists of the Black Community/USA (1988), 1988 |
| Box 4, Folder 12 | Assemblage: Poetry and Narration (1988), 1988 |
| Box 4, Folder 13 | 19 Sixties: A Cultural Awakening Reevaluated, 1965-1975 (1989), 1989 |
| Box 4, Folder 14 | Pasadena Armory Show (1989-1990), 1989-1990 |
| Box 4, Folder 15 | Artists' Artists (1990), 1990 |
| Box 4, Folder 16 | Carrie Mae Weems: And 22 Million (1992), 1992 |
| Box 4, Folder 17 | John Outterbridge: Sculptor of Oppositions (1992), 1992 |

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| Box 4, Folder 18 | John Outterbridge: A Retrospective (1993-1994), 1993-1994 |
| Box 4, Folder 19 | LAX/94 (1994), 1994 |
| Box 4, Folder 20 | Quinta Bienal de la Habana (1994), 1994 |
| Box 4, Folder 21 | Altars (1995), 1995 |
| Box 4, Folder 22 | Ethnic Instrument Collection of Dr. Joseph and Bootsie Howard (1995), 1995 |
| Box 4, Folder 23 | Open House (1996), 1996 |
| Box 4, Folder 24 | Spirit Landscape: Urban and Rural Forms (1996), 1996 |
| Box 4, Folder 25 | Photocopies of Exhibition Catalogs, 1974-1986 |
| Box 4 | Books |
| Box 4, Folder 26 | Black Artists on Art, 1969 |
| Box 4, Folder 27 | Black Dimensions in Contemporary American Art, 1971 |
| Box 4, Folder 28 | City of Watts, 1907-1926, 1985 |
| Box 4, Folder 29 | Colors and Chords: The Art of Johnny Otis, 1995 |
| Box 4, Folder 30 | Life is a Patchwork Quilt, 1979 |
| Box 4, Folder 31 | Mid-Cities Telephone Directory, 1980 Notes: Cover has an image of a mural featuring a portrait of John Outterbridge |
| Box 4, Folder 32 | The Watts Towers of Los Angeles, 1989 |
| Box 4 | Magazines |
| Box 4, Folder 33 | Art in America, 1995 |
| Box 4, Folder 34 | Art Issues, 1993 |
| Box 4, Folder 35 | Visions, 1995 |
| Box 4, Folder 36 | Compton Herald American Newsletter Cover, 1972 |

Box 4, Folder 37

Exhibition Announcements, 1969-1992

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Series 8: Scrapbook, 1968-1997

0.5 Linear feet (Box 5)

Scope and Contents: There is one disbound scrapbook that contains clippings, award certificates, and photographs pasted on boards. The photographs depict events at Watts Towers Arts Center and many have detailed annotations identifying individuals in photographs. The photos include images of Johnny Otis, Nina Simone, and L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley.

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| Box 4, Folder 38 | Scrapbook (Disbound), 1968-1997 Notes: Oversized scrapbook housed in Box 5. |
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| Box 5 | Oversized Scrapbook (Disbound) from Box 4, Folder 38, 1968-1997 |
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Series 9: Photographs, 1953-1995

0.2 Linear feet (Boxes 4-5)

Scope and Contents: Photographs are of John Outterbridge and his artwork, studio, family, friends, gatherings and events, such as workshops and the annual Jazz Festival at Watts Towers Arts Center. Among those depicted in the photographs are Bob Marley and Gregory Hines.

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| Box 4, Folder 39 | John Outterbridge in Germany During Military Service, 1953 |
| Box 4, Folder 40 | John Outterbridge Portraits, circa 1985 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 5. |
| Box 4, Folder 41 | John Outterbridge Photographs By Thomas Meyer, 1983-1985 Notes: Photographs mounted on board and used as postcards with messages written on verso. |
| Box 4, Folder 42 | John Outterbridge and Bob Marley at Watts Towers Arts Center, 1981 |
| Box 4, Folder 43 | John Outterbridge and Gregory Hines at Watts Towers Jazz Festival, 1984 |
| Box 4, Folder 44 | John Outterbridge Teaching at Workshops, 1973-1994 |
| Box 4, Folder 45 | Outterbridge Family, 1953 |
| Box 4, Folder 46 | Artwork, circa 1995 |
| Box 4, Folder 47 | Studio, 1993-1994 |
| Box 4, Folder 48 | Otis College Honorary Doctorate Ceremony, 1992 |
| Box 4, Folder 49 | Retirement Celebration, 1992 |
| Box 4, Folder 50 | Assorted Events and Gatherings, 1958-1995 |
| Box 5 | Oversized Portrait of John Outterbridge from Box 4, Folder 40, circa 1985 |

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