



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Adrian Piper papers

Archives of American Art
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Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Adrian Piper papers
Date:	1966-1990
Identifier:	AAA.pipeadri
Creator:	Piper, Adrian, 1948-
Extent:	10 Linear feet
Language:	Some letters are in German.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1990 by Adrian Piper.

Restrictions

ACCESS RESTRICTED; written permission required. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center.

Biographical / Historical

Adrian Piper (1948-) is a conceptual artist and philosopher. She taught philosophy at numerous institutions and was the first female African American philosophy professor to receive academic tenure in the United States. Piper moved to Berlin, Germany in 2005 where she now runs the Adrian Piper Research Archive (APRA). In 2012, Piper "publicly retired from being Black."

Scope and Contents

Papers related to Piper's dual careers as conceptual artist and philosophy instructor. Personal letters and financial material are also included.

Scope and Contents

The Adrian Piper papers contain material related to Piper's art career including correspondence (1968-1988) with editors, curators, critics and others regarding museum and gallery exhibitions; lectures and panel discussions; and publications by and about Piper, mainly concerned with race and gender in art. Correspondents include Lawrence Alloway, Nancy Buchanan, Nina Felshin, Hans Haacke, Donald Kuspit,

Sol Lewitt, Lucy Lippard, Rosemary Mayer, William Olander (The New York Museum), Philip Redican, Sam Samore, Terry Wolferton, and others. Subject files on the American Association of Museums, the National Endowment for the Arts panels and the New York State Council on the arts, and printed material including exhibition announcements and clippings are also included. Philosophy career related papers include correspondence (1974-1987) kept while teaching at the University of Michigan, Stanford University, and Georgetown University; and graduate school class notes, many with sketches. Personal papers include letters (1965-1990) from friends and family; and financial material such as tax returns and household expenses.

Arrangement

I. Materials regarding Piper's art career, 1968-1988, boxes 1 to 3. II. materials regarding Pipers philosophy career, 1979-1987, boxes 4 to 7. III. personal papers, 1965-1990, boxes 8 to 10.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- African American artists
- African American educators
- Art and race
- Women artists

Names:

- Alloway, Lawrence, 1926-1990
- Buchanan, Nancy, 1946-
- LeWitt, Sol, 1928-2007
- Lippard, Lucy R.
- Mayer, Rosemary

Occupations:

- Conceptual artists
- Educators
- Philosophers