



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Charles Ramsburg papers, 1959-2023, in the Archives of American Art

Hilary Price

2018/06/05

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Charles Ramsburg papers
Date:	1959-2020
Identifier:	AAA.ramschar
Creator:	Ramsburg, Charles
Extent:	1.2 Linear feet 6.04 Gigabytes
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of artist Charles Ramsburg (1942-) measure 1.2 linear feet and 6.04 GB, and date from 1959-2023. The collection documents Ramsburg's career and art practice through biographical material, correspondence, exhibition files, printed material, and photographic material. Some email correspondence, three video recordings and the bulk of the photographs are in digital form. There is a 0.4 linear foot unprocessed addition to this collection donated in 2023 that includes a sketchbook, sketches and notes, biographical information, self-published books, personal and professional correspondence, lists of works of art and collectors, artist statements, printed material and a photograph of Ramsburg. Materials date from circa 1969-2023.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Archives of American Art by Charles Ramsburg from 2017 through 2023.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Hilary Price in 2018. 2019 additions were processed in 2020 by Ryan Evans. 2020 born-digital additions were processed by Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner in 2021 with funding provided by Smithsonian Collection Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

Charles Ramsburg papers, 1959-2020. 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 born-digital records in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Charles Ramsburg (1942-) is an artist in New York City who creates sculptures and drawings related to the minutiae of nature. Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Ramsburg studied at the San Francisco Art Institute, University of Arizona, and University of California at Santa Barbara. He moved to New Mexico in 1970, and after several decades returned to the east coast. Ramsburg's work has been featured in exhibitions internationally, and he has been represented by Carter Burden Gallery in New York and Horwitch LewAllen Gallery in New Mexico.

Scope and Contents

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged as six series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1959-circa 1993 (Box 1, 1 folder; ER06, ER09, 0.162 GB)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, 1961-2019 (Box 1, 2 folders; ER07-ER08, 0.054 GB)
 - Series 3: Exhibition Files, 1989-2005 (Box 1, 0.3 linear feet; ER01, 3.86 GB)
 - Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1980-2018 (Box 2; 0.2 linear feet)
 - Series 5: Photographic Material, 1990-2017 (Box 2, 0.2 linear feet; ER02-ER05, 1.94 GB)
 - Series 6: Unprocessed Addition, circa 1969-2023 (Box 3, 0.4 linear feet)
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Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Video recordings

Occupations:

Artists -- New York (State) -- New York
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1959-2020

1 Folder (Box 1)

0.162 Gigabytes (ER06, ER09)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes a "talent test" completed by Ramsburg, an artist's statement, and photocopy of a cartoon. Also included is a promotional digital video recording for Carter Burden Network featuring Ramsburg at the Carter Burden Gallery and a profile video, part of an artist portrait series for Carter Burden Gallery by Anahita Amirshahi.

Box 1, Folder 1 Biographical Material, 1959-circa 1993

Folder ER06 Carter Burden Network (Carter Burden Gallery) 2017 Promotional Video, Digital Video Recording, 2017
.050 Gigabytes (One computer file)

Folder ER09 A Portrait of Charles Ramsburg, film by Anahita Amirshahi (2020), Digital Video Recording, 2020
0.112 Gigabytes (One computer file)

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1961-2020

2 Folders (Box 1)

0.054 Gigabytes (ER07-ER08)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence includes letters and printed emails to and from friends, art dealers, and collectors. Also includes some email correspondence in digital form.

Box 1, Folder 2 Correspondence, 1961-2007

Box 1, Folder 3 Correspondence, 2013-2017

Folder ER07 Email Correspondence, Digital Documents, 2018-2019
.012 Gigabytes (93 computer files)

Folder ER08 Email Correspondence, Digital Documents and Photographs, 2020
0.042 Gigabytes (88 computer files)

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Series 3: Exhibition Files, 1989-2005

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

3.86 Gigabytes (ER01)

Scope and Contents: Exhibition files contain price lists, consignment agreements, correspondence, sales records, resumes, announcements, clippings, and one digital video recording documenting the exhibition at Chaos Gallery in Serbia. Dialogue in the video recording is in Serbian.

Box 1, Folder 5	Allene Lapidés Gallery, 1989-1990
Box 1, Folder 6	Horwitch LewAllen Gallery, 1993-1996
Box 1, Folder 7	Budapesti Töréneti Múzeum, 1995-1996
Box 1, Folder 8	Chaos Gallery, 2001-2005 Notes: Includes born-digital file, see ER01
Folder ER01	Chaos Gallery, Digital Video Recording, 2005 3.86 Gigabytes (1 computer file)

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Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1980-2018

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes exhibition announcements and catalogs, clippings of reviews of Ramsburg's work, and four self-published books of artwork.

Box 2, Folder 1	Announcements, circa 1980-2018
Box 2, Folder 2	Catalogs, circa 1980-2015
Box 2, Folder 3	Clippings, circa 1985-2005
Box 2, Folder 4	Self-published Books, 2010-2013

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Series 5: Photographic Material, 1990-2017

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

1.94 Gigabytes (ER02-ER05)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material consists of prints, slides, transparencies and digital images of Ramsburg's artwork, including his Icons of Nature and Pathing Sticks series.

Box 2, Folder 5 Prints, Slides, and Transparencies of Artwork, 1990s

Folder ER02 "Shield Series, Lit. Icons, Mixed Media Sculpture, Metal Sculpture," Digital Photographs, 2006
0.528 Gigabytes (276 computer files)

Folder ER03 Icons of Nature, Walking Stick, and Pathing Stick Series, Digital Photographs, 2006-2013
0.891 Gigabytes (741 computer files)

Folder ER04 "Drawings, ICE," Digital Photographs, 2010
0.5 Gigabytes (10 computer files)

Folder ER05 Shadow Drawings, Digital Photographs, 2015-2017
0.03 Gigabytes (21 computer files)

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Series 6: Unprocessed Addition, circa 1969-2023

0.4 Linear feet

Box 3

Unprocessed Papers

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