



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Robert Reed Papers, 1944- circa 2014, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Robert Reed papers
Date:	1944-circa 2014
Identifier:	AAA.reedrobe
Creator:	Reed, Robert, 1938-2014
Extent:	2.1 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of artist and educator Robert Reed measure 2.1 linear feet and date from 1944 to circa 2014. The collection includes correspondence with artists Robert Birmelin, Philip Guston, Howardena Pindell, and others; professional files documenting Reed's business with galleries, exhibitions, guest books for <i>The Tree for Mine Series</i> in Reed's hometown, Charlottesville, Va., and material relating to Joseph Albers; and printed materials containing catalogs and announcements for Reed's exhibitions dating from the 1960s to the 2010s, a few exhibition posters, and art reproductions.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Robert Reed papers were donated in 2022 by Susan Whetstone, Robert Reed's widow, and by Dr. Lisabeth Jordan and Mark A. Reed, Robert Reed's children.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Robert Reed papers, 1944-circa 2014. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Test plates made by Reed at the request of Josef Albers for Albers' book *Interaction of Color* are ACCESS RESTRICTED; written permission is required. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

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Biographical / Historical

Robert Reed (1938-2014) was a painter and educator in New Haven, Connecticut, who was influential in the history of abstraction and African American art in the 20th century. He received a B.S. from Morgan State University in 1958, a B.F.A. Yale University School of Art 1960, and a M.F.A. from Yale in 1962. He studied with Jon Schueler and Joseph Albers, and was influenced by his colleague at Skidmore College, Philip Guston. Reed became a member of Yale's faculty in 1969 and taught at the university for almost 50 years. During his tenure as director of the Yale Summer School of Music and Art from 1970 to 1974, he formed the Institute for Studio Studies in Auvillar, France as part of the summer school program. Reed was the recipient of the Distinguished Teaching of Art Award from the College Art Association in 2004, a Yaddo fellowship, and was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Scope and Contents

The papers of artist and educator Robert Reed measure 2.1 linear feet and date from 1944 to circa 2014. The collection includes correspondence with artists Robert Birmelin, Philip Guston, Howardena Pindell, and others; professional files documenting Reed's business with galleries, exhibitions, guest books for *The Tree for Mine Series* in Reed's hometown, Charlottesville, Va., and material relating to Joseph Albers; and printed materials containing catalogs and announcements for Reed's exhibitions dating from the 1960s to the 2010s, a few exhibition posters, and art reproductions.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 3 series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1944-2014 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Professional Files, circa 1963-2014 (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 1-2, 4, OV's 5-6)
 - Series 3: Printed Materials, circa 1965-circa 2014 (1.5 linear feet; Boxes 2-4)
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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:

African American artists

Names:

Albers, Josef
Guston, Philip, 1913-1980
Pindell, Howardena, 1943-

Occupations:

Educators -- Connecticut -- New Haven

Painters -- Connecticut -- New Haven

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1944-2014

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The correspondence series contains letters with colleagues at Yale, past and current students, and artists including Robert Birmelin, Bernard Chaet, Barbara Grossman, Philip Guston, Howardena Pindell, and Jon Schueler. Many of the letters to Reed provide personal updates and details regarding the correspondents' professional activities.

Box 1, Folder 1	A-B, 1975-2013
Box 1, Folder 2	Birmelin, Robert, 1996-2009
Box 1, Folder 3	C, 1992-circa 2000
Box 1, Folder 4	Chaet, Bernard, 1944-2003
Box 1, Folder 5	D, 1971-2002
Box 1, Folder 6	E-F, 1990-2014
Box 1, Folder 7	First Names Only, 1974-2013
Box 1, Folder 8	G, 1974-2014
Box 1, Folder 9	Grossman, Barbara, 1971-1973
Box 1, Folder 10	Guston, Philip, 1971-1973
Box 1, Folder 11	H, 1972-2007
Box 1, Folder 12	J-K, 1972-2013
Box 1, Folder 13	L-O, 1974-2012
Box 1, Folder 14	McKeown, Anne, 1989-2004
Box 1, Folder 15-16	Merck, Josie, 1991-2013
Box 1, Folder 17	P, 1986-2012
Box 1, Folder 18	Pindell, Howardena, 1997-2000
Box 1, Folder 19	Remick, Cuyler, 2014

Box 1, Folder 20	Rosenblum, Walter and Naomi, 1971-2004
Box 1, Folder 21	S, 1972-1998
Box 1, Folder 22	Scarvalone, Mary, 1990-1993
Box 1, Folder 23	Schueler, Jon, 1961-1982
Box 1, Folder 24	T, 1990-2012
Box 1, Folder 25	W-Z, 1969-2012

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Series 2: Professional Files, circa 1963-2014

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, 4, OVs 5-6)

Scope and Contents: The series documents Reed's professional activities through exhibition, gallery, and project files. Exhibitions included are *Epoch: The Legacy and Influence of Six Morgan Alumni* (2008) and *Galactic Journal: Recent Paintings and Collages by Robert Reed* (2001). The gallery files contain a mixture of loan forms, sales invoices, and correspondence regarding business dealings with the galleries. Two guest books for Reed's *The Tree for Mine Series*, curriculum vitae including versions on electronic disk, a transcript of Reed discussing Albers with Fred Horowitz, and color test plates created by Reed at the request of Albers for the book *Interaction of color* (1963).

Restrictions: Test plates made by Reed at the request of Josef Albers for Albers' book *Interaction of Color* are access restricted; written permission is required. For more information, please contact Reference Services. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

Box 1, Folder 26	Art in Embassies Program, 1999
Box 1, Folder 27	Biennial of Drawing, Art Gallery Le Puget, 1999-2000
Box 1, Folder 28-30	Curriculum Vitae, circa 1976-2010 Notes: Includes 2 electronic discs (CD).
Box 1, Folder 31	David Findlay Jr. Gallery, 2007-2013
Box 1, Folder 32	Epoch: The Legacy and Influence of Six Morgan Alumni (2008), Morgan State University, 2008
Box 1, Folder 33	Formalist Sidewalk Poetry Club (Miami), 2011
Box 1, Folder 34	Galactic Journal: Recent Paintings and Collages by Robert Reed (2001), 2001
Box 1, Folder 35	Galactic Journal: Recent Paintings and Collages by Robert Reed (2013), 2013-2014 Notes: Includes 1 flash drive.
Box 4, Folder 1	Guest Book for The Tree for Mine Series, Charlottesville, V.A., 1988
Box 4, Folder 2	Guest Book for The Tree for Mine Series, Charlottesville, V.A., 1988
Oversize 6	Joseph Albers, Interaction of Color Test Plates, circa 1963 Notes: Test plates made by Reed at the request of Josef Albers for Albers' book <i>Interaction of Color</i> are ACCESS RESTRICTED; written permission is required. For more information, please contact Reference Services. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.
Box 4, Folder 3	Joseph Albers, Photographs of Albers, circa 1970

Box 1, Folder 36	Joseph Albers, Transcript of Reed Discussing Albers with Fred Horowitz, 2003
Box 1, Folder 37	Lantern Gallery, Catalog Mock Up, 1975
Box 1, Folder 38	McIntosh Gallery, 1994-1997
Box 1, Folder 39	Miscellaneous, 1972-1998
Box 1, Folder 40	Mona Berman Gallery, 1983-1984
Box 1, Folder 41	National Academy Museum, 2011-2012
Box 1, Folder 42	Robert Reed: The Tree for Mine Series (1988), 1987-1988
Box 1, Folder 43	Simonne Stern Gallery, 1988-1990
Box 1, Folder 44	Webb and Parsons Gallery, 1975
Box 1, Folder 45	Washburn Gallery, 1977
Box 2, Folder 1	Whitney Museum, 1972
Oversize 5	Whitney Museum, Poster Mock Up, circa 1972

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Series 3: Printed Materials, circa 1965-circa 2014

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4)

Scope and Contents: The series includes a few art reproductions of Reed's paintings, announcements and catalogs for Reed's exhibitions and other artists, exhibition posters, and a few miscellaneous items.

Box 2, Folder 2	Art Reproductions, circa 1980s
Box 2, Folder 3	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Reed, 1960s, undated
Box 2, Folder 4	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Reed, 1970s
Box 2, Folder 5-6	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Reed, 1980s
Box 2, Folder 7	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Reed, 1990s
Box 2, Folder 8	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Reed, 2000s
Box 3, Folder 1	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Reed, 2010s
Box 4, Folder 4	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Reed, 2010s
Box 3, Folder 2	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Others, 1980s-2010s
Box 3, Folder 3	Exhibition Posters, Reed, circa 1980s
Box 3, Folder 4	Miscellaneous, 1970s-2000s

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