



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Judith Schwartz Papers, 1977-2021, bulk 1992-2007, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Judith Schwartz papers
Date:	1977-2021 (bulk 1992-2007)
Identifier:	AAA.schwjudi
Creator:	Schwartz, Judith S.
Extent:	3.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of educator Judith Schwartz measure 3.4 linear feet and date from 1977 to 2021, with the bulk of the material dating from 1992 to 2007. The bulk of the collection relates to Schwartz's book, <i>Confrontational Ceramics</i> , and files for the related exhibition <i>Confrontational Clay: The Artist as Social Critic</i> (2000-2002). Also found are professional files that document Schwartz's work on boards and committees, an Oribe workshop, and a Howard Kottler book project, and an exhibition file for <i>Forms and TransFormations: Current Expressions in Ceramics, from Art to Industry</i> (1997).

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Judith Schwartz papers were donated in 2022 by Judith Schwartz.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art are the Howard Kottler papers, 1907-2006.

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Judith Schwartz papers, 1977-2021. 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 or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Judith Schwartz is an art historian and an educator at New York University where she has been professor emeritus since 2017 specializing in sculpture and craft media.

Schwartz studied ceramics at Ohio State University from 1960 to 1962. She went on to receive a B. A. in studio art from Queens College in 1964 and an M. A. from New York University in 1969. While working towards her doctorate, received in 1983, Schwartz completed her dissertation titled, "Contemporary American Ceramic Sculpture: Satire in Selected Works of Robert Arneson, David Gilhooly and Howard Kottler." Over the course of her career, Schwartz has devoted much of her research to craft artists that inject social commentary into their work. As a result, she developed the exhibition *Confrontational Clay* (2000-2002), along with the book *Confrontational Ceramics* published in 2008, showcasing works by these artists.

Before beginning her career at New York University in 1970, Schwartz held positions with Sculpture in the Environment (SITE), Lenox China Company, World Organization Ceramic Education Foundation, Korea Ceramic Foundation, and the International Academy of Ceramics. She is a member of the National Council on Education in the Ceramic Arts, American Craft Council, Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts, and other organizations. Schwartz is also the recipient of numerous grants and awards including Educator of the Year Award from the Renwick Alliance in 2012, a grant to produce the exhibition *Art Deco Porcelain: The Noritake Years*, a "Contribution to the Field of Ceramic Education" award from the Everson Museum of Art in 1993, and various other honors.

Scope and Contents

The papers of educator Judith Schwartz measure 3.4 linear feet and date from 1977 to 2021, with the bulk of the material dating from 1992 to 2007. The bulk of the collection relates to Schwartz's book, *Confrontational Ceramics*, and includes a preliminary layout draft, checklists, printed materials, permission forms, artist correspondence, born-digital records, a sound recording, and files for the related exhibition *Confrontational Clay: The Artist as Social Critic* (2000-2002). Also found are professional files including a video recording that document Schwartz's work on boards and committees, an Oribe workshop, and a Howard Kottler book project, and an exhibition file for *Forms and TransFormations: Current Expressions in Ceramics, from Art to Industry* (1997).

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 2 series.

- Series 1: *Confrontational Ceramics* Book Project Files, 1977-2008 (2.8 linear feet; Boxes 1-3)
- Series 2: Professional Files, 1992-2021 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 3-4)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Ceramics
Women art historians

Types of Materials:

Sound recordings
Video recordings

Names:

Kottler, Howard, 1930-1989

Occupations:

Art historians -- New York (State) -- New York
Educators -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: *Confrontational Ceramics* Book Project Files, 1977-2008

2.8 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3)

Scope and Contents: The series consists mainly of subject and artist files compiled by Schwartz for the book *Confrontational Ceramics* published in 2008 which was the result of Schwartz's research project focusing on socially conscious ceramic works by artists worldwide. These files include printed materials regarding the artists, photocopies of articles, permission forms, correspondence, and administrative forms. Other material in the series includes artist statements, checklists, a preliminary layout draft, and files for the traveling exhibition *Confrontational Clay* (2009), which also came about as the result of Schwartz's research.

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Series 2: Professional Files, 1992-2021

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)

Scope and Contents: The series documents Schwartz's work while serving on boards and committees of the Jingdezhen Millennium of Kiln Production Center, Museum of Glass and Ceramics, Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art, The Studio Potter, Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts, and World Ceramic Biennale. Also included are files for the Howard Kottler book project, "Oribe in New York: Challenge of University Students for Momoyama Avant Garde" workshop, a few photographs of artwork, and a file for the exhibition *Forms and TransFormations: Current Expressions in Ceramics, from Art to Industry* (1997).

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