



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the David Shaner Papers, 1937-2007, bulk 1968-1998, in the Archives of American Art

Erin Kinhart

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | David Shaner papers |
| Date: | 1937-2007 (bulk 1968-1998) |
| Identifier: | AAA.shandavi |
| Creator: | Shaner, David, 1934- |
| Extent: | 2.8 Linear feet |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | The papers of ceramicist David Shaner measure 2.8 linear feet and date from 1937-2007, with the bulk of the material from 1968-1998. Shaner's career as a ceramicist in Big Fork, Montana, is documented through scattered correspondence, subject files, studio working files, writings and notes by Shaner and others, exhibition catalogs and other printed material, and photographs. |

Administrative Information

Provenance

The David Shaner papers were donated in 2010 by Ann Shaner, David Shaner's widow.

Related Material

Also found at the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with David Shaner, conducted by Gerald Williams on June 17, 2001.

Processing Information

The collection was processed by Erin Kinhart in 2011.

Preferred Citation

David Shaner papers, 1937-2007, bulk 1968-1998. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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Biographical Note

David Shaner (1934-2002) was a ceramist in Bigfork, Montana.

Shaner was born in Pottstown, Pennsylvania in 1934. He attended Kutztown State Teachers College and in 1957 entered the Master of Fine Arts program at Alfred University. After earning his MFA, he taught ceramics at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. In 1962 he and his wife Ann permanently relocated to Montana. Shaner served as director of the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, Montana from 1964-1970. He remained a prolific potter and respected teacher throughout his life. Shaner was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in 1995 and died in 2002.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of ceramicist David Shaner measure 2.8 linear feet and date from 1937-2007, with the bulk of the material from 1968-1998. Shaner's career as a ceramicist in Big Fork, Montana, is documented through scattered correspondence, subject files, studio working files, writings and notes by Shaner and others, exhibition catalogs and other printed material, and photographs.

Scattered correspondence includes letters, cards, and postcards. Correspondence is primarily with friends and colleagues, but also includes a few letters from galleries and art organizations. Subject files document Shaner's activities as a professional ceramicist. The majority of the files are for art galleries, but also found are files for studio equipment, supply companies, and professional organizations. Files may include correspondence, agreements, invoices, price lists, receipts, and press releases.

Shaner's studio working files consist of glaze formulas, his kiln log notebook, plans, and kiln documentation. Also found are his studio notes, lists, formulas, manuals and guides for various ceramic processes and tools. A series of writings and notes consist of notes by Shaner, including notes for his artist's statement, as well as draft manuscripts, lectures, and essays by others on the topic of ceramics.

Printed material includes articles documenting David Shaner's career, exhibition announcements and catalogs for exhibits of Shaner's work, and various publications about ceramics. A small number of photographs found within this collection depict kilns and kiln building events, unidentified artists and studio spaces, and artwork. Included is one photograph of David Shaner.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1978-1999 (Box 1; 3 folders)
- Series 2: Subject Files, 1961-1998 (Box 1; 0.6 linear feet)
- Series 3: Studio Working Files, circa 1951-1990s (Boxes 1-2; 8 folders)
- Series 4: Writings and Notes, 1954-circa 1993 (Box 2; 6 folders)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1937-2007 (Boxes 2-4; 1.4 linear feet)
- Series 6: Photographic Material, 1968-1990s (Box 4; 4 folders)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Artists' studios -- Photographs
Ceramics
Glazes -- Formulae

Occupations:

Ceramicists -- Montana

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1978-1999

(Box 1; 3 folders)

Scope and Contents: This series contains a small amount of David Shaner's correspondence, including letters, cards, and postcards. Correspondence is primarily with friends and colleagues, but also includes a few letters from galleries and art organizations. Researchers should note that additional correspondence can be found within Series 2: Subject Files.

Arrangement: Correspondence is arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 1 Correspondence, 1978-1986

Box 1, Folder 2 Correspondence, 1990-1999

Box 1, Folder 3 Correspondence, undated

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Series 2: Subject Files, 1961-1998

(Box 1; 0.6 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: This series contains subject files maintained by David Shaner to document his activities as a professional ceramicist. The majority of the files are for art galleries where Shaner showed his work. Other files are for studio supplies and equipment, such as burners, cartons, and freight, and supply companies, as well as professional organizations such as NCECA (National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts). Files may include correspondence, loan forms and other agreements, invoices, price lists, receipts, press releases, order forms, and miscellaneous documentation.

Arrangement: Subject Files are arranged alphabetically.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Anagama, circa 1982-1985 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Anne Reed Gallery, 1994-1995 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Artifacts [Gallery], 1986-1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Artworks Gallery, 1994-1995 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Burners, 1965-1994 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Canecraft-Treenery, 1988-1996 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Cartons (Packaging), 1991-1994 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | The Clay Place, 1994-1996 |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Coleman Clay Studio and Gallery, circa 1995-1997 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Contemporary Crafts Gallery, 1979-1990 |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Corks, 1969-1976 |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | E. J. Bartells Co., 1970-1983 |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Ferrin Gallery, 1989-1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | Flowers, circa 1990-1994 |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | Foote Mineral Company, 1966-1973 |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | Foster/White Gallery, 1991-1998 |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Frame Design & Sunbird Gallery, 1991-1998 |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | Freight, circa 1970-1985 |

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| Box 1, Folder 22 | Gallery Eight, 1989-1997 |
| Box 1, Folder 23 | Garth Clark Gallery, 1988-1989 |
| Box 1, Folder 24 | Helen Drutt Gallery, circa 1984-1989 |
| Box 1, Folder 25 | Hibberd McGrath Gallery, 1988-1996 |
| Box 1, Folder 26 | Holter Museum of Art, 1995-1997 |
| Box 1, Folder 27 | Images Friedman Gallery, 1995-1996 |
| Box 1, Folder 28 | International Minerals and Chemical Corp., 1964-1973 |
| Box 1, Folder 29 | Joanne Rapp Gallery: The Hand and the Spirit, 1990-1998 |
| Box 1, Folder 30 | Kentucky-Tennessee Clay Co., 1969-1970 |
| Box 1, Folder 31 | Lawrence Gallery, 1985-1990 |
| Box 1, Folder 32 | Mariposa Gallery, 1984-1995 |
| Box 1, Folder 33 | Martha Schneider Gallery, 1989-1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 34 | Maveety Gallery, 1990-1997 |
| Box 1, Folder 35 | Miller Gallery, 1997 |
| Box 1, Folder 36 | National Lead Company, 1969-1970 |
| Box 1, Folder 37 | NCECA, 1961-1997 |
| Box 1, Folder 38 | Northwest Craft Center and Gallery, 1983-1984 |
| Box 1, Folder 39 | Pewabic Pottery, 1987-1988 |
| Box 1, Folder 40 | Pfizer, Inc., circa 1964-1975 |
| Box 1, Folder 41 | Pot Sales, 1987, 1992-1994 |
| Box 1, Folder 42 | Potter's Wheel Gallery, 1992-1996 |
| Box 1, Folder 43 | S. Paul Ward, Inc., 1972-1976 |
| Box 1, Folder 44 | Salem Art Association, 1992-1994 |
| Box 1, Folder 45 | Supplies, 1969-1990 |

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| Box 1, Folder 46 | Sutton West Gallery, 1994-1995 |
| Box 1, Folder 47 | Sylvia Ullman American Crafts, 1990-1996 |
| Box 1, Folder 48 | Wetsman Collection, 1996-1998 |
| Box 1, Folder 49 | Whitefish Gallery, 1994-1997 |

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Series 3: Studio Working Files, circa 1951-1990s

(Boxes 1-2; 8 folders)

Scope and Contents: This series contains reference materials, plans, and notes which David Shaner used in his ceramics studio. Included are glaze formulas, Shaner's kiln log notebook, kiln plans drafted by Shaner and others, and guides to kiln construction and use. Also found are many manuals and guides for using tools, clay, firing, and other related topics. This series also includes Shaner's own handwritten notes, lists, and formulas for his work.

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|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 50 | Glaze Information, circa 1969-1970s |
| Box 1, Folder 51 | Glaze Information, circa 1969-1970s |
| Box 1, Folder 52 | Kiln Log, 1972-circa 1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 53 | Kiln Documentation, circa 1978-1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 54 | Kiln Plans, 1968-1980 |
| Box 1, Folder 55 | Manuals and Reference Guides, circa 1970s-1990s |
| Box 2, Folder 1 | Manuals and Reference Guides, circa 1951-1987 |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Miscellaneous Notes, Lists, and Reference Materials, circa 1960s-1990s |

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Series 4: Writings and Notes, 1954-circa 1993

(Box 2; 6 folders)

Scope and Contents: This series contains writings and notes by David Shaner and others. Included are two folders of notes by Shaner including notes for his artist's statement, thoughts on ceramics, and inspirational quotations by others, which he wrote down on scraps of paper. Also found are draft manuscripts by Ken Hendry and Jim Robertson, as well as typescripts of essays and lectures on ceramics written by various authors.

Box 2, Folder 3-4 Notes, circa 1970s-1990s
(2 folders)

Box 2, Folder 5-6 Ken Hendry, "Pottery and the Pursuit of Meaning," circa 1980s
(2 folders)

Box 2, Folder 7 Jim Robertson, "Body Building for Potters," 1988

Box 2, Folder 8 Various Authors, Writings and Lectures about Ceramics, 1954-circa 1993

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1937-2007

(Boxes 2-4; 1.4 linear feet)

Scope and Contents: This series contains printed material such as articles from magazines, journals, and news papers documenting David Shaner's career, as well as exhibition announcements and catalogs for exhibits of Shaner's work and the work of other ceramicists. Also found are books, magazines, reports, and journals about ceramics, workshop brochures, and various supply order forms. A file of articles on various subjects and a file of reference images were compiled by Shaner.

Arrangement: Folders are arranged alphabetically by type of publication.

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 9 | Articles about David Shaner, 1960-2005 |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Articles about Various Subjects, circa 1960s-1990s |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Book, Clay/Glass: A Guide to Clay and Glass Artists of Northern California, 1981 |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Book, Papers by Speakers at the Gippsland National Woodfire Conference, 1986 |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Book, Syllabus for Advanced Ceramics, 1972 |
| Box 2, Folder 14-16 | Exhibition Announcements, circa 1973-2007 (3 folders) |
| Box 2, Folder 17-25 | Exhibition Catalogs, 1960-1993 (9 folders) |
| Box 3, Folder 1-3 | Exhibition Catalogs, 1994-2005, undated (3 folders) |
| Box 3, Folder 4 | Journal, The Studio Potter, 1999, 2002 |
| Box 3, Folder 5-8 | Magazines, 1937, 1957, 1972-1983 (4 folders) |
| Box 4, Folder 1 | Magazines, 1987, 1990 |
| Box 4, Folder 2-4 | NCECA Publications, 1988-2006 (3 folders) |
| Box 4, Folder 5 | Published Essays by Soetsu Yanagi, 1952, 1958 |
| Box 4, Folder 6 | Reference Images, circa 1960s-1990s |
| Box 4, Folder 7 | Reports, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, 1958, 1962 |
| Box 4, Folder 8 | Sales Brochure and Order Forms, circa 1970s-1990s |

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| Box 4, Folder 9 | Workshop Brochures, circa 1989-1995 |
| Box 4, Folder 10 | Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1949-circa 1990s |

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Series 6: Photographic Material, 1968-1990s

(Box 4; 4 folders)

Scope and Contents: This series contains a small number of photographs and slides of an unidentified studio, kilns, and details of kiln construction. Also found are photographs identified as being from Anagama kiln firing events, depicting the kiln construction, and including one photograph of David Shaner. Miscellaneous photographs depict artwork and an unidentified person working in a studio.

Box 4, Folder 11 Photographs of Studio and Kilns, 1968, circa 1970s

Box 4, Folder 12 Photographs of Anagama Events, circa 1980s

Box 4, Folder 13 Miscellaneous Photographs, circa 1980s-1990s

Box 4, Folder 14 Slides, undated

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