



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
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	David Shaner papers
Identifier:	AAA.shandavi
Date:	1937-2007 (bulk 1968-1998)
Extent:	2.8 Linear feet
Creator:	Shaner, David, 1934-
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:

- 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:

Art galleries, Commercial
Artists' studios -- Photographs
Ceramicists -- Montana
Ceramics -- Equipment and supplies
Glazes -- Formulae
Pottery -- Technique

Types of Materials:

Drafts (documents)
Essays
Lectures
Manuscripts
Notebooks
Notes
Photographs

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1978-1999

(Box 1; 3 folders)

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.

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)

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.

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
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
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)

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.

Box 1, Folder 50	Glaze Information, circa 1969-1970s
Box 1, Folder 51	Glaze Information, circa 1969-1970s Image(s)
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)

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

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.

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, <i>Clay/Glass: A Guide to Clay and Glass Artists of Northern California</i> , 1981
Box 2, Folder 12	Book, <i>Papers by Speakers at the Gippsland National Woodfire Conference</i> , 1986
Box 2, Folder 13	Book, <i>Syllabus for Advanced Ceramics</i> , 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, <i>The Studio Potter</i> , 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

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)

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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