



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Joan Snyder papers, circa 1960-2010, in the Archives of American Art

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## Collection Overview

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives of American Art  |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Joan Snyder papers  |
| <b>Date:</b>       | circa 1960-2010   |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | AAA.snydjoan  |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Snyder, Joan, 1940-   |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 3 Linear feet   |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .   |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | The papers of abstract painter Joan Snyder measure 3.0 linear feet and date from 1962 to 2009. They document the career of Snyder through biographical material, correspondence, interviews, writings, gallery and exhibition files, professional files, printed materials, photographic material, and artwork. |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Joan Snyder papers were donated by Snyder in two installments, in 2011 and 2014.

### Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Joan Snyder conducted by Judith Olch Richards, February 25-26 2010.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Emma Eubank in 2023.

### Preferred Citation

Joan Snyder papers, circa 1960-2010. 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.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Joan Snyder (1940-present) is an abstract painter and feminist organizer who primarily works in New York City and New Jersey. Born in the Highland Park area, Snyder did not decide to pursue a career in the arts until after taking her first introductory art class at Douglass College in 1961. After earning a MFA at Rutgers University, she married photographer Larry Fink and began teaching at Neighborhood House in New Brunswick. She would continue to teach and serve as a visiting artist at universities like Yale, Princeton and SUNY later in her career.

In 1970, Snyder held her first solo exhibition in New York City, and participated in solo and group exhibitions at galleries and universities in the city and across the nation throughout her career. In response to the gender imbalance among artistic faculty and gallery representation, Snyder became active in the feminist art movement, founding the Mary H. Dana Women Artist Series and supporting organizations like The Woman's Building. Her work can be found in the collections of institutions like the Guggenheim, the Whitney Museum, the MOMA, and the National Gallery of Art.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of American painter Joan Snyder measure 3.0 linear feet and date from 1962 to 2009. They document the career of Snyder through biographical material, correspondence, interviews, writings, gallery and exhibition files, professional files, printed materials, photographic material, and artwork.

The biographical material series includes honors and awards as well as a resume. Correspondence includes personal letters from friends and fellow artists. The interviews series features three transcripts of separate interviews with Ardele Lister and Ned Rifkin. The writings series includes journal entries and manuscripts by Snyder, as well as manuscripts and published reviews. The gallery and exhibition files series includes documentation originating from various organizations including the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Rutgers University and the Hirschl and Adler Gallery. The professional files series includes business correspondence with State University of New York (SUNY) and the Women's Art Registry of Minnesota. The printed material series includes many clippings featuring Snyder and miscellaneous exhibition advertisements from Boston, New York, and across the nation. The photographic material series includes many labeled slides of Snyder's artwork and studio. The artwork series is comprised of a single sketchbook.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 9 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1962-1983 0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1971-2006 0.1 Folders (Box 1)
- Series 3: Interviews, circa 1990-1991 0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)
- Series 4: Writings, circa 1971-1994 0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)
- Series 5: Gallery and Exhibition Files, circa 1971-2005 0.5 Linear feet (Box 1)
- Series 6: Professional Files, circa 1969-1996 0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)
- Series 7: Printed Material, circa 1963-2000 1.4 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)
- Series 8: Photographic Material, circa 1979-2014 0.2 Linear feet (Box 3)
- Series 9: Artwork, circa 2003-2009 0.1 Linear feet (Box 3)

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Art, Abstract
- Feminism and art
- Women artists
- Women painters

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sketchbooks

### Occupations:

- Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1962-1983

#### *0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: The biographical material series includes a CV from 1979, materials related to Snyder's induction into the Douglass Society in 1962, booklets from career recognition events at the Guggenheim and Whitney museums in the 1980s, and a certificate marking her induction into the Marquis Who's Who of American Women in 1976.

Box 1, Folder 1            CV/Resume, circa 1979

Box 1, Folder 2            Douglass Society Induction Certificate and Related Materials, circa 1978

Box 1, Folder 3            Recognition Event Booklets from Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and Whitney Museum, circa 1980-1983

Box 1, Folder 4            Who's Who of American Women Inclusion Certificate, circa 1976

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## Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1971-2006

### 0.1 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is mostly personal in nature and is arranged by last name. Significant amounts of letters came from Fernando Carson, Jackie Driscoll, Andrew and Marie Foley, and Ella Koch.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 5  | B, 1977                                       |
| Box 1, Folder 6  | Fernando Carson, circa 1985                   |
| Box 1, Folder 7  | D-E, circa 1978                               |
| Box 1, Folder 8  | Jackie Driscoll, circa 1972-1989              |
| Box 1, Folder 9  | Louise Fishman, circa 1977                    |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Andrew and Marie Foley, circa 1983-2001       |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | H, circa 1976-1988                            |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | K, circa 1991                                 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Ella Koch, circa 1981-1982                    |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | L-M, circa 1971-1978                          |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | P, circa 1988-2006                            |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | R, 1989-1991                                  |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | S, circa 1975-1982                            |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | T, 1989                                       |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | W, circa 1987-1991                            |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Z, 1972                                       |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | Unidentified/First Name Only, circa 1978-1991 |

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## Series 3: Interviews, circa 1990-1991

### *.1 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: The interviews series contains transcripts of three interviews with Ardele Lister and Ned Rifkin.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 22 | Transcript of Interview with Ardele Lister, circa 1990                          |
| Box 1, Folder 23 | Transcript and Supporting Documents of Interview with Ardele Lister, circa 1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 24 | Transcript of Interview with Ned Rifkin, circa 1980                             |

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## Series 4: Writings, circa 1971-1994

### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The writings series includes journal entries, notes and manuscripts from Joan Snyder. Also included are manuscripts and published pieces by reviewers like Carl Belz, Hayden Herrera, Susan Gill, and Dore Ashton, Margaret Sheffield, and Michael Walls.

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 25 | Brainstorming Notes, circa 1971  |
| Box 1, Folder 26 | Daily Journal Entry, 1977-01-01  |
| Box 1, Folder 27 | Excerpt from "J.S. 1969-Now" by Carl Belz, circa 1994                    |
| Box 1, Folder 28 | Hayden Herrera Untitled Essay, circa 1977                                |
| Box 1, Folder 29 | Introduction by J. Baker in "Joan Snyder", circa 1985                    |
| Box 1, Folder 30 | Journal Entry on "Female Sensibility", 1976-12-27                        |
| Box 1, Folder 31 | Manuscript of Art News Article by Susan Gill, circa 1987                 |
| Box 1, Folder 32 | Manuscript of Dore Ashton Piece Published in Nielsen Catalog, circa 1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 33 | Manuscript and Publication of Snyder's "It Wasn't Neo to Us", circa 1992 |
| Box 1, Folder 34 | Manuscript of Sra Henry's "An East-West Dialogue", 1987-10-23            |
| Box 1, Folder 35 | Manuscript of "Women" Essay by Margaret Sheffield, 1976-12-22            |
| Box 1, Folder 36 | Michael Walls Art History Manuscripts, circa 1979                        |
| Box 1, Folder 37 | Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1986  |
| Box 1, Folder 38 | Short Biography by Unknown Author, circa 1970                            |

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## Series 5: Gallery and Exhibition Files, circa 1971-2005

### 0.5 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The gallery and exhibition files series contains inventories, correspondence, guestbooks, signed paperwork, invoices and notes sent between Snyder and over 30 galleries and institutions. Each gallery with more than a few documents has its own folder(s). Notable institutions represented include the Hamilton Gallery, Hirschl and Adler Gallery, Locks Gallery, the Robert Miller Gallery, Rutgers University, and the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 39 | Brooklyn Museum of Art Exhibition Notes, circa 1998-2004                    |
| Box 1, Folder 40 | Brooklyn Museum of Art Exhibition Invoices and Paperwork, circa 1997        |
| Box 1, Folder 41 | Carl Solway Gallery Correspondence and Notes, circa 1975-1986               |
| Box 1, Folder 42 | The Corcoran Gallery of Art Correspondence, circa 1986                      |
| Box 1, Folder 43 | Hamilton Gallery Biography/CV and Exhibit Caption, circa 1982               |
| Box 1, Folder 44 | Hamilton Gallery Correspondence, circa 1977-1984                            |
| Box 1, Folder 45 | Hamilton Gallery Inventories, circa 1969-1983                               |
| Box 1, Folder 46 | Hamilton Gallery Invoices and Paperwork, circa 1977-1983                    |
| Box 1, Folder 47 | Hirschl and Adler Inventories, circa 1984-1999                              |
| Box 1, Folder 48 | Hirschl and Adler Correspondence, circa 1986-1998                           |
| Box 1, Folder 49 | Hirschl and Adler Guestbooks, circa 1994-1998                               |
| Box 1, Folder 50 | Hirschl and Adler Notes and Snapshots, circa 1984-1999                      |
| Box 1, Folder 51 | Hirschl and Adler Paperwork and Invoices, circa 1984-1999                   |
| Box 1, Folder 52 | Janet Fleisher Gallery Correspondence, circa 1983                           |
| Box 1, Folder 53 | Locks Gallery Correspondence, circa 1995-1998                               |
| Box 1, Folder 54 | Locks Gallery Inventories, Notes, and Exhibition Polaroids, circa 1994-1999 |
| Box 1, Folder 55 | Locks Gallery Invoices and Paperwork, circa 1995-1998                       |
| Box 1, Folder 56 | Marcus Krakow Gallery Correspondence, circa 1975                            |
| Box 1, Folder 57 | McNay Art Institute Correspondence, circa 1976-1984                         |

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 58 | Neuberger Museum Exhibition Notes, circa 1977  |
| Box 1, Folder 59 | Robert Miller Gallery Correspondence, circa 1998-2003  |
| Box 1, Folder 60 | Robert Miller Gallery Guestbook for "Primary Fields", circa 2001   |
| Box 1, Folder 61 | Robert Miller Gallery Inventories, circa 1995-2001   |
| Box 1, Folder 62 | Robert Miller Gallery Invoices and Paperwork, circa 1999-2000  |
| Box 1, Folder 63 | Robert Miller Gallery Notes, circa 1999-2001   |
| Box 1, Folder 64 | Rutgers' Women Artist Series Correspondence and Printed Materials, circa 1971                                |
| Box 1, Folder 65 | Rutgers' Women Artist Series 25th Anniversary Miscellaneous, circa 1995-1996                                 |
| Box 1, Folder 66 | Rutgers' Women Artist Series 30th Anniversary Miscellaneous (Pamphlets, Negatives, Speech Notes), circa 2005 |
| Box 1, Folder 67 | Rutgers Zimmerli Art Museum Correspondence, circa 1993-1996  |
| Box 1, Folder 68 | San Francisco Art Institute Exhibit Planning, circa 1979   |
| Box 1, Folder 69 | Virginia Commonwealth University Exhibition Planning, circa 1979   |
| Box 1, Folder 70 | The Woman's Building Misc. (Correspondence, Magazine, Snapshot), circa 1977                                  |
| Box 1, Folder 71 | "Works with Paper" at Allentown Art Museum Manuscript, circa 1994  |

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## Series 6: Professional Files, circa 1969-1996

### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: The professional files series is mainly miscellaneous correspondence involving the sale or loan of Snyder's work and visits by Snyder to various educational institutions. Also included is business correspondence with SUNY, Rutgers, Michael Walls, and the Women's Art Registry of Minnesota.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 2, Folder 1  | Demands of Art Workers Coalition, circa 1969  |
| Box 2, Folder 2  | Lawsuit against John Doyle, circa 1977-1978   |
| Box 2, Folder 3  | Michael Walls (Michael Walls Gallery and Susan Caldwell Gallery) Business Correspondence, circa 1971-1981 |
| Box 2, Folder 4  | Miscellaneous Purchase, Loan, and Visitation Correspondence, circa 1972-1979                              |
| Box 2, Folder 5  | Pan Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association Intl. Regional Meeting Schedule, circa 1992-1994      |
| Box 2, Folder 6  | Request and Confirmation Correspondence regarding Loans and Exhibitions, circa 1971-1979                  |
| Box 2, Folder 7  | Rutgers MFA 20th Anniversary Correspondence, circa 1981   |
| Box 2, Folder 8  | Rutgers Miscellaneous, circa 1975-1996  |
| Box 2, Folder 9  | State University of New York Correspondence, circa 1969-1970  |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Teaching and Visitation Artist Correspondence and Contract, circa 1973-1976                               |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Women's Art Registry of Minnesota Business Correspondence, circa 1978                                     |

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## Series 7: Printed Material, circa 1963-2000

### 1.4 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: The printed material series has two types of materials: clippings and exhibition advertisement. The clippings are organized by type, newspaper or journal and magazine. The exhibition advertising is sorted by decade.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Clippings (Journal and Magazine), circa 1972-1994     |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Clippings (Journal and Magazine), circa 1982-1994     |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Clippings (Journal and Magazine), circa 1974-1994     |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | Clippings (Newspaper), circa 1963-1971                |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | Clippings (Newspaper), circa 1977-1978                |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | Clippings (Newspaper), circa 1980-1986                |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | Clippings (Newspaper), circa 1980-1989                |
| Box 2, Folder 19 | Clippings (Newspaper), circa 1991-1999                |
| Box 2, Folder 20 | Clippings (Newspaper), circa 1995-1998                |
| Box 2, Folder 21 | Clippings (Newspaper), circa 1991-1998                |
| Box 2, Folder 22 | Exhibition Advertising and Pamphlets, circa 1972-1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 23 | Exhibition Advertising and Pamphlets, circa 1971-1978 |
| Box 2, Folder 24 | Exhibition Advertising and Pamphlets, circa 1970-1978 |
| Box 2, Folder 25 | Exhibition Advertising and Pamphlets, circa 1972-1979 |
| Box 2, Folder 26 | Exhibition Advertising and Pamphlets, circa 1982-1989 |
| Box 3, Folder 1  | Exhibition Advertising and Pamphlets, circa 1980-1989 |
| Box 3, Folder 2  | Exhibition Advertising and Pamphlets, circa 1981-1989 |
| Box 3, Folder 3  | Exhibition Advertising and Pamphlets, circa 1984-1987 |
| Box 3, Folder 4  | Exhibition Advertising and Pamphlets, circa 1981-1988 |
| Box 3, Folder 5  | Exhibition Advertising and Pamphlets, circa 1992-1996 |

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 3, Folder 6  | Exhibition Advertising and Pamphlets, circa 1991-2000 |
| Box 3, Folder 7  | Exhibition Advertising and Pamphlets, circa 1990-1996 |
| Box 3, Folder 8  | Exhibition Advertising and Pamphlets, circa 1991-1995 |
| Box 3, Folder 9  | Exhibition Advertising and Pamphlets, circa 1990-1999 |
| Box 3, Folder 10 | Miscellaneous Printed Materials, circa 1972-1999      |
| Box 3, Folder 11 | Press Releases for Exhibitions, circa 1979-1999       |

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## Series 8: Photographic Material, circa 1979-2014

### 0.3 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: This series largely contains slides of Snyder's artwork, labelled and organized with a key. Slides of her studio are also included.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 3, Folder 12 | Slides of Artwork and Studio, Slides Key, circa 2014                        |
| Box 3, Folder 13 | Slides of Artwork, circa 2014   |
| Box 3, Folder 14 | Slides of Artwork, circa 2014   |
| Box 3, Folder 15 | Slides, Snapshots and Contact Sheets of Installation Views, circa 1983-1990 |
| Box 3, Folder 16 | Snapshots, Polaroids and Prints of Artwork, circa 1979-1999                 |

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## Series 9: Artwork, circa 2003-2009

### *.1 Linear feet (Box 3 )*

Scope and Contents: This series contains one sketchbook of drawings and notes, labelled as having been made between Summer 2003 and Summer 2009.

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Box 3, Folder 17 | Sketchbook, circa 2003-2009 |
|------------------|-----------------------------|

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