



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Some Serious Business Records, 1972-1986, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

2022 December 6

Archives of American Art
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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:	Some Serious Business records
Date:	1972-1986
Identifier:	AAA.someserb
Creator:	Some Serious Business (Firm)
Extent:	4.8 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The records of Some Serious Business measure 4.8 linear feet and date from 1972 to 1986. The records document the history of the California arts organization through mission statements, organization prospectus, draft catalogs, tax exemption applications, and other administrative files; invoices, bank statements, ledgers, grant and fellowship applications, and other financial records; artists files consisting of resumes, photographs, announcements, correspondence, and clippings related to artists who worked with the organization; and exhibition files consisting of correspondence, clippings, agreements, announcements, and other material related to primarily video based exhibitions and programs hosted by the organization.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 2000 by Susan Martin.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2022.

Preferred Citation

Some Serious Business records, 1972-1986. 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 audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Some Serious Business is an art organization founded in Venice, California in the 1970s. The organization was founded by Susan Martin, Elizabeth Freeman and Nancy Drew, and it was among the leading avant-garde organizations sponsoring artists working principally in the fields of performance, videotape, installation and environmental works, and photography. The organization did not have its own dedicated space, and it instead partnered with other organizations throughout the greater Los Angeles area to showcase its artists.

Scope and Contents

The records of Some Serious Business measure 4.8 linear feet and date from 1972 to 1986. The records document the history of the art organization through, mission statements, organization prospectus, draft catalogs, tax exemption applications, and other administrative files; invoices, bank statements, ledgers, grant and fellowship applications, and other financial records; artists files consisting of resumes, photographs, announcements, correspondence, and clippings related to artists who worked with the organization; and exhibition files consisting of correspondence, clippings, agreements, announcements, and other material related to primarily video based exhibitions and programs hosted by the organization.

Administrative files consist of a mission statement, the organization's prospectus, interview transcript with the founders, draft brochures and catalogs, and exhibition lists. Also included are applications for state and federal tax exemptions, consulting services for lighting and magazine articles, and charity events such as the Artist for Artists fundraiser and the Hillside Home for Children benefit.

Financial material consists of grant and fellowship applications, invoices, bank statements from Security Pacific National Bank and Bank of America, tax forms, and cash disbursements. Some of the grant applications include the NEA Visual Arts grant, the NEA Aid to Video and Film Exhibitions grant, and the ARCO Video Art grant.

Artist files consist of files related to artists represented by the organization. Files consist of correspondence, resumes, photographs, clippings, announcements and posters. Some of the artists represented include Bob & Bob, Laurie Anderson, Philip Glass, Robert Kushner, Richard Mock, Rachel Rosenthal, and William Talen.

Exhibition files consist of files related to primarily video based programming and exhibitions produced by the organization. Files consist of correspondence, clippings, exhibition announcements and posters, agreements, and some photographs. Some of the exhibitions and programming include "Doctor Video," "Ramona" play, "VideoNight," "Gospel at Colonus," and the Art of Spectacle art festival.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into four series.

- Series 1: Administrative Files, 1973-1986 (1.3 linear feet; Box 1, 6)
- Series 2: Financial Records, 1977-1985 (0.8 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 3: Artist Files, 1972-1983 (1.5 linear feet; Boxes 2-5, OV 7)
- Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1975-1986 (1.2 linear feet; Boxes 4-5, OV 7)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Functions:

Arts organizations -- California

Container Listing

Series 1: Administrative Files, 1973-1986

1.3 Linear feet (Box 1, 6)

Scope and Contents: Administrative files consist of a mission statement, the organization's prospectus, interview transcript with the founders, draft brochures and catalogs, and exhibition lists. Also included are applications for state and federal tax exemptions, consulting services for lighting and magazine articles, and charity events such as the Artist for Artists fundraiser and the Hillside Home for Children benefit.

Box 1, Folder 1	Mission Statement, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Budget, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Prospectus, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	China Club Lists, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Draft Text for Brochures, undated
Box 6	Draft Catalog Panels, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Exhibitions List, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Founder's Interview, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Los Angeles Local Press - Small Publications, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Los Angeles Press List, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	"The List" Publication, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	New York Press List, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Press List on Mailing Labels, undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Rock Concert Photos, undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Tax Exemption Application Forms, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Video Resource Center, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Video Sales Information, undated
Box 1, Folder 17	Espace DBD Brochure, undated

Box 1, Folder 18	Programs and Flyers, 1973-1979
Box 1, Folder 19	Record of Money Spent Setting up Company, 1976
Box 1, Folder 20	Taxes, 1976-1980
Box 1, Folder 21	Cultural News Service, 1977
Box 1, Folder 22	Fall/Spring Performances and Budgets, 1978
Box 1, Folder 23	Index of Artists, 1978
Box 1, Folder 24	Jim Tucker, 1978
Box 1, Folder 25	Wet Awards, 1978
Box 1, Folder 26-28	Catalog, 1978-1980
Box 1, Folder 29	Prospectus, 1978-1979
Box 1, Folder 30	California Arts Council - Artists in Residence, 1978-1979
Box 1, Folder 31	Home Entertainment Articles, 1980
Box 1, Folder 32	Employment Development Taxes, 1980-1982
Box 1, Folder 33	Mark A. Trilling, 1981
Box 1, Folder 34	ESpace DBD, 1981-1982
Box 1, Folder 35	Ron Rezek Lighting, 1982
Box 1, Folder 36-37	"House & Garden" Magazine, 1982-1983
Box 1, Folder 38	NEA '83 Inter-Arts Program, 1983
Box 1, Folder 39	Snippets, 1983
Box 1, Folder 40	"Umbrella" Magazine, 1983
Box 1, Folder 41	Aesthetic Materials Management Organization, 1985
Box 1, Folder 42	Artists for Artists Fundraiser, 1985
Box 1, Folder 43	P. T. Enterprises, Consulting Agreement, 1985
Box 1, Folder 44	Hillside Home for Children, Benefit, 1985-1986

Box 1, Folder 45-47 Miscellaneous, 1976-1982

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Series 2: Financial Records, 1977-1985

0.8 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Financial material consists of grant and fellowship applications, invoices, bank statements from Security Pacific National Bank and Bank of America, tax forms, and cash disbursements. Some of the grant applications include the NEA Visual Arts grant, the NEA Aid to Video and Film Exhibitions grant, and the ARCO Video Art grant.

Box 2, Folder 1	Freeman Enterprises - John Densmore/Tongues Designs, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	California Arts Council Organizational Grants, 1977-1978
Box 2, Folder 3	Cultural News Service, 1977-1978
Box 2, Folder 4	Federal Corporate Tax Forms, 990s, 1977-1978
Box 2, Folder 5	Revenue and Expenses, 1977-1978
Box 2, Folder 6	General Ledger and Checkbooks, 1977-1980
Box 2, Folder 7	State Corporate Tax Forms, 1977-1981
Box 2, Folder 8-9	NEA Aid to Video and Film Exhibitions Grant, 1977-1980
Box 2, Folder 10-12	NEA Services to the Field, Grant, 1977-1979
Box 2, Folder 13	ARCO Video Art Grant, 1978
Box 2, Folder 14	Federal Payroll Taxes, 1978
Box 2, Folder 15	California Arts Council Grant, 1978-1979
Box 2, Folder 16	Bank Statements, Bank of America, 1979
Box 2, Folder 17	Bank of America Checking Account, 1979
Box 2, Folder 18	Bank of America Savings Account Book, 1979
Box 2, Folder 19	Video Directory Orders, 1979
Box 2, Folder 20	NEA Workshops and Alternate Spaces Grant, 1979-1980
Box 2, Folder 21	Cash Receipts and Disbursements, 1979-1982
Box 2, Folder 22	EDBD: Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, Rachel Rosenthal, 1979-1983
Box 2, Folder 23	\$4000 NEA Grant, 1979-1980

Box 2, Folder 24-25	Security Pacific National Bank, Statements, 1980-1985
Box 2, Folder 26	"Ampersand" Magazine, 1981-1982
Box 2, Folder 27	EDBD NEA '83/84 Visual Arts Grant, 1981-1983
Box 2, Folder 28	California Arts Council, 1982
Box 2, Folder 29	Performance Festival 1984 Budget, 1982
Box 2, Folder 30	ESpace DBD California Arts Council Grant, 1982-1983
Box 2, Folder 31	Corporate Tax Forms, 1982-1983
Box 2, Folder 32	Corporate Taxes Cash Received and Disbursement Forms, 1983-1984
Box 2, Folder 33	Charitable Trust Forms, 1982-1983
Box 2, Folder 34	"Umbrella" Magazine Grant, 1982-1985
Box 2, Folder 35	Family Planning Center Checking Account, 1983
Box 2, Folder 36	ESpace DBD NEA '83/84 Completed Grants, 1983-1984
Box 2, Folder 37	Rachel Rosenthal NEA Fellowship, 1983-1984
Box 2, Folder 38	NEA Visual Art Grant, 1983-1984
Box 2, Folder 39	Invoices, 1985
Box 2, Folder 40	Miscellaneous, 1978-1985

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Series 3: Artist Files, 1972-1983

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2-5, OV 7)

Scope and Contents: Artist files consist of files related to artists represented by the organization. Files consist of correspondence, resumes, photographs, clippings, announcements and posters. Some of the artists represented include Bob & Bob, Laurie Anderson, Philip Glass, Robert Kushner, Richard Mock, Rachel Rosenthal, and William Talen.

Box 2, Folder 41	Bill Adams, 1982
Box 2, Folder 42	Laurie Anderson, 1978
Box 2, Folder 43	Roy Ascott, 1978
Box 2, Folder 44	Lynda Benglis, 1977-1978
Box 2, Folder 45	Jerry Benjamin, 1978
Box 2, Folder 46-47	Bob Biggs, 1977-1978
Box 2, Folder 48	Nancy Blanchard, 1978
Box 2, Folder 49	Carla Bley, 1979
Box 2, Folder 50	Bob & Bob, 1976-1978
Box 2, Folder 51	Kevin Boyle, 1978
Box 2, Folder 52	Harold Budd, 1978
Box 3, Folder 1	John Cage, 1979
Box 3, Folder 2	Neke Carson, 1972, 1978
Box 3, Folder 3	Doris Chase, 1977
Box 3, Folder 4	Cincinnati Contemporary Art Center, 1979
Box 3, Folder 5	Wendy Clark, 1977
Box 3, Folder 6	Korten Kooper, 1979
Box 3, Folder 7	Dead Dog - Lonely Horse, 1978
Box 3, Folder 8	Lowell Darling, 1978-1979
Box 3, Folder 9	Doug Davis, 1977

Box 3, Folder 10-11	Guy de Cointet, 1976, 1978
Box 3, Folder 12	Brian Dailey, 1978
Box 3, Folder 13	Constance De Jong, 1978
Box 3, Folder 14	Douglas Dunn, 1978
Box 3, Folder 15	Eiko & Koma, 1977-1978
Box 3, Folder 16	Steve Ehrlich, 1982
Box 3, Folder 17	Sharon Emmanuelli, 1978
Box 3, Folder 18	Sam Erenberg, 1978
Box 3, Folder 19	Don Farkas, undated
Box 3, Folder 20	Floating Museum, 1978
Box 3, Folder 21	Robert Frank, 1978
Box 3, Folder 22	Ken Friedman, 1978
Box 3, Folder 23	Simone Forti & Peter Van Ripper, 1974-1978
Box 3, Folder 24	Jon Gibson, 1977-1978
Box 3, Folder 25-26	Philip Glass, 1976-1978
Box 3, Folder 27	Liz & Peter Gould, undated
Box 3, Folder 28	Ciel Gruessing, undated
Box 3, Folder 29	Dan Graham, 1972-1979
Box 3, Folder 30	Deborah Hay, 1978
Box 3, Folder 31	Donna Henes, 1978
Box 3, Folder 32	Julia Heyward, 1978
Box 3, Folder 33	Lin Hixson, 1982
Box 3, Folder 34	Davi Det Hompson, 1978
Box 3, Folder 35	Toshe Ichiyanagi, 1978

Box 3, Folder 36	Peter Ivers, 1978
Box 3, Folder 37	Ralph Jones, 1978
Box 3, Folder 38	Nancy Karp, 1977
Box 3, Folder 39	Harry Kipper, 1977-1978
Box 3, Folder 40	Katrina Kremsky, 1976-1977
Box 3, Folder 41	Elizabeth M. Kuder, 1977
Box 3, Folder 42	Robert Kushner, 1978
Box 5, Folder 3	Robert Kushner, Performance Fabric, undated
Box 3, Folder 43	Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, 1978
Box 3, Folder 44	Bill Leavitt, 1978
Box 3, Folder 45	Andrew Leicester, 1977
Box 3, Folder 46	Daniel Lentz, 1978
Box 3, Folder 47	Gary Lloyd, 1978
Box 3, Folder 48	Joan Logue, 1978
Box 3, Folder 49	Ingram D. Marshall, 1977
Box 3, Folder 50	Maurice McClelland, 1978
Box 3, Folder 51	Ronald Earl Michaelson, 1977-1978
Box 3, Folder 52	Richard Miller, 1978
Oversize 7, Folder 1	Richard Miller, 1978
Box 3, Folder 53	Alzek Misheff, 1977-1978
Box 3, Folder 54-55	Richard Mock, 1978
Box 3, Folder 56	More Money Company, 1979
Box 3, Folder 57	Linda Montano, 1978
Box 3, Folder 58	William Moritz, 1978

Box 3, Folder 59	Hermann Nitch, 1978
Box 3, Folder 60	Pat Patterson, 1978
Box 3, Folder 61	Melissa Piper, 1979
Box 3, Folder 62	Jim Pomeroy, 1978
Box 3, Folder 63	Virginia Quesada, undated
Box 3, Folder 64	Steve Reich, 1978
Box 3, Folder 65	Jane Reynolds, 1978
Box 3, Folder 66	Rachel Rosenthal, 1978, 1983
Box 3, Folder 67	Steven Ross, undated
Box 3, Folder 68	The Rova Saxophone Quartet, 1978
Box 3, Folder 69	Richard Schmidt, 1978
Box 3, Folder 70	Nam June Paik, 1978
Box 3, Folder 71	Paul Sharits, 1977-1978
Box 3, Folder 72	Snake Theater, 1978
Box 3, Folder 73	Gus Solomons, 1977
Box 3, Folder 74	William Talen, 1978
Box 3, Folder 75	T. R. Uthco, 1977-1978
Box 3, Folder 76	Bill Viola, 1978
Box 3, Folder 77	Yoshimasa Wada, 1979
Box 3, Folder 78	William Wegman, 1978
Box 3, Folder 79	Lawrence Weiner, 1978
Box 3, Folder 80	Stephen Weisser, 1978
Box 3, Folder 81	Johanna Went, undated
Box 3, Folder 82	Jimmy West, 1978

Box 3, Folder 83	Geoffrey Wickland, undated
Box 3, Folder 84	Peter Wiehl, 1978
Box 3, Folder 85	Robert Wilson, 1978
Box 3, Folder 86	Elyn Zimmerman, 1978
Box 4, Folder 1	Bob Zoell, 1982-1983
Box 4, Folder 2	Miscellaneous, 1977-1979

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Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1975-1986

1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 4-5, OV 7)

Scope and Contents: Exhibition files consist of files related to primarily video based programming and exhibitions produced by the organization. Files consist of correspondence, clippings, exhibition announcements and posters, agreements, and some photographs. Some of the exhibitions and programming include "Doctor Video," "Ramona" play, "VideoNight," "Gospel at Colonus," and the Art of Spectacle art festival.

Box 4, Folder 3	"The Revolution Will be Televised Tonight" Play, undated
Box 4, Folder 4	"Modern Love" Performance, undated
Box 4, Folder 5	Gordon Morris Production, undated
Box 4, Folder 6	"Branches", undated
Box 4, Folder 7	"Doctor Video", undated
Box 4, Folder 8	Video Program Notes, undated
Box 4, Folder 9	Lowell Darling Lecture, 1975-1976
Box 4, Folder 10	"Arrowcatcher", 1976
Box 4, Folder 11	Video October, 1976
Box 4, Folder 12	"The Amazing Bow Wow", 1977
Box 4, Folder 13	"Vice", 1977
Box 4, Folder 14	"Ramona" Play, 1977
Box 4, Folder 15	"Douglas Dunn - A Solo Dance Concert", 1977
Box 4, Folder 16	New Music - Solo Concert by John Gibson, 1977
Box 4, Folder 17	Philip Glass Ensemble, 1977
Box 4, Folder 18	Deborah Hay Solo Dance Concert, 1977
Box 4, Folder 19	Kerry Colonna Film Series, 1977
Box 4, Folder 20	"Showboat 1988", 1977
Box 4, Folder 21	"Guadalcanal: A Requiem", 1977
Box 4, Folder 22	"I Was Sitting On My Patio", 1977

Box 4, Folder 23	"The Frick Show", 1977
Box 4, Folder 24	"Exhibitions in the Air", 1977
Box 4, Folder 25	CAA Conference Exhibition, 1978
Box 4, Folder 26-27	"VideoNight", 1978
Box 4, Folder 28	Video Art Cable Broadcast Schedule, 1978
Box 4, Folder 29	Garden Theatre Festival, 1978
Box 4, Folder 30	"Tightrope An Intersection of Elements", 1978
Box 4, Folder 31	"Private Parts" Television/Radio Opera, 1979
	Art of Spectacle
Box 4, Folder 32	Correspondence, 1984
Box 4, Folder 33	Planning, 1982-1984
Box 4, Folder 34	Draft Catalog, undated
Box 4, Folder 35	Clippings, 1984-1985
Box 4, Folder 36	Advertising Rates, 1983-1984
Box 4, Folder 37	Press Kits, 1982-1985
Box 4, Folder 38	Grey Book, 1984
Box 4, Folder 39-40	Miscellaneous, 1978-1984
Box 4, Folder 41	"Suburbia", 1982
Box 4, Folder 42	"Bop the Madness", 1982
Box 4, Folder 43	"Marilyn: 14 Stations", 1984
Box 4, Folder 44-49	"Gospel at Colonus", 1985 1 Sound cassette Notes: Cassette is labeled "The Gospel at Colonus" Audio Tape 7 1/2 ips.
Oversize 7, Folder 2	"The Gospel" Doolittle Theatre, 1986

Box 5, Folder 1-2

Miscellaneous, 1974-1979

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