



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Robert Stanley Papers,
circa 1965-2021, at the Archives of American Art

Ryan Evans

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Robert Stanley papers
Date:	circa 1965-2021
Identifier:	AAA.stanrob
Creator:	Stanley, Robert, 1942-
Extent:	2.3 Linear feet 0.608 Gigabytes
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter, educator, and computer artist Robert Stanley measure 2.3 linear feet and 0.608 Gigabytes, and date from circa 1965-2001. The collection consists of correspondence largely professional in nature including born-digital material in the form of portfolio submissions and email folders prepared by Robert Stanley; writings in digital format in the form of a studio log describing the studio practice from 1978-2021; printed material including exhibition catalogues as well as a self-published catalogue raisonné also captured in digital format, as well as a selection of published writings; and an artwork series including mostly sketchbooks and loose sketches and drawings created throughout the span of Stanley's career.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Two letters from Richard Diebenkorn were donated in 2016 by Robert Stanley. In 2022, Stanley donated the rest of the papers.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Ryan Evans in 2023. Ryan Evans also processed the born digital materials in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Robert Stanley Papers, circa 1965-2021. 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 in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Robert Stanley (1942-) is a painter, educator, and computer artist in Beverly Shores, Indiana. While Stanley was born to a household that was supportive of the arts, he didn't pursue art classes until his they were offered to him while training to become a monk. He went on to receive his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Dayton in 1964, and later received his Master's Degree from Pratt Institute in 1969 so that he would be able to find adequate work teaching art. Stanley was an early follower of computer art, and soon would become a pioneer practitioner, from the early eighties, creating computer art regularly from the mid 1980s throughout the 1990s and beyond. Notably, Stanley explored the same themes in painting and computer art throughout his career, particularly the exploration of perception and dimension in constructing images, as well as unseen forces at play in nature. Stanley cites artistic influences as broad as Jasper Johns, Wassily Kandinsky, Richard Diebenkorn, Sally Mann, and Bill Viola, as well as biologist E.O. Wilson and physicist Edward Lorenz.

Robert Stanley has exhibited his work throughout the United States and Europe, including The William Penn Museum in Harrisburg PA, Musée d'Art Contemporain, Chamaliere, France, Midwest Museum of Art, The Brauer Museum, Ft. Wayne Museum of Art, Koehline Museum, Hyde Park Art Center, and Evanston Art Center in Illinois. Stanley's art is featured in numerous private collections internationally as well as the Brauer Museum of Art, Valparaiso, IN; Ft. Wayne Museum of Art, Ft. Wayne, IN; The Embassy of France, Washington, D.C.; and the World Print Council, San Francisco, CA.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter, educator, and computer artist Robert Stanley measure 2.3 linear feet and 0.608 Gigabytes, and date from circa 1965-2001. The collection consists of correspondence largely professional in nature including born-digital material in the form of portfolio submissions and email folders prepared by Robert Stanley; writings in digital format in the form of a studio log describing the studio practice from 1978-2021; printed material including exhibition catalogues as well as a self-published catalogue raisonné also captured in digital format, as well as a selection of published writings; and an artwork series including mostly sketchbooks and loose sketches and drawings created throughout the span of Stanley's career.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as four series:

- Series 1: Correspondence (0.3 Linear feet: Box 1; 0.496 Gigabytes: ER0001-ER0002)
- Series 2: Writings (0.034 Gigabytes: ER0003)
- Series 3: Printed Material (0.2 Linear feet: Box 1; 0.064 Gigabytes: ER0004-ER0005)
- Series 4: Artwork (1.8 Linear feet: Boxes 1-3)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

- Drawings
- Sketchbooks

Occupations:

- Art teachers -- Indiana
- Computer artists -- Indiana
- Painters -- Indiana

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1977-2019

0.496 Gigabytes (ER0001-ER0002)

0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is largely professional in nature and includes born-digital material in the form of portfolio submissions and email folders prepared by Robert Stanley. Also included are letters from Richard Diebenkorn giving feedback on Stanley's portfolio in 1987, including his computer art.

Box 1, Folder 1 A, circa 1989-2016

Box 1, Folder 2 B, circa 1995-2009

Box 1, Folder 3 C, circa 1990-2013

Box 1, Folder 4 D, circa 1977-2013

Box 1, Folder 5 E, 2019

Box 1, Folder 6 F, circa 1992-2002

Box 1, Folder 7 G, 1988-2005

Box 1, Folder 8 H, circa 1989-2015

Box 1, Folder 9 I, 1992, 2013

Box 1, Folder 10 J, circa 1985-1997

Box 1, Folder 11 K, 1997-2006

Box 1, Folder 12 L, circa 1995-2012

Box 1, Folder 13 M, circa 1983-2012

Box 1, Folder 14 N, circa 1987-2008

Box 1, Folder 15 O, circa 1988-2001

Box 1, Folder 16 P, circa 1991-2003

Box 1, Folder 17 R, circa 1995-2012

Box 1, Folder 18 S, circa 1984-2013

Box 1, Folder 19	T, circa 1987-2012
Box 1, Folder 20	U, circa 1988-2009 Includes born-digital records; see ER0001.
Folder ER0001	Union Club Portfolio Submission, Digital Photographs and Documents, 2012 0.006 Gigabytes (Thirteen computer files.)
Box 1, Folder 21	V, 1987
Box 1, Folder 22	W, circa 1996-2015
Box 1, Folder 23	Y, 1996
Box 1, Folder 24	Z, 1993-1998
Box 1, Folder 25	Unknown, First Name Only, circa 1987-2019
Folder ER0002	Robert Stanley Email Correspondence, Digital Documents (.Mbox) .490 Gigabytes (707 Computer files) Notes: Topics of art correspondence, art business, and conversations, narratives on art selected by the creator and correspondent Robert Stanley. Minimally processed and accessible in ePADD software.

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Series 2: Writings, 2021

0.034 Gigabytes (ER0003)

Scope and Contents: Writings are in digital format in the form of a studio log describing the studio practice from 1978-2021.

Folder ER0003	Studio Log and Journal (1978-2021), Digital Document, 2021 0.034 Gigabytes (One computer file)
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Series 3: Printed Material, circa 2002-2021

.064 Gigabytes (ER0004-ER0005)

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes exhibition catalogues as well as a self-published catalogue raisonné also captured in digital format, as well as a selection of published writings.

Box 1, Folder 26 Exhibition Catalogs, 2002-2013

Box 1, Folder 27 Catalogue Raisonné, 2020

Folder ER0004 Catalogue Raisonné, Digital Document, 2020
0.063 Gigabytes (One computer file)

Folder ER0005 Published Writings, Digital Documents, 2021
.001 Gigabytes (54 computer files)

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Series 4: Artwork, circa 1965-2008

1.8 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3)

Scope and Contents: The artwork series includes sketchbooks, as well as loose sketches and drawings created throughout the span of Stanley's career.

Box 1, Folder 28	Sketches, Loose, circa 1965-1966
Box 1, Folder 29	Sketches, Loose, circa 1967-1968
Box 3, Folder 1	Sketches, Loose, circa 1965-1966
Box 3, Folder 2	Sketches, Loose, circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 30	Sketchbook, circa 1966
Box 1, Folder 31	Sketchbook, circa 1967
Box 1, Folder 32	Sketchbook, circa 1968-1969
Box 1, Folder 33	Sketchbook, circa 1967-1971
Box 1, Folder 34	Sketchbook, circa 1969-1980
Box 3, Folder 3	Sketchbook, circa 1971
Box 3, Folder 4	Sketchbook, circa 1973-1975
Box 1, Folder 35	Sketchbook, circa 1976
Box 1, Folder 36	Sketchbook, circa 1977-1978
Box 3, Folder 5	Sketchbook, circa 1977-1980
Box 1, Folder 37	Sketchbook, circa 1979-1980
Box 1, Folder 38	Sketchbook, 1988
Box 1, Folder 39	Sketchbook, circa 1989-1990
Box 1, Folder 40	Sketchbook, circa 1991
Box 2, Folder 1	Sketchbook, circa 1993
Box 2, Folder 2	Sketchbook, circa 1994

Box 2, Folder 3	Sketchbook, circa 1995
Box 2, Folder 4	Sketchbook, circa 1995-1996
Box 2, Folder 5	Sketchbook, circa 1996
Box 2, Folder 6	Sketchbook, circa 1997-1998
Box 2, Folder 7	Sketchbook, circa 1998-2000
Box 2, Folder 8	Sketchbook, circa 2000-2002
Box 2, Folder 9	Sketchbook, circa 2002-2005
Box 2, Folder 10	Sketchbook, circa 2005-2008

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