



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Reuben Tam Papers, 1931-2006, in the Archives of American Art

Erin Kinhart and Rihoko Ueno

The processing and digitization of the Reuben Tam papers received
Federal support from the Asian Pacific American Initiatives Pool,
administered by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center.

2017 August 1

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/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Arrangement.....	3
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	5
Series 1: Biographical Material, 1934-1993.....	5
Series 2: Correspondence, 1931-2006.....	7
Series 3: Diaries, 1932-1974.....	14
Series 4: Writings, 1939-1987.....	15
Series 5: Printed Material, 1935-1997.....	16
Series 6: Photographs, circa 1930-1990.....	18
Series 7: Artwork, circa 1936-1975.....	20
Series 8: Scrapbooks, 1938-1978.....	22
Series 9: Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-1974.....	24

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Reuben Tam papers
Identifier:	AAA.tamreub
Date:	1931-2006
Creator:	Tam, Reuben
Extent:	9.2 Linear feet
Language:	Collection is in English.
Summary:	The papers of landscape painter and educator Reuben Tam measure 9.2 linear feet and date from 1931 to 2006. The papers document his career as a painter in New York, Maine, and Hawaii through biographical material; correspondence with family, friends, art organizations, schools, and galleries; diaries, poetry, and other writings; exhibition catalogs, news clippings, other printed material; photographs; artwork, including seventeen sketchbooks; and eight scrapbooks. There is a 1.1 linear foot unprocessed addition to the collection donated in 2020 that includes 34 sketchbooks, circa 1940-1974, by Tam from his time in New York, Hawaii, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Oregon, Alaska and Canada.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Scrapbooks were lent for microfilming in 1970 by Reuben Tam and were subsequently donated in 2009 along with additional papers by Geraldine King Tam, Reuben Tam's widow. 34 additional sketchbooks were donated in 2020 by the Geraldine King Tam Trust, via Cindy King, trustee and niece of Geraldine King Tam.

Related Materials

Reuben Tam papers, 1958-1966, are also located at Syracuse University.

Available Formats

The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2017 and is available on the Archives of American Art's website. Materials which have not been digitized include blank pages, blank versos of photographs, and duplicates. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and described in a finding aid by Erin Kinhart in 2011. The collection was fully processed and prepared for digitization by Rihoko Ueno in 2017. The digitization of the Reuben Tam papers received Federal support from the Asian Pacific American Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center.

Preferred Citation

Reuben Tam papers, 1931-2006. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Terms of Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the [Smithsonian's Terms of Use](#) for additional information.

Biographical / Historical

Reuben Tam (1916-1991) was a landscape painter and educator in New York, Maine, and Hawaii. Tam was born in Kapaa, Hawaii, in 1916. He received a degree in education in 1937 from the University of Hawaii and was briefly a public school teacher before attending graduate courses at the California School of Fine Arts. In 1941 he moved to New York and took courses in art history and philosophy at the New School for Social Research and Columbia University. Tam became affiliated with the Downtown Gallery in 1945 and was a prolific exhibitor in national and regional shows, winning critical praise as an abstract landscape painter. In 1948 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and first exhibited in the National Academy's annual exhibition in 1947.

Tam was an instructor at the Brooklyn Museum of Art School from 1946 to 1974. While there he taught advanced studies in painting and was chairman of the graduate painting department. He also served as a visiting professor at Oregon State University, Haystack, and Queens College, CUNY.

Beginning in 1948, Tam and his wife, Geraldine, spent summers at their home and studio on Monhegan Island, Maine. Tam's work was deeply influenced by coastal landscapes both in Maine and in his native Hawaii. In 1981 he and his wife moved back to Kapaa, Hawaii, where he continued to paint and exhibit his new works until his death in 1991.

Scope and Contents

The papers of landscape painter and educator Reuben Tam measure 9.2 linear feet and date from 1931 to 2006. The papers document his career as a painter in New York, Maine, and Hawaii through biographical material; correspondence with family, friends, art organizations, schools, and galleries; diaries, poetry, and other writings; exhibition catalogs, news clippings, other printed material; photographs; artwork, including seventeen sketchbooks; and eight scrapbooks. There is a 1.1 linear foot unprocessed addition to the collection donated in 2020 that includes 34 sketchbooks, circa 1940-1974, by Tam from his time in New York, Hawaii, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Oregon, Alaska and Canada.

Biographical material includes school documents, records of his tenure as an instructor at the Brooklyn Museum of Art School, artwork consignment and sales records, and slides and accompanying audio cassette recording of the "Reuben Tam Show" about his work as an artist on Monhegan Island, Maine.

Correspondence is with family, fellow artists, including William Kienbusch and Hyde Solomon, as well as art organizations, schools, and museums, such as Brooklyn Museum of Art School, Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, Maine Coast Artists group, and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Also found is

correspondence with the three galleries which represented his work: Downtown Gallery, Alan Gallery, and Coe Kerr Gallery.

The collection includes five bound diaries as well as diary entries written by Reuben Tam on loose sheets of paper, primarily documenting the 1940s. Other writings include drafts of poetry, one notebook, miscellaneous notes, and essays by others.

Printed material consists of school publications, exhibition catalogs and announcements for solo and group shows, brochures, flyers, magazines, bulletins, and news clippings. Eight scrapbooks found in this collection also include newspaper clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, as well as event invitations, membership cards, and letters, documenting 40 years of Reuben Tam's career.

Photographs are of Reuben Tam, Tam with friends and family, and artwork. One photograph album contains photographs from Tam's visits to Maine from 1946 to 1948, and includes photographs of fellow artists Hyde Solomon, Carl Nesjar, Dorothy Andrews, and William Kienbusch. Artwork in the collection includes prints, drawings, and watercolors as well as seventeen large sketchbooks documenting the coastal landscape of Monhegan Island, Maine.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 9 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1934-1993 (Box 1; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1931-2006 (Box 1-4; 3.5 linear feet)
- Series 3: Diaries, 1932-1974 (Box 4-5; 0.4 linear feet)
- Series 4: Writings, 1939-1987 (Box 5; 7 folders)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1935-1997 (Box 5-6, 9; 1.2 linear feet)
- Series 6: Photographs, circa 1930-1990 (Box 6-7, 9; 1.0 linear foot)
- Series 7: Artwork, circa 1936-1975 (Box 7, 9-10, OV 11; 0.7 linear feet)
- Series 8: Scrapbooks, 1938-1978 (Box 7-8; 0.9 linear feet)
- Series 9: Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-1974 (Box 12, OV13; 1.1 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Asian American artists
Educators -- Hawaii
Educators -- Maine
Educators -- New York (State)
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Diaries
Drawings
Poems
Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks
Sound recordings
Watercolors

Names:

Alan Gallery (Charles Alan)
Andrews, Dorothy, 1918-2008
Brooklyn Museum of Art
Coe Kerr Gallery
Downtown Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation
Kienbusch, William, 1914-1980
Nesjar, Carl, 1920-
Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture
Solomon, Hyde, 1911-

Occupations:

Painters -- Hawaii
Painters -- Maine

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1934-1993

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series contains biographical summaries and resumes documenting Reuben Tam's career, as well as his school records, diplomas, and teaching records, including extensive records of his tenure at the Brooklyn Museum of Art School. Also found are records of artwork sales and loans, various lists of artwork, and the consignment and purchase records for the galleries which represented Tam. Also of note is a slide show and accompanying audio cassette recording of the "Reuben Tam Show" about his work as an artist on Monhegan Island, Maine.

Arrangement: Folders are arranged alphabetically.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for blank pages and duplicates. The sound recording of the "Reuben Tam Show" has been digitized for research access.

Box 1, Folder 1	Appraisal Records, 1991-1992
Box 1, Folder 2	"Artists of Hawaii" Television Program Documents, 1983
Box 1, Folder 3	Artwork Freight Records, 1991-1994
Box 1, Folder 4	Artwork Sales and Loans, 1948, circa 1969-1992
Box 1, Folder 5	Bills and Receipts (1 of 2), circa 1941-1977
Box 1, Folder 6	Bills and Receipts (2 of 2), circa 1941-1977
Box 1, Folder 7	Biographical Information and Resumes, 1944-1987
Box 1, Folder 8	Calendar Pages, 1965
Box 1, Folder 9	Consignments and Purchases, Alan Gallery, 1953-1955
Box 1, Folder 10	Consignments and Purchases, Alan Gallery, 1956-1967
Box 1, Folder 11	Consignments and Purchases, Coe Kerr Gallery, 1971-1979
Box 1, Folder 12	Consignments and Purchases, Downtown Gallery, 1943-1951
Box 1, Folder 13	Consignments and Purchases, Downtown Gallery, 1959, 1952-1953
Box 1, Folder 14	Diplomas, 1937-1938
Box 1, Folder 15	Identification Card, 1940
Box 1, Folder 16	Lists of Artwork, circa 1957-1984

Box 1, Folder 17	Memorial Program, 1991
Box 1, Folder 18	National Endowment for the Arts Grant Application, 1969
Box 1, Folder 19	"Reuben Tam Show" Slide Show, circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 20	"Reuben Tam Show" Sound Recordings, circa 1980 2 Sound cassettes (Duplicates)
Box 1, Folder 21	School Records, 1934-1940
Box 1, Folder 22	Teaching Records, 1973, 1943, 1940
Box 1, Folder 23	Teaching Records, Brooklyn Museum of Art School (1 of 2), 1948-1974
Box 1, Folder 24	Teaching Records, Brooklyn Museum of Art School (2 of 2), 1948-1974
Box 1, Folder 25	Travel Documents, 1974

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1931-2006

3.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-4)

Scope and Contents: This series contains Tam's correspondence with his wife Geraldine, family, friends, colleagues, art associations, schools, museums, and galleries. Also found are copies of Tam's outgoing correspondence and letters sent to Geraldine Tam after Reuben's death. Researchers should note that additional letters of significance are located within the scrapbooks in Series 8.

Of note is correspondence with friends and fellow artists Alan Gussow, William Kienbusch, Frances Kornbluth, Carl Nesjar, Ben Norris, and Hyde Solomon, as well as art organizations, schools, and museums, such as Artists Equity Association, Brooklyn Museum of Art School, Honolulu Academy of Arts, Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, Maine Coast Artists group, the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Also found is correspondence with the three galleries which represented his work: Downtown Gallery, Alan Gallery, and Coe Kerr Gallery.

Arrangement: Family and outgoing correspondence is arranged chronologically followed by general correspondence which is arranged alphabetically.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for duplicates.

Box 1, Folder 26	Correspondence between Reuben and Geraldine Tam, circa 1954-1971
Box 1, Folder 27	Correspondence between Reuben and Geraldine Tam, 1971-1976
Box 1, Folder 28	Family Correspondence, 1941, 1970-1974
Box 1, Folder 29	Family Correspondence, 1985-1988
Box 1, Folder 30	Family Correspondence, 1989
Box 1, Folder 31	Family Correspondence, 1990
Box 1, Folder 32	Family Correspondence, 1991-1992
Box 1, Folder 33	Family Correspondence, 1993
Box 1, Folder 34	Family Correspondence, 1994
Box 1, Folder 35	Family Correspondence, 1995
Box 1, Folder 36	Family Correspondence, 1996
Box 1, Folder 37	Family Correspondence, 1997-1998
Box 1, Folder 38	Family Correspondence (Undated), circa 1970-circa 1998
Box 1, Folder 39	Letters to Geraldine Tam from Others (Undated), circa 1991-1998

Box 1, Folder 40	Letters to Geraldine Tam from Others, 1991-1998
Box 1, Folder 41	Letters to Geraldine Tam from Others, 2001-2002
Box 1, Folder 42	Outgoing Letters by Reuben Tam, 1940-1945
Box 1, Folder 43	Outgoing Letters by Reuben Tam, 1946-1947
Box 1, Folder 44	Outgoing Letters by Reuben Tam, 1948-1949
Box 1, Folder 45	Outgoing Letters by Reuben Tam, 1950-1952
Box 2, Folder 1	Outgoing Letters by Reuben Tam, 1953
Box 2, Folder 2	Outgoing Letters by Reuben Tam, 1954
Box 2, Folder 3	Outgoing Letters by Reuben Tam, 1955
Box 2, Folder 4	Outgoing Letters by Reuben Tam, 1956-57
Box 2, Folder 5	Outgoing Letters by Reuben Tam, 1958-1959
Box 2, Folder 6	Outgoing Letters by Reuben Tam, 1963-1966
Box 2, Folder 7	Outgoing Letters by Reuben Tam, 1970-1989
Box 2, Folder 8	Alan Gallery, 1953-1960
Box 2, Folder 9	Alan Gallery, 1962-1974
Box 2, Folder 10	Allentown Art Museum, 1974
Box 2, Folder 11	Artists Equity Association, 1952-1972
Box 2, Folder 12	Art League of Hilton Head, 1977-1978
Box 2, Folder 13	A, Miscellaneous: Ad-An, 1941-1978
Box 2, Folder 14	A, Miscellaneous: Ar-Av, 1939-1978
Box 2, Folder 15	Barrett, Tom and Leni Mancuso, 1970-1975
Box 2, Folder 16	Betts, Edward, 1976-1980
Box 2, Folder 17	Boothbay Region Art Foundation, 1967-1978
Box 2, Folder 18	Brooklyn Museum Art School, 1947-1968

Box 2, Folder 19	Brooklyn Museum Art School, 1969-1978
Box 2, Folder 20	B, Miscellaneous: Ba-Bi, 1938-1997
Box 2, Folder 21	B, Miscellaneous: BI-By, 1955-1978
Box 2, Folder 22	Clough, Gari and Elena, circa 1965-1972
Box 2, Folder 23	Coe Kerr Gallery, 1970-1972
Box 2, Folder 24	Coe Kerr Gallery, 1973-1978
Box 2, Folder 25	Coe Kerr Gallery, 1979-1984
Box 2, Folder 26	Colby College Art Museum, 1964-1976
Box 2, Folder 27	Columbia University, 1967-1973
Box 2, Folder 28	C, Miscellaneous: Ca-Ce, 1940-1997
Box 2, Folder 29	C, Miscellaneous: Ch-CI, 1948-1988
Box 2, Folder 30	C, Miscellaneous: Coa-Con, 1943-1993
Box 2, Folder 31	C, Miscellaneous: Cor-Cu, 1967-1988
Box 2, Folder 32	Downtown Gallery, 1945-1957
Box 2, Folder 33	D, Miscellaneous: Da-Di, 1941-1979
Box 2, Folder 34	D, Miscellaneous: Do-Dr, 1939-1995
Box 2, Folder 35	E, Miscellaneous, 1963-1975
Box 2, Folder 36	Ford Foundation, 1958-1959
Box 2, Folder 37	F, Miscellaneous: Fa-Fe, 1957-1976
Box 2, Folder 38	F, Miscellaneous: Fi-Fo, 1960-1979
Box 2, Folder 39	F, Miscellaneous: Fr-Fu, 1942-1994
Box 3, Folder 1	Goldsmith, Lawrence, 1968-1979
Box 3, Folder 2	Gussow, Alan, 1967-1975
Box 3, Folder 3	Gussow, Alan, 1976-1997

Box 3, Folder 4	G, Miscellaneous: Ga-Gi, 1948-1988
Box 3, Folder 5	G, Miscellaneous: Go-Gu, 1940-1990
Box 3, Folder 6	Haystack, 1970-1971
Box 3, Folder 7	Honolulu Academy of Arts, 1939-1993
Box 3, Folder 8	Honolulu Print Makers, 1942-1948
Box 3, Folder 9	H, Miscellaneous: Ha, 1943-1997
Box 3, Folder 10	H, Miscellaneous: He-Hu, 1938-1994
Box 3, Folder 11	Institute of International Education, 1957-1961
Box 3, Folder 12	International House, 1974, circa 1942-1943
Box 3, Folder 13	I, Miscellaneous, 1940-1987
Box 3, Folder 14	Jahn, Elena, 1959-1994
Box 3, Folder 15	Joe De Mers Gallery, 1973-1977
Box 3, Folder 16	John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, 1942-1990
Box 3, Folder 17	J, Miscellaneous, 1952-1977
Box 3, Folder 18	Kienbusch, William, 1947-1949
Box 3, Folder 19	Kienbusch, William, 1950-1975
Box 3, Folder 20	Kirchner, Leon, 1943-1948
Box 3, Folder 21	Kline, Amy Sue and Thomas McColl, 1973-1974
Box 3, Folder 22	Kornbluth, Frances, 1989, 1970-1977
Box 3, Folder 23	Kurka, Don, 1967-1995
Box 3, Folder 24	K, Miscellaneous: Ka-Ko, 1935-1984
Box 3, Folder 25	K, Miscellaneous: Kr-Ku, 1954-1973
Box 3, Folder 26	Lamont Gallery, 1970
Box 3, Folder 27	Lyman House Memorial Museum, 1984-1986

Box 3, Folder 28	L, Miscellaneous: La-Le, 1944-1977
Box 3, Folder 29	L, Miscellaneous: Li-Ly, 1942-1990
Box 3, Folder 30	Maine Art Gallery, 1961-1967
Box 3, Folder 31	Maine Coast Artists, 1953, 1964-1969
Box 3, Folder 32	Maine Coast Artists, 1970-1976
Box 3, Folder 33	Maine Coast Artists, 1977-1984
Box 3, Folder 34	Manoa, 1989
Box 3, Folder 35	Miller, Donald, 1942-1943
Box 3, Folder 36	Museum of Modern Art, 1952-1974
Box 3, Folder 37	M, Miscellaneous: Mac-Mai, 1962-1978
Box 3, Folder 38	M, Miscellaneous: Mal-May, 1969-1994
Box 3, Folder 39	M, Miscellaneous: Mc-Mo, 1947-2006
Box 3, Folder 40	National Academy of Design, 1966-1989
Box 3, Folder 41	Nesjar, Carl, 1946-1967
Box 3, Folder 42	Norris, Ben, 1958-1978
Box 4, Folder 1	N, Miscellaneous: N.-Na, 1945-1980
Box 4, Folder 2	N, Miscellaneous: Ne-No, 1931-1992
Box 4, Folder 3	Oregon State University, 1965-1967
Box 4, Folder 4	O, Miscellaneous, 1953-1979
Box 4, Folder 5	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, 1940-1967
Box 4, Folder 6	Porter, Cecil, 1971-1973
Box 4, Folder 7	Portland Museum of Art, 1958-1993
Box 4, Folder 8	P, Miscellaneous: Pa-Pe, 1948-1985
Box 4, Folder 9	P, Miscellaneous: Ph-Pu, 1941-1989

Box 4, Folder 10	Q, Miscellaneous, 1973, 1997
Box 4, Folder 11	Rockwell, Fritz, 1943-1947
Box 4, Folder 12	R, Miscellaneous: Ra-Ri, 1958-1973
Box 4, Folder 13	R, Miscellaneous: Ro-Ru, 1943-1974
Box 4, Folder 14	Samenfeld, Mark, circa 1953-1969
Box 4, Folder 15	Schaffner, John, 1957-1958
Box 4, Folder 16	Shoemaker, Peter, 1952-1997
Box 4, Folder 17	Silk Screen Group, 1942-1943
Box 4, Folder 18	Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, 1954-1967
Box 4, Folder 19	Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, 1969-1976
Box 4, Folder 20	Solomon, Hyde, 1944-1972
Box 4, Folder 21	State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (Hawaii), 1970-1997
Box 4, Folder 22	Syracuse University, 1964-1970
Box 4, Folder 23	S, Miscellaneous: Sa-Sc, 1943-1992
Box 4, Folder 24	S, Miscellaneous: Se-Sm, 1939-1979
Box 4, Folder 25	S, Miscellaneous: So-Su, 1941-1988
Box 4, Folder 26	Twining, Libbie Cooper, 1969-1974
Box 4, Folder 27	T, Miscellaneous, 1939-1976
Box 4, Folder 28	University of Colorado, 1970, 1953
Box 4, Folder 29	University of Delaware, 1980-1987
Box 4, Folder 30	University of Hawaii, 1942-1990
Box 4, Folder 31	University of Illinois, Urbana, 1952-1959
Box 4, Folder 32	U, Miscellaneous, 1934-1978
Box 4, Folder 33	V, Miscellaneous, 1940-1970

Box 4, Folder 34	Whitney Museum of American Art, 1953-1986
Box 4, Folder 35	Winters, Denny, circa 1952-1978
Box 4, Folder 36	W, Miscellaneous: Wa-We, 1940-1978
Box 4, Folder 37	W, Miscellaneous: Wh-Wo, 1955-1997
Box 4, Folder 38	Y-Z, Miscellaneous, 1959-1991
Box 4, Folder 39	Unidentified Correspondence, 1939-1971
Box 4, Folder 40	Unidentified Correspondence, 1972-1990

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Diaries, 1932-1974

0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 4-5)

Scope and Contents: This series contains five bound diaries as well as diary entries written by Reuben Tam on loose sheets of paper. Most of the diaries document Tam's activities during the 1940s, including his early visits to Maine. Diaries also include a few sketches and notes.

Arrangement: Diaries are arranged in chronological order.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for blank pages.

Formats:

Box 4, Folder 41	Diary, 1932
Box 4, Folder 42	Diary (Loose Pages), 1938
Box 5, Folder 1	Diary (Loose Pages), 1939
Box 5, Folder 2	Diary (Loose Pages), 1940-1941
Box 5, Folder 3	Diary, 1941
Box 5, Folder 4	Diary, 1941-1942
Box 5, Folder 5	Diary (Loose Pages), 1942-1943
Box 5, Folder 6	Diary (Loose Pages), 1944-1947
Box 5, Folder 7	Diary, 1947-1948
Box 5, Folder 8	Diary, 1962-1974
Box 5, Folder 9	Diary (Loose Pages), circa 1966-1970

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Writings, 1939-1987

7 Folders (Box 5)

Scope and Contents: This series contains drafts of poetry by Reuben Tam, one notebook containing notes on artwork and painting technique, and miscellaneous writings and notes by Tam, including thoughts on Montauk, New York, and Monhegan Island, Maine. Also found are an essay about Tam, "Reuben Tam, Metaphysical Painter" by Martin James, and an article for Kauai Magazine by Pat I. Griffin.

Arrangement: The material in this series has been arranged alphabetically by type of writing, such as essays, notes, and poems.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for blank pages and duplicates.

Box 5, Folder 10	Autobiographical Essay by Reuben Tam, 1975
Box 5, Folder 11	Miscellaneous Writings and Notes, 1944
Box 5, Folder 12	Miscellaneous Writings and Notes, 1946-1987
Box 5, Folder 13	Notebook, 1942
Box 5, Folder 14	Poetry by Reuben Tam, circa 1940-circa 1942
Box 5, Folder 15	Poem by Jerry Friese, "Signature", 1939
Box 5, Folder 16	Writings about Reuben Tam, 1945, 1985

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Printed Material, 1935-1997

1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 5-6, 9)

Scope and Contents: Printed material consists of a book of poetry by Reuben Tam titled *The Wind-Honed Islands Rise*, publications produced by the Brooklyn Museum Art School, exhibition catalogs and announcements for solo and group shows of Tam's work, brochures, flyers, and other miscellaneous publications. Included are several catalogs for exhibitions at the Downtown Gallery. Also found are magazines, bulletins, and news clippings of articles documenting Tam's career. Researchers should note that numerous clippings and exhibition announcements are also included within the scrapbooks found in Series 8.

Arrangement: The material in this series has been arranged by document type (exhibition announcements and catalogs, report, magazines, clippings, etc.), then arranged chronologically within those groupings.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for duplicates. Most of the exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages scanned.

Box 5, Folder 17	The Wind-Honed Islands Rise by Reuben Tam, 1996
Box 5, Folder 18	Brooklyn Museum Art School Publications, 1947-1973
Box 5, Folder 19	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs (Undated), circa 1940-circa 1990
Box 5, Folder 20	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1937-1941
Box 5, Folder 21	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1942-1944
Box 5, Folder 22	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1945-1946
Box 5, Folder 23	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1946-1947
Box 5, Folder 24	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1948-1949
Box 5, Folder 25	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1950-1951
Box 5, Folder 26	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1952
Box 5, Folder 27	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1953-1959
Box 5, Folder 28	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1960-1969
Box 6, Folder 1	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1970-1979
Box 6, Folder 2	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1980-1996
Box 6, Folder 3	Foundation Reports, 1948, 1991
Box 6, Folder 4	Gallery Publications, circa 1940-circa 1952

Box 6, Folder 5	Magazines and Bulletins, 1935-1941
Box 6, Folder 6	Magazines and Bulletins, 1945-1949 Notes: Oversized magazine housed in Box 9.
Box 6, Folder 7	Magazines and Bulletins, 1950-1979
Box 6, Folder 8	Magazines and Bulletins, 1984-1997
Box 6, Folder 9	News Clippings (Undated), circa 1940-circa 1995
Box 6, Folder 10	News Clippings, circa 1938-1940
Box 6, Folder 11	News Clippings, 1941-1946
Box 6, Folder 12	News Clippings, 1947-1949
Box 6, Folder 13	News Clippings, 1950-1965
Box 6, Folder 14	News Clippings, 1970-1979
Box 6, Folder 15	News Clippings, 1980-1995
Box 6, Folder 16	Miscellaneous Printed Material (1 of 2), circa 1937-1989
Box 6, Folder 17	Miscellaneous Printed Material (2 of 2), circa 1937-1989
Box 6, Folder 18	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1940-circa 1949
Box 9	Oversized Magazine digitized with material from Box 6, Folder 6, 1948

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Photographs, circa 1930-1990

1 Linear foot (Boxes 6-7, 9)

Scope and Contents: This series consists of photographs of Reuben Tam, Tam with friends and family, photographs and slides of his artwork, and four photograph albums. Included are photographs of Tam in his studio, sketching on Monhegan Island, and portraits taken by his nephew, William Ing. One photograph album contains photographs from Tam's visits to Maine from 1946 to 1948 and includes photographs of fellow artists Hyde Solomon, Carl Nesjar, Dorothy Andrews, and William Kienbusch.

Arrangement: The material in this series is loosely arranged by subject. Photographs of Reuben Tam are at the beginning of the series.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been scanned, except for duplicates and blank versos of photographs.

Box 6, Folder 19	Small Snapshots of Reuben Tam, 1940-1949
Box 6, Folder 20	Photographs of Reuben Tam, circa 1940-1947
Box 6, Folder 21	Photographs of Reuben Tam, 1947-1951 Notes: Oversized photographs housed in Box 9.
Box 6, Folder 22	Photographs of Reuben Tam, 1951-1968 Notes: Oversized photograph housed in Box 9.
Box 6, Folder 23	Photographs of Reuben Tam, 1969-1977
Box 6, Folder 24	Photographs of Reuben Tam by William Ing, circa 1960-1984
Box 6, Folder 25	Photographs of Reuben Tam on Monhegan Island, circa 1970-circa 1979
Box 6, Folder 26	Photographs of Reuben Tam and Others, circa 1940-1990
Box 6, Folder 27	Photograph of Monhegan Cottage, circa 1950-circa 1959 Notes: Oversized photograph housed in Box 9.
Box 6, Folder 28	Photographs for Still Life Lecture, 1986
Box 6, Folder 29	Photograph Album, Personal (1 of 2), 1946-1948
Box 6, Folder 30	Photograph Album, Personal (2 of 2), 1946-1948
Box 6, Folder 31	Photograph Album of Artwork 1 (1 of 2), circa 1940-circa 1949
Box 6, Folder 32	Photograph Album of Artwork 1 (2 of 2), circa 1940-circa 1949
Box 7, Folder 1	Photograph Album of Artwork 2 (1 of 2) , circa 1940-1961
Box 7, Folder 2	Photograph Album of Artwork 2 (2 of 2), circa 1940-1961

Box 7, Folder 3	Photograph Album of Artwork 3, circa 1960-circa 1969
Box 7, Folder 4	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1930-circa 1979
Box 7, Folder 5	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1930-circa 1980
Box 7, Folder 6	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1940-circa 1979
Box 7, Folder 7	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1940-circa 1987
Box 7, Folder 8	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1950-circa 1969
Box 7, Folder 9	Negatives and Slides, 1983, undated
Box 9	Oversize Photographs of Reuben Tam digitized with material from Box 6, Folders 21-22, circa 1948, circa 1960
Box 9	Oversize Photograph of Monhegan Cottage digitized with Box 6, Folder 27, circa 1950-circa 1959

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Artwork, circa 1936-1975

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 7, 9-10, OV 11)

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes Reuben Tam's drawings, watercolors, prints, and sketchbooks, as well as two drawings by others. Some of these works are from the period that Tam was a student at the University of Hawaii. Seventeen large sketchbooks contain Tam's pencil, ink, and watercolor sketches of the rocky landscape on Monhegan Island, Maine. One pastel portrait, possibly of Tam, is by an unidentified artist, and one sketch by Geraldine Tam is titled "Reuben Tam Typing."

Arrangement: The material in this series has been loosely grouped by medium and format (drawings, portraits, prints, sketchbooks, etc.). The sketchbooks have been arranged chronologically.

Available Formats: The bulk of this series has been digitized, except for blank pages.

Box 7, Folder 10	Drawings and Watercolors, circa 1936, 1954, undated Notes: Oversized items housed in Box 9.
Box 7, Folder 11	Pastel Portrait, circa 1937 Notes: Oversized item housed in OV 11.
Box 7, Folder 12	Prints, circa 1935-circa 1975
Box 7, Folder 13	Sketch by Geraldine Tam, 1971
Box 9, Folder 1	Sketchbook 1, 1964
Box 9, Folder 2	Sketchbook 2, 1964
Box 9, Folder 3	Sketchbook 3, 1964
Box 9, Folder 4	Sketchbook, 1967
Box 9, Folder 5	Sketchbook 1, 1968
Box 9, Folder 6	Sketchbook 2, 1968
Box 9, Folder 7	Sketchbook 1, 1969
Box 9, Folder 8	Sketchbook 2, 1969
Box 10, Folder 1	Sketchbook 1, 1970
Box 10, Folder 2	Sketchbook 2, 1970
Box 10, Folder 3	Sketchbook 3, 1970
Box 10, Folder 4	Sketchbook, 1972

Box 10, Folder 5	Sketchbook, 1973
Box 10, Folder 6	Sketchbook 1, 1975
Box 10, Folder 7	Sketchbook 2, 1975
Box 10, Folder 8	Sketchbook (Undated) 1, circa 1964-circa 1975
Box 10, Folder 9	Sketchbook (Undated) 2, circa 1964-circa 1975
Box 9, Folder	Oversize Drawings digitized with material from Box 7, Folder 10, circa 1954
Box OV 11, Folder	Oversized Pastel Portrait digitized with Box 7, Folder 11, circa 1937

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 8: Scrapbooks, 1938-1978

0.9 Linear feet (Boxes 7-8)

Scope and Contents: This series contains eight scrapbooks, documenting 40 years of Reuben Tam's career as an artist in New York and Maine. Included in the scrapbooks are newspaper clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, event invitations, membership cards, and letters from Downtown Gallery, Museum of Modern Art, Carnegie Institute, Brooklyn Museum, and other galleries and art organizations. Three loose scrapbook pages appear to be from scrapbooks not found in this collection.

Arrangement: Scrapbook pages have been removed from fragile binders and placed into archival folders, maintaining the original page order. Scrapbooks were numbered by Reuben Tam and are in chronological order.

Available Formats: The bulk of the series has been digitized, except for a few pages of duplicates.

Box 7, Folder 14	Loose Scrapbook Pages, circa 1939-1942
Box 7, Folder 15	Scrapbook 1 (1 of 2), 1938-1944
Box 7, Folder 16	Scrapbook 1 (2 of 2), 1938-1944
Box 7, Folder 17	Scrapbook 2 (1 of 2), 1945-1947
Box 7, Folder 18	Scrapbook 2 (2 of 2), 1945-1947
Box 7, Folder 19	Scrapbook 3 (1 of 2), 1946-1949
Box 7, Folder 20	Scrapbook 3 (2 of 2), 1946-1949
Box 7, Folder 21	Scrapbook 4 (1 of 2), 1949-1952
Box 7, Folder 22	Scrapbook 4 (2 of 2), 1949-1952
Box 7, Folder 23	Scrapbook 5 (1 of 3), 1952-1959
Box 7, Folder 24	Scrapbook 5 (2 of 3), 1952-1959
Box 7, Folder 25	Scrapbook 5 (3 of 3), 1952-1959
Box 8, Folder 1	Scrapbook 6 (1 of 3), 1960-1967
Box 8, Folder 2	Scrapbook 6 (2 of 3), 1960-1967
Box 8, Folder 3	Scrapbook 6 (3 of 3), 1960-1967
Box 8, Folder 4	Scrapbook 7 (1 of 2), 1967-1970
Box 8, Folder 5	Scrapbook 7 (2 of 2), 1967-1970

Box 8, Folder 6 [Scrapbook 8 \(1 of 2\), 1971-1978](#)

Box 8, Folder 7 [Scrapbook 8 \(2 of 2\), 1971-1978](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 9: Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-1974

1.1 Linear feet (Box 12, OV 13)

Scope and Contents: The unprocessed 1.1 linear foot addition includes 34 sketchbooks, circa 1940-1974, by Tam from his time in New York, Hawaii, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Oregon, Alaska and Canada.

Box 12 Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-1974

Oversize 13 Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-1974

[Return to Table of Contents](#)