



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Robin Tewes Papers, 1950-2016, in the Archives of American Art

Hilary Price

2017 March 3

Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	4
Series 1: Biographical Material, 1950-2012.....	4
Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1970-2016.....	5
Series 3: Notebooks, 2007-2015.....	7
Series 4: Project Files, circa 1975-2015.....	8
Series 5: Teaching Files, 1997-2015.....	10
Series 6: Personal Business Records, circa 1975-2010.....	11
Series 7: Printed Material, circa 1970-2015.....	12
Series 8: Photographic Material, circa 1958-2015.....	13
Series 9: Artwork, circa 1950-2015.....	14
Series 10: Sketchbooks, circa 1984-2010.....	15
Series 11: Artifacts, circa 2009, circa 2000.....	16

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Robin Tewes papers
<b>Date:</b>	1950-2016
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.tewerobi
<b>Creator:</b>	Tewes, Robin
<b>Extent:</b>	8.4 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	Collection is in English
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of painter and educator Robin Tewes measure 8.4 linear feet and date from 1950-2016. The collection documents the life of a veteran New York artist, active in artist run galleries, such as Fifth Street Gallery, and in artists' organizations. Among the papers are biographical material, correspondence, nine notebooks, project files, teaching files, personal business records, printed material, photographic material, artwork, nine sketchbooks, and a few artifacts.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated to the Archives of American Art in 2016 by Robin Tewes.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Hilary Price in 2017.

### Preferred Citation

Robin Tewes papers, 1950-2016. 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Robin Tewes (1950- ) is a New York painter and educator. Born and raised in Queens, New York, Tewes graduated from the High School of Art and Design in 1968 and received her BFA from Hunter College in 1978. Tewes was an original member of P.S. 122 Painting Association and founded the Fifth Street Gallery which operated on the Lower East Side in the late 1970s. Tewes has taught at several colleges and universities around New York City including Bard College, Hunter College, Pace University, Parsons the New School for Design, and the School of Visual Arts. She has been included in numerous exhibitions, both domestically and internationally.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and educator Robin Tewes measure 8.4 linear feet and date from 1950-2016. The collection documents the life of a veteran New York artist, active in artist run galleries, such as Fifth Street Gallery, and in artists' organizations. Among the papers are biographical material, correspondence, nine notebooks, project files, teaching files, personal business records, printed material, photographic material, artwork, nine sketchbooks, and a few artifacts.

Notable correspondents include Tewes' longtime friend and writer Beverly Donofrio, as well as Andrea Belag, Vija Celmins, Petah Coyne, Ilona Granet, Mark Innerst, Joyce Kozloff, Ruth Marten, Mark Tansey, Marcia Tucker, Martha Wilson, and Nina Yankowitz.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 11 series.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1950-2012 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1970-2016 (0.9 linear feet; Box 1-2)
- Series 3: Notebooks, 2007-2015 (0.4 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 4: Project Files, circa 1975-2015 (1.6 linear feet; Box 2-3, OV 10-11)
- Series 5: Teaching Files, 1997-2015 (0.4 linear feet; Box 3-4)
- Series 6: Personal Business Records, circa 1975-2010 (0.2 linear feet; Box 4)
- Series 7: Printed Material, circa 1970-2015 (2.5 linear feet; Box 4-6, OV 12)
- Series 8: Photographic Material, circa 1958-2015 (0.6 linear feet; Box 7, OV 13; 332 Megabytes; ER01)
- Series 9: Artwork, circa 1950-2015 (0.7 linear feet; Box 7, OV 14-15)
- Series 10: Sketchbooks, circa 1984-2010 (0.6 linear feet; Box 8-9)
- Series 11: Artifacts, circa 2000, circa 2009 (0.2 linear feet; Box 9)

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Study and teaching  
Educators -- New York (State) -- New York  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York  
Photographs

Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

Names:

Belag, Andrea  
Celmins, Vija, 1938-  
Coyne, Petah  
Donofrio, Beverly  
Innerst, Mark, 1957-  
Kozloff, Joyce  
Marten, Ruth  
Tansey, Mark, 1949-  
Tucker, Marcia  
Wilson, Martha, 1947-  
Yankowitz, Nina

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 1950-2012

#### 0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material dates from 1950-2012 and includes addresses, an astrological reading, certificates, childhood artwork and writings, diplomas and school records, family clippings, a lease to Fifth Street Gallery, marriage and birth announcements, and a few writings by Tewes and about Tewes. Tewes' writings mostly date from her time as a student at Hunter College, but there are a few artist statements as well.

Box 1, Folder 1	Address Books and Mailing Lists, circa 1980-2005
Box 1, Folder 2	Artist Certification, City of New York, 1986
Box 1, Folder 3	Astrology Reading, 1985
Box 1, Folder 4	Birth Certificate, 1950
Box 1, Folder 5	Childhood Art and Writing, circa 1950-1972
Box 1, Folder 6	Diplomas, Report Cards, School Records, 1957-2012
Box 1, Folder 7	Family Clippings, 1943, 2002
Box 1, Folder 8	Lease, 1976-1979
Box 1, Folder 9	Marriage and Birth Announcements, 1990, 1983
Box 1, Folder 10	Writings, 1962-2009
Box 1, Folder 11	Writings about Tewes, 1981-2007

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1970-2016

*0.9 Linear feet (Box 1-2)*

Scope and Contents: Correspondence dates from circa 1970-2016 and includes both personal and professional correspondence. Many letters exchanged between Tewes and her family capture details of her early life, especially reflections from trips abroad. There are also many detailed letters from Tewes' longtime friend, the writer Beverly Donofrio. Notes and personalized exhibition announcements from artists are also found here and include Andrea Belag, Vija Celmins, Petah Coyne, Ilona Granet, Mark Innerst, Joyce Kozloff, Ruth Marten, Mark Tansey, Marcia Tucker, Martha Wilson, and Nina Yankowitz. Professional correspondence is with galleries, museums, and various art organizations regarding exhibitions, benefits, and residencies.

Box 1, Folder 12	A, General, 1981-2006
Box 1, Folder 13	B, General, 1981-2009
Box 1, Folder 14	Coyne, Petah, circa 1985-1994
Box 1, Folder 15	C, General, 1981-2015
Box 1, Folder 16	Donofrio, Beverly, 1990-2004
Box 1, Folder 17	D, General, 1980-2005
Box 1, Folder 18	E, General, circa 1990-2007
Box 1, Folder 19	Franklin Furnace, 1981-2015
Box 1, Folder 20	F, General, circa 1990-2008
Box 1, Folder 21	Gifts, Auctions, 1980s-2010s
Box 1, Folder 22	Gund, Agnes, 1998-2008
Box 1, Folder 23	G, General, circa 1980-2009
Box 1, Folder 24	H, General, 1983-2008
Box 1, Folder 25	I-J, General, 1983-1992
Box 1, Folder 26	K, General, 1993-2010
Box 1, Folder 27	L, General, 1983-2007
Box 1, Folder 28	M, General, circa 1990-2008
Box 1, Folder 29	N, General, 1988-2014
Box 1, Folder 30	O, General, circa 2000-2007

Box 1, Folder 31	Pettibone, Nancy (Becker) and Richard, 1994-2013
Box 1, Folder 32	P, General, circa 1980-2010
Box 1, Folder 33	Recommendations, circa 2000-2012
Box 1, Folder 34	Q-R, General, 1982-2013
Box 1, Folder 35	S, General, 1986-2015
Box 1, Folder 36	Tewes Family, circa 1970-2010
Box 2, Folder 1	Tewes Family, circa 1970-2010
Box 2, Folder 2	T, General, circa 1980-2009
Box 2, Folder 3	U-V, General, 2006, circa 1995
Box 2, Folder 4	John Weber Gallery, 1994-1998
Box 2, Folder 5	W, General, 1983-2016
Box 2, Folder 6	Y-Z, General, 1991-2012
Box 2, Folder 7	Holiday and Greeting Cards, circa 1980-2010
Box 2, Folder 8	Postcards, circa 1980-2010
Box 2, Folder 9	Outgoing Letters, 1980-2004

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*



## Series 3: Notebooks, 2007-2015

### 0.4 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Nine notebooks date from 2007-2015 and include scattered notes, lists, doodles, sketchbooks, reflections, travel itineraries, names, and addresses.

Box 2, Folder 10	Notebook, "Upstate Mostly", 2007
Box 2, Folder 11	Notebook, 2008
Box 2, Folder 12	Notebook, 2008-2009
Box 2, Folder 13	Notebook, 2010
Box 2, Folder 14	Notebook, 2013
Box 2, Folder 14	Notebook, [Substitute Teacher], 2013
Box 2, Folder 15	Notebook, 2013-2014
Box 2, Folder 16	Notebook, 2014
Box 2, Folder 16	Notebook, 2014-2015

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 4: Project Files, circa 1975-2015

### 1.6 Linear feet (Box 2-3, OV 10-11)

Scope and Contents: Project files date from circa 1975-2015 and include material from a number of personal projects, illustration commissions, and professional activities. Files include proposals and mock-ups for artist books, sketches and logistical details for installations, applications and correspondence relating to grants and residencies, and material relating to the artist run Fifth Street Gallery and Painting Studio 122 (P.S. 122). There are also several files relating to the activities of the Guerrilla Girls, including correspondence, exhibition material, and printed material.

Box 2, Folder 17	Abbey Mural Workshop, 2009
Box 2, Folder 18	Bingo Installation Sketch and Proposal, 1975-1985 Notes: Oversized sketch housed in OV 10
Box 2	Books
Box 2, Folder 19	"4 Rooms, 4 Stories" Proposal, 2003
Box 2, Folder 20	"The Painting She Found" Proposal, circa 1985
Box 2, Folder 21	ROOMS, 1997
Box 2, Folder 22	Other Proposals, 2002-2004
Box 2, Folder 23-25	Fifth Street Gallery, 1977-1980
Box 3, Folder 1	Grants and Residencies, 1989-2011
Box 3	Guerrilla Girls
Box 3, Folder 2	Announcements, circa 1985-2015
Box 3, Folder 3	Artifacts, circa 1980-2000
Box 3, Folder 4	Clippings, 1985-2015
Box 3, Folder 5	Exhibition Catalogs, 1987-1991
Box 3, Folder 6	Getty Research Institute, 2006-2008
Box 3, Folder 7	Letters, circa 1985-2008
Box 3, Folder 8	Mailing List, circa 1985-2005
Box 3, Folder 9	Periodicals, circa 1985-1995
Box 3, Folder 10	Posters and Postcards, 1985-2015

	Notes: Oversized Poster housed in OV 11
Box 3, Folder 11	Statements, circa 1985-2000
Box 3, Folder 12	Illustrations for Book Jackets, circa 1980
Box 3, Folder 13	Illustrations for Medical Publications, 1985-1990
Box 3, Folder 14	Painting Space 122 Association (P.S. 122), circa 1975-2010
Box 3, Folder 15	Rainbow Tent Project, "Something Lost/Something Gained", 1992-1993
Box OV 10	Oversized Bingo Installation Sketch from Box 2, Folder 18
Box OV 11	Oversized Guerrilla Girls Poster from Box 3, Folder 10

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 5: Teaching Files, 1997-2015

### 0.4 Linear feet (Box 3-4)

Scope and Contents: Teaching files date from 1997-2015 and include correspondence, syllabi, assignments, and student evaluations from Tewes' positions at Bard College, Hunter College, Pace University, and a few others school where Tewes' taught as adjunct professor. While teaching at Pace University, Tewes earned a graduate degree in teaching. Material relating to the degree and her student teaching work is included here.

Box 3, Folder 16	Bard College, 1997-2000
Box 4, Folder 1	Hunter College, 2009-2011
Box 4, Folder 2-3	Pace University, 2005-2015
Box 4, Folder 4-5	Student Teaching and Certification, 2010-2012
Box 4, Folder 6	Other Schools, 1997-2008

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 6: Personal Business Records, circa 1975-2010

### *0.2 Linear feet (Box 4)*

Scope and Contents: Personal business records date from circa 1975-2010 and consist of a card index of Tewes' work detailing the title, size, date, and price of paintings alongside a photographic slide. Price lists, inventories, agreements, and one folder relating to her father's business are also found here.

Box 4, Folder 7	Artwork Card Index, 1980s
Box 4, Folder 8	Business with Father, John Tewes, circa 1995-2000
Box 4, Folder 9	Price Lists, Inventories, Agreements, circa 1975-2010

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 7: Printed Material, circa 1970-2015

### 2.5 Linear feet (Box 4-6, OV 12)

Scope and Contents: Printed material dates from circa 1970-2015 and includes announcements, books by Tewes, books featuring illustrations by Tewes, exhibition catalogs, and other published material documenting Tewes' career and the many exhibitions featuring her work. There are also several folders of source material consisting of clippings from magazines which Tewes had arranged by subjects including backgrounds, faces, presidents, rooms, and textures.

Box 4, Folder 10-13	Announcements, circa 1970-2015 Notes: Oversized Announcements from 2000s housed in OV 12
Box 4, Folder 14	Books by Tewes, 1994-1995, 1982
Box 5, Folder 1-5	Books and Journals featuring Tewes' Illustrations, circa 1970-2015
Box 5, Folder 6-9	Clippings, circa 1980-2010
Box 5, Folder 10-11	Exhibition Catalogs, 1980s-1990s
Box 6, Folder 1-4	Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1990-2012
Box 6, Folder 5-6	Other Publications, 1976-2008
Box 6, Folder 7-12	Source Material, 1970s-1980s
Box OV 12	Oversized Announcements from Box 4, Folder 13

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 8: Photographic Material, circa 1958-2015

332 Megabytes (ER01)

0.6 Linear feet (Box 7, OV 13)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material dates from circa 1958-2015 and includes photographs of Tewes at all stages of life with family, friends, and in her studio. Several decades of Tewes' artworks are also documented here, as well as several exhibition installations. Formats include black and white and color photographic prints, digital photographs, negatives, transparencies, and slides.

Box 7, Folder 1-2      Tewes, Family, and Friends, circa 1958-2015  
Notes:                  Oversized photographs of Tewes housed in OV 13

Box 7	Artwork
Box 7, Folder 3	Prints, 1970s-1990s
Box ER01	Digital Photographs, 2005-2006 332 Megabytes (119 computer files)
Box 7, Folder 5	Negatives and Transparencies, 1970s-1990s
Box 7, Folder 6-7	Slides, circa 1970-2010
Box 7, Folder 8	Exhibitions, circa 1980-1995
Box OV 13	Oversized Photos of Tewes from Box 7, Folder 1

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 9: Artwork, circa 1950-2015

### 0.7 Linear feet (Box 7, OV 14-15)

Scope and Contents: Artwork dates from circa 1950-2015 and includes a hand drawn animation made while Tewes was still a high school student, early illustration and design work, several Rorschach inkblot experiments, a folder of collaged traffic related clippings, as well as hundreds of preliminary pencil drawings for paintings. Photographic printouts used as source material are also found in these folders.

Box 7, Folder 9	Animation from High School, 1963
Box 7, Folder 10	Early Illustration and Design Work, 1969-1972
Box 7, Folder 11	Inkblots, circa 1998
Box 7, Folder 12	Parking Meter and Traffic Light Collage Series, circa 1950-1955, 1979
Box 7	Studies and Source Material
Box 7, Folder 13	"Diane", circa 2005
Box 7, Folder 14	"Dylan Marcus", circa 1991
Box 7, Folder 15	"Living Room, Mom", circa 2000
Box 7, Folder 16	"We Be Happy Series", circa 2010 Notes: Oversized studies housed in OV 14
Box 7, Folder 17-19	General, circa 1972-2015 Notes: Oversized studies housed in OV 15
Box OV 14	Oversized Studies, "We Be Happy Series" from Box 7, Folder 16
Box OV 15	Oversized Studies, General from Box 7, Folder 17

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



## Series 10: Sketchbooks, circa 1984-2010

### 0.6 Linear feet (Box 8-9)

Scope and Contents: Nine sketchbooks date from circa 1984-2010. Some books are unique artist's books in which Tewes explores a theme throughout, while others are more typical sketchbooks filled with preliminary sketches and ideas. The three sketchbooks in Box 9 all use the Rorschach inkblot as the basis for additional drawing. Media includes pencil, paint, collage, pen, ink, tape, and cut paper.

Box 8, Folder 1	Sketchbook, circa 1984
Box 8, Folder 2	Sketchbook, 1987-2015
Box 8, Folder 3	Sketchbook, "Dream Fragments", 1990-1991
Box 8, Folder 4	Sketchbook, "Repeated Dream Fragments", 1992-1993
Box 8, Folder 5	Sketchbook, 2004-2005
Box 8, Folder 6	Sketchbook, "Dreams, Sketches, and Ideas for Paintings", 2005-2007
Box 9, Folder 1	Sketchbook, "Portraits, Demons, and Angels", 2007
Box 9, Folder 2	Sketchbook, "Faces and Dreams", 2009
Box 9, Folder 3	Sketchbook, "Red, White, Blue, Black World", 2010

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 11: Artifacts, circa 2009, circa 2000

### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 9)

Scope and Contents: Artifacts contain a dress worn by Tewes' mother while posing for a painting in 2009 and five small paintbrushes dating from circa 2000.

Box 9, Folder 4      Dress, circa 2009

Box 9, Folder 5      Paintbrushes, circa 2000

[Return to Table of Contents](#)