



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Marcia Tucker papers, 1973-1994, in the Archives of American Art

Joy Weiner

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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/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Marcia Tucker papers
Date:	1973-1994
Identifier:	AAA.tuckmarc
Creator:	Tucker, Marcia
Extent:	2.4 Linear feet
Language:	The records are in English.
Summary:	The papers of curator and museum director Marcia Tucker measure 2.4 linear feet and date from 1973-1994. The collection documents Tucker's tenure as the Director of the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York through artists' files, correspondence, project files, printed material, and photographs. The papers also reflect Tucker's activities as an advocate for women in the arts.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Marcia Tucker to the Archives of American Art in 2000.

Related Archival Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Marcia Tucker conducted by Paul Cummings, August 11-September 8, 1978.

Processing Information

The collection was fully processed and a finding aid prepared by Joy Weiner in 2007.

Preferred Citation

Marcia Tucker papers, 1973-1994. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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Biographical Note

Curator and museum director Marcia Tucker (1940-2006) lived and worked in New York.

In 1961, Marcia Tucker received her Bachelor of Arts from Connecticut College. She then went on to earn a Masters of Art from New York University's Institute of Fine Arts in 1965. In 1969, Tucker became curator of Painting and Sculpture at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Influenced by the political ferment of the 1960s, Marcia Tucker directed her curatorial efforts to organizing exhibitions that reflected the political and social currents of the day. An early exhibit that she co-curated with James Monte, "Anti-Illusion: Procedures/Materials," was one of the first major exhibitions dedicated to Process Art or Post Minimalism. She curated major surveys for the work of Lee Krasner, Joan Mitchell, Bruce Nauman, Richard Tuttle, and Jack Tworok. Some of Marcia Tucker's curatorial choices were critically received by colleagues and others in the artistic community. In 1977, she left the Whitney Museum to take on the role of founding director at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York. At the time, the New Museum was one of the few experimental centers for contemporary and emerging artists working in graphic arts, video, and film, serving as a venue for artists outside the mainstream, gay artists, and members of radical Hispanic and feminist groups. During her tenure at the New Museum, Tucker directed a number of major exhibitions, such as "Bad Girls," 1994; "A Labor of Love," 1996; "The Times of Our Lives," 1999, among others.

Marcia Tucker's interests extended to writing and teaching. She was the series editor for the New Museum's *Documentary Sources in Contemporary Art*. Tucker was also a freelance art critic; her criticism appeared in such publications as *Art in America*, *Artforum*, and *ArtNews*. Tucker also taught and lectured at academic institutions and art schools, including the School of Visual Arts, Bard Center for Curatorial Studies, Cornell University, and Colgate University.

In 1999, Marcia Tucker left her post as Director of the New Museum, though she continued to be engaged in the contemporary art scene. In recognition of her innovative practices as a curator, Tucker received a number of awards, including the Skowhegan Governors Award for Lifetime Services to the Arts, 1988; Bard College Award for Curatorial Achievement and the Art Table Award for Distinguished Service to the Visual Arts, 2000. She was also the recipient of three Yaddo fellowships from 2003-2005.

In 2006, Tucker died in Santa Barbara, California. She is survived by her husband, Dean McNeill, an artist and their daughter, Ruby Tucker.

Scope and Contents

The papers of curator and museum director Marcia Tucker measure 2.4 linear feet and date from 1973-1994. The collection documents Tucker's tenure as the Director of the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York through artists' files, correspondence, project files, printed material, and photographs. The papers also reflect Tucker's activities as an advocate for women in the arts.

Artists' files include correspondence, artists' statements, exhibition lists, press releases, printed material, and photographs of artwork. There is extensive correspondence with Richard M. Allen, James W. Johnson, Bruce Melamid, and Earl and Suzanne Staley.

Correspondence consists of a mix of professional and personal letters between Tucker and artists, business colleagues, and friends. Correspondence relating to the founding of the New Museum includes draft versions of the mission statement. Among the notable correspondents are: Louise Bourgeois, Joan Brown, Howardena Pindell, Markus Raetz, Joan Snyder, and Idelle Weber. Project files reflect Marcia Tucker's activities as an educator, writer, and advocate for women's role in the arts.

Photographs include an inscribed photograph to Marcia Tucker from Raymond Lark.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into 5 series. The papers are arranged by material type and chronologically thereafter.

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Artists' Files, 1976-1994 (Boxes 1-2; 1.3 linear feet)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1976-1994 (Box 2; 0.6 linear feet)
- Series 3: Project Files, 1973-1990 (Boxes 2-3; 0.15 linear feet)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1984-1994 (Box 3; 0.15 linear feet)
- Series 5: Photographs, 1985-1994 (Box 3: 0.2 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
Museum directors -- New York (State) -- New York
Women authors
Women educators
Women museum curators

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Allen, Richard, 1945-
Bourgeois, Louise, 1911-2010
Brown, Joan, 1938-1990
Johnson, James W.
Melamid, Bruce
New Museum of Contemporary Art (New York, N.Y.)
Pindell, Howardena, 1943-
Ratz, Markus
Snyder, Joan, 1940-
Staley, Earl, 1938-
Staley, Suzanne
Weber, Idelle, 1932-2020

Container Listing

Series 1: Artists' File, 1976-1994

1.3 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: This series contains professional and personal correspondence from artists and business colleagues to Marcia Tucker in her role as the Director of the New Museum of Contemporary Art. Letters from artists ask Tucker to review their work for inclusion in the New Museum's exhibition schedule. Files also include artists' statements and exhibition lists, printed material, and photographs, slides, and a transparency of artwork. Among the printed materials are press releases, clippings, and announcements.

Arrangement: The files are arranged in alphabetical order by surname of artist, followed by 3 categories (various, eccentric, and miscellaneous). Material within folders is arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 1	Abramaovic, Ulay-Aguilar, Lara, 1979-1993, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Akin, Gwen-Albert, Brian, 1988-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Allen, Richard M., 1977-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Alper, Natalie-Balsley, John, 1978-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Bankemper, Joan-Bell, Lillian, 1978-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Bissell, Joan-Bleiberg, Gertrude, 1982-1990, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Bohnen, Blythe-Bornstein, Gloria, 1979-1989, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Bourgeois, Louise - Byron, Judy, 1978-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Calderon, Mark A.-Chu, Ken, 1978-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Clarke, Richard-Collery, Paula, 1983-1993, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Commer, Dick-Copley, Bill, 1978-1994
Box 1, Folder 12	Copoulos, John-Curtis, Margaret, 1987-1994
Box 1, Folder 13	Dallas-Swan, Susan - Diskin, Wyona, 1979-1993
Box 1, Folder 14	Doner, Michele - Dunye, Cheryl, 1983-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Eardley, Cynthia-Erving, Lauren, 1978-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Fairskye, Marilyn-Feintuch, Robert, 1978-1994
Box 1, Folder 17	Fields, Duggie-Fisher, Mel, 1984-1993, undated

Box 1, Folder 18	Folsom, Fred-French, Christopher, 1978-1991, undated
Box 1, Folder 19	Gaard, Frank-Gleason, Day, 1979-1994
Box 1, Folder 20	Goldberg, Barry-Gonzalez, Mark, 1987-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 21	Goodman, Brenda-Green, George Thurman, 1983-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 22	Haacke, Hans-Harvey, Charles, 1978-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 23	Hecht, David-Hilton, Joseph, 1979-1990, undated
Box 1, Folder 24	Hitner, Chuck-Hunsinger, Jason, 1984-1992, undated
Box 1, Folder 25	Jaar, Alfred-Jecko, Mary Louise, 1979-1986
Box 1, Folder 26	Johnson, James W., 1986-1993
Box 1, Folder 27	Jones, Lou-Joseph, Rene Michelle, 1978-1991, undated
Box 1, Folder 28	Kasher, Steven-Keating, Edward, 1985-1993, undated
Box 1, Folder 29	Kimme, Luise-Klebanoff, Charlotte, 1978-1988, undated
Box 1, Folder 30	Korman, Bette-Kuh, Katharine, 1984-1994
Box 1, Folder 31	Laduke, Betty-Lew, Leslie, 1978-1993, undated
Box 1, Folder 32	Lindsay, Doug - Lyons, Maria, 1979-1990, undated
Box 1, Folder 33	MacPhee, Medrie-Meredith, Ann, 1984-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 34	Melamid, Brad, 1990-1993, undated
Box 1, Folder 35	Miller, Kay-Myers, Christopher, 1979-1990, undated
Box 1, Folder 36	Nakashashi, Kenji-Neustein, Joshua, 1987-1993
Box 1, Folder 37	O'Grady, Lorraine-Shane, Patrick, 1989-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 38	Pernotto, James-Prince, Richard, 1978-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 39	Quinlen, Cathy-Redmond, Russell, 1982-1994, undated
Box 1, Folder 40	Ripley, Curtis-Ryder, Mahler, 1978-1990, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Saar, Bettye-Schwartz, Karl, 1978-1993, undated

Box 2, Folder 2	Segalove, Ilene-Shorr, Kenneth, 1984-1994, undated
Box 2, Folder 3	Silver, Judy-Sonfist, Alan, 1976-1994
Box 2, Folder 4	Sperry, Ann-Strider, Marjorie, 1977-1993
Box 2, Folder 5	Sullivan, Jan-Thompson, Mimi, 1978-1994, undated
Box 2, Folder 6	Tielkemeier, Ken-Twaddle, Randy L., 1979-1994, undated
Box 2, Folder 7	Ukeles, Mierle Laderman-Vicoso, Mayo, 1979-1993, undated
Box 2, Folder 8	Wadia, Judith-Welsler, Victor, 1978-1987, undated
Box 2, Folder 9	Wexler, Alice-Woodring, Robbie, 1978-1986, undated
Box 2, Folder 10	Yanagi, Yukinori-Zuazo, Ignacio, 1984-1994, undated
Box 2, Folder 11	Various Artists, 1983-1994, undated
Box 2, Folder 12	Eccentric Artists, 1984-1985, undated
Box 2, Folder 13	Miscellaneous Slides, 1981, undated

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1976-1994

0.6 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: This series contains mostly copies of incoming and outgoing correspondence with Marcia Tucker from artists, business colleagues, and friends. Included are invitations, postcards, and greeting cards. Attachments to letters include exhibition announcements, slides, and transparencies of works of art. Also found are materials relating to the New Museum of Contemporary Art, including annotated typescripts of memoranda, an agenda, and drafts of a mission statement.

Arrangement: Files are arranged by subject and filed thereafter in chronological order.

Box 2, Folder 14-17 The New Museum, 1977-1986

Box 2, Folder 18-40 Correspondence with Artists, Colleagues, and Friends, 1976-1994, undated

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Series 3: Project Files, 1973-1990

0.15 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: This series consists of a partial overview of Marcia Tucker's activities as an art critic, educator, and as a supporter of women in the arts and alternative art spaces. Files contain a variety of material, such as letters, typescripts, notes, reports, proposals, and printed material.

Arrangement: Project files are arranged by subject and thereafter in chronological order.

Box 2, Folder 41	Nelson Atkins Museum of Fine Arts, Marcia Tucker's Essay on Terry Allen's Work, 1981, undated
Box 2, Folder 42	Bard College, Proposal: Master of Arts in Curatorial Studies, 1990
Box 3, Folder 1	The Contemporary Arts Center Conference, 1980
Box 3, Folder 2	De Facto Censorship: Covenant of Silence by Howardena Pindell, 1990
Box 3, Folder 3	Ree Morton Scholarship Fund, 1977
Box 3, Folder 4-5	Women's Caucus for Art, 1973-1979, undated

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1984-1994

0.15 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: This series houses announcements and brochures of exhibitions held at other venues, clippings, and miscellaneous printed material. Additional printed material is found in Series 1: Artists' Files, Series 2: Correspondence, and Series 3: Project Files.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by format and thereafter filed in chronological order.

Box 3, Folder 6-9	Announcements, 1984-1994, undated
Box 3, Folder 10	Exhibition Brochures, 1993-1994, undated
Box 3, Folder 11	Clippings, 1985-1993, undated
Box 3, Folder 12-13	Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1984-1987, undated

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Series 5: Photographs, 1985-1994

0.2 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: This series houses photographs and a transparency of a work of by Frederico Guzman. Also included are slides of artwork by James Hill, Bill Schiffer, and an unidentified artist. Additional photographs are also located in Series 1: Artists' Files and Series 2: Correspondence.

Arrangement: Photographs are arranged by format and thereafter filed in chronological order..

Box 3, Folder 14	Photographs, 1985, undated
Box 3, Folder 15	Slides of Artwork (undated, 1950-1994), undated
Box 3, Folder 16	Transparency of Artwork (1994), undated

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