



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Jan Van der Marck Papers,
1942-2010, in the Archives of American Art

Erin Kinhart

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Jan Van der Marck papers
Identifier:	AAA.vandjan
Date:	1942-2010
Extent:	9 Linear feet
Creator:	Van der Marck, Jan, 1929-2010
Language:	The collection is in English, Dutch, and French.
Summary:	The papers of curator and arts administrator Jan Van der Marck measure 9.0 linear feet and date from 1944 to 2010. His career is documented through biographical material, files on artists and art historians, museum administration records, and other professional records. Also found are papers concerning Van der Marck's personal interest and research on modern bookbinding.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated in 2011 by Sheila Van der Marck, Jan Van der Marck's widow.

Available Formats

Some of the sound recordings in this collection have been copied for research access and are available in the Archives of American Art offices.

Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared in 2012 by Erin Kinhart.

The Archives of American Art has implemented minimal processing tactics when possible in order to increase access to more of our collections. Minimal processing included arrangement to the series and folder levels. Generally, items within folders were simply verified with folder titles and dates, but not arranged further. Folder titles were transcribed from original folder headings where they existed. The collection was rehoused in archival containers and folders. Staples and other fasteners were not removed, but materials were removed from binders or damaged binding when necessary.

Preferred Citation

Jan Van der Marck papers, 1942-2010. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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Biographical / Historical

Jan Van der Marck (1929-2010) was a curator and museum administrator in Detroit, Mich., Chicago, Ill., and Miami, Fla.

Van der Marck was born in Roermond, the Netherlands, in 1929. His family owned a printing and publishing business. He studied art history at the University of Nijmegen and earned his doctorate in 1956 with a dissertation on 19th-century Belgian book illustration. In 1957 he came to the United States on a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to research the relationship between museums and their audiences and studied briefly at Columbia University. In 1962 he was assistant director of fine arts exhibitions at the Seattle World's Fair. Van der Marck became curator at the Walker Art Center in 1963 and became the founding director of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago in 1967. While in Chicago he invited Christo and Jeanne-Claude to wrap the museum building in canvas. He later served as project manager for their "Valley Curtain" project in 1971 and 1972.

After leaving the Museum of Contemporary Art, Van der Marck worked briefly at the University of Washington in Seattle, and then served as director of the Dartmouth College Galleries and Collections from 1974 to 1980. At Dartmouth he continued to support non-traditional artworks and oversaw the installation of the lawn sculpture "X-Delta" by Mark di Suvero, despite negative campus reactions. In 1980 he became the director of the new Center for the Fine Arts in Miami. After a disagreement with trustees he left the Center and became chief curator at the Detroit Institute of Arts in 1986. In 1995 he lost his job at the Detroit Institute when it was ruled that he violated a city residential requirement.

Aside from his work as an arts administrator, Van der Marck wrote and published many catalog essays, articles, and monographs on artists, lectured on contemporary art, and participated in arts organizations. He also maintained an interest in contemporary bookbinding.

Scope and Contents

The papers of curator and arts administrator Jan Van der Marck measure 9.0 linear feet and date from 1944 to 2010. His career is documented through biographical material, files on artists and art historians, museum administration records, and other professional records. Also found are papers concerning Van der Marck's personal interest and research on modern bookbinding.

Biographical material includes records of Van der Marck's personal collection of artwork, books, and photographs; early records consisting primarily of school documents, writings, and photographs; and

one journal. Additionally there are copies of published interviews, one file of letters from friends, and several photographs of Van der Marck. Files on artists and art historians may include correspondence, photographs, slides, news clippings, exhibition catalogs, lists of artworks, exhibition planning documents, as well as articles or other writings by Van der Marck about the artist. Of note are files on Arman, Robert Indiana, Christo, Jacques Lipchitz, George Segal, Beverly Pepper, and Brian O'Doherty.

Museum Administration records document Van der Marck's activities as director or curator at various museums. Files may include museum exhibition planning records, administrative records, printed material, correspondence, and photographs. Also found are records of Van der Marck's other professional activities, such as his participation as guest curator of exhibitions, committee participant, and exhibition juror, as well as lecture files containing invitations, press materials, and drafts of his lectures. Additionally there are a few research files and copies of his published articles.

Papers concerning bookbinding document Van der Marck's research and personal collection of contemporary bookbinding and book arts. Included are files on bookbinders, slides and photographs of bindings, correspondence with libraries, and records of his purchase or donation of these works.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Bookbinding
Curators -- United States

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Journals (accounts)
Photographs

Names:

Arman, 1928-2005
Christo, 1935-
Indiana, Robert, 1928-
Lipchitz, Jacques, 1891-1973
O'Doherty, Brian
Pepper, Beverly
Segal, George, 1924-2000

Occupations:

Arts administrators -- United States

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1946-2009

0.7 Linear feet (Box 1)

Multiple languages.

Biographical material includes records of Van der Marck's donations of books and art from his personal collection to museums and libraries, as well as records of his photographic prints collection. These donation files include lists of items, correspondence with museums and libraries, financial documents, agreements, and related printed material. Also found are files designated by Van der Marck as "Early Records" consisting primarily of school documents, writings, and photographs. One journal is from the same period. All of these early records are in Dutch. Additionally there are copies of published interviews with Van der Marck, one file of letters from friends, and several photographs of him and his home in Seattle, Washington. Researchers should note that many additional photographs of Van der Marck and letters from colleagues and friends are found elsewhere within his papers.

Box 1, Folder 1-7	Art and Books Donated to Museums and Libraries, 1967-2009 English.
Box 1, Folder 8-9	Dissertation Records, circa 1956 Multiple languages.
Box 1, Folder 10-15	Early Records (Pre-professional), 1946-1963 Multiple languages.
Box 1, Folder 16	Journal, 1957-1958 Dutch; Flemish.
Box 1, Folder 17	Letters, 1976-2006 Multiple languages.
Box 1, Folder 18	Photographic Prints Collection, circa 1984 English.
Box 1, Folder 19	Photographs of Jan Van der Marck, 1961-1970 English.
Box 1, Folder 20	Photographs of Seattle Home, 1972-1973
Box 1, Folder 21-22	Published Interviews, 1969-2000 Multiple languages.

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Series 2: Files on Artists and Art Historians, 1942-2010

4.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-6)

Multiple languages.

Files on artists and art historians were maintained by Van der Marck throughout his career. Files may include correspondence, photographs, slides, news clippings, exhibition catalogs, lists of artworks, exhibition planning documents, as well as articles or other writings by Van der Marck about the artist. Some files are extensive and notable for their content, such as the files on the artists Arman, Robert Indiana, Christo, Jacques Lipchitz, George Segal, Beverly Pepper, and international artists such as Brian O'Doherty, Enrico Baj, Lucio Pozzi, and Bernar Venet.

One sound disc found within the Arman files contains an audio announcement in French, created by Arman for his exhibition at Galerie Lawrence in Paris, France.

One sound recording found within the files on Arman has been digitized for research access.

Box 1, Folder 23-25	Albright, Ivan, 1944-1997
Box 1, Folder 26-28	Alchinsky, Pierre, 1965-2007
Box 1, Folder 29-31	Antonakos, Stephen, circa 1975-1989
Box 1, Folder 32	Andre, Carl, circa 1973-1986
Box 1, Folder 33-34	Arman, 1979-1995
Box 2, Folder 1-10	Arman, 1957-2008 <i>Included are one sound disc (vinyl) and two duplicate sound discs.</i>
Box 2, Folder 11	Asger, John, circa 1954-1960s
Box 2, Folder 12	Austen, Hatmut, circa 1999-2010
Box 2, Folder 13	Aziz, Philip, 1996
Box 2, Folder 14-19	Baj, Enrico, 1962-2004
Box 2, Folder 20-21	Barr, David, 1967-2009
Box 2, Folder 22	Bartlett, Jennifer, 1990s
Box 2, Folder 23	Baxter, Iain, 1972-2006
Box 2, Folder 24-25	Bayer, Herbert, 1956-1996
Box 2, Folder 26	Becherer, Joseph A., 1997-2009

Box 2, Folder 27-28	Bochner, Mel, 1973-2007
Box 2, Folder 29-30	Bourgeois, Jef, 1995-2009
Box 2, Folder 31	Branstner, Holly, 1995-1997
Box 2, Folder 32-36	Christo, 1966-2009
Box 3, Folder 1	Christo, 1970s
Box 3, Folder 2	Chryssa, 1963-1976
Box 3, Folder 3	Crone, Rainer, 1973-2005
Box 3, Folder 4	Degas, Edgar, circa 1958-1959
Box 3, Folder 5	Dibbets, Jan, 1970-1990
Box 3, Folder 6	Domela, Cesar, 1965-1985
Box 3, Folder 7	Dorazio, Piero, 1968-1987
Box 3, Folder 8-9	Flavin, Dan, circa 1967-1973
Box 3, Folder 10-13	Fontana, Lucio, 1960-2006
Box 3, Folder 14	Frankenthaler, Helen, 1984-1998
Box 3, Folder 15	Friedman, Sheila, 1989-1995
Box 3, Folder 16-17	Gelfman, Lynne Golub, 1980-1995
Box 3, Folder 18	Goeritz, Mathias, 1960-1977
Box 3, Folder 19	Gorin, Jean, 1965-1983
Box 3, Folder 20	Henderson, Shirley, 1989-1995
Box 3, Folder 21	Higgins, Dick, circa 1966-1989
Box 3, Folder 22	Hill, Anthony, 1968-1990

Box 3, Folder 23	Indiana, Robert, Correspondence, circa 1960s-1967 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 24	Indiana, Robert, Correspondence, 1967-1975
Box 3, Folder 25	Indiana, Robert, Printed Material, 1963-circa 1972 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 26	Indiana, Robert, Photographs, 1959-1971 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 27-28	Jacquet, Alain, 1964-1992
Box 3, Folder 29	Kepes, Gyorgy, circa 1977 Image(s)
Box 3, Folder 30	Kidner, Michael, 1983-1990
Box 3, Folder 31	Kirili, Alain, circa 1970-1978
Box 3, Folder 32	Lemoine, Serge, 1997-2008
Box 3, Folder 33	LeWitt, Sol, circa 1988-1989
Box 3, Folder 34	Lichtenstein, Roy, 1989-1997
Box 3, Folder 35-39	Lipchitz, Jacques, circa 1960-1972
Box 3, Folder 40	Mack, Heinz, 1965-1973
Box 4, Folder 1	Madelinski, Ron, 1988-1995
Box 4, Folder 2	Martin, Kenneth, 1975-1981
Box 4, Folder 3-8	Miralda, Antoni, circa 1970-1992
Box 4, Folder 9-11	Moholy-Nagy, Laszlo, 1968-2006, 1942
Box 4, Folder 12-15	Morellet, Francois, 1958-2010
Box 4, Folder 16	Newton, Helmut, circa 1992-2003
Box 4, Folder 17	Nonas, Richard, 1976-2001

Box 4, Folder 18-22	O'Doherty, Brian, 1966-2009
Box 4, Folder 23	Oldenburg, Claes, circa 1966-1971
Box 4, Folder 24	Oppenheim, Dennis, circa 1971
Box 4, Folder 25-30	Pepper, Beverly, 1954-1999
Box 4, Folder 31	Picasso, Pablo, 1956-1986
Box 4, Folder 32	Piene, Otto, circa 1966-1969
Box 5, Folder 1-7	Pozzi, Lucio, 1974-2006
Box 5, Folder 8	Rauschenberg, Robert, circa 1984
Box 5, Folder 9	Raysse, Martial, 1964-1970
Box 5, Folder 10	Redstone, Louis, 1963-1998
Box 5, Folder 11	Restany, Pierre, 1963-2003
Box 5, Folder 12	Rops, Felicien, 1959-1969
Box 5, Folder 13	Rosenquist, James, circa 1982-2006
Box 5, Folder 14	Rotella, Mimmo, circa 1966-1968
Box 5, Folder 15-16	Sandberg, Willem, 1958-1995
Box 5, Folder 17	Schapiro, Meyer, 1955-1996
Box 5, Folder 18	Schneemann, Carolee, 1965-2008
Box 5, Folder 19-21	Segal, George, 1963-1980, 2002-2004
Box 5, Folder 22	Snowden, Gilda, 1989-2006
Box 5, Folder 23	Spoerri, Daniel, 1962-1994
Box 5, Folder 24	Stankiewicz, Richard, 1963-1997
Box 5, Folder 25	Steiner, Ralph, 1975-1986

Box 5, Folder 26	Strand, Jon, 1996-2006
Box 5, Folder 27	Szeemann, Harald, 1966-2005
Box 5, Folder 28	Trova, Ernest, 1965-1968
Box 5, Folder 29	Uecker, Gunther, 1966-1992
Box 5, Folder 30-36	Van der Marck, Marc, circa 1975-1998
Box 5, Folder 37-38	Van Hoeydonck, Paul, 1964-2009
Box 5, Folder 39	Varnelis, Kazys, 1970-2005
Box 6, Folder 1-7	Venet, Bernar, 1966-2009
Box 6, Folder 8	Vihos, Georg, 2008
Box 6, Folder 9	Vostell, Wolf, 1970s
Box 6, Folder 10	Wise, Gillian, 1968-1976
Box 6, Folder 11	Wolff-Metternich, Peter, 1985-2007
Box 6, Folder 12-13	Wolfson, Mitchell, 1985-2006

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Series 3: Museum Administration Records, 1963-2009

1.3 Linear feet (Boxes 6-7)

Multiple languages.

Museum Administration records consist of files kept by Van der Marck to document his tenure as director or curator at various museums. Files may include museum exhibition planning records, acquisition records, administrative records, news clippings, press releases, correspondence, photographs of Van der Marck at various events, and photographs and slides of artwork.

Folders are arranged alphabetically by name of museum. Documents for each museum are maintained in Van der Marck's original order.

Box 6, Folder 14-22	Center for the Fine Arts, Miami, 1979-1986
Box 6, Folder 23-28	Dartmouth College, 1973-2009
Box 6, Folder 29-31	Detroit Institute of Arts, 1998
Box 7, Folder 1-9	Detroit Institute of Arts, 1986-1998
Box 7, Folder 10	Henry Gallery, University of Washington, 1986, 1970-1974
Box 7, Folder 10-18	Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, 1966-2009
Box 7, Folder 19-21	Walker Art Center, 1963-1967, 1990

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Series 4: Professional Records, 1958

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 7-8)

Multiple languages.

Found here are records of Van der Marck's professional activities outside of his employment as museum director or curator. Included are files on his participation as guest curator of exhibitions, committee participant, and exhibition juror. Also found are lecture files containing invitations, press materials, and drafts of lectures given by Van der Marck. Additionally there are general professional activity files, a few research files, copies of published articles by Van der Marck, records of job offers, and documentation on his role as curator for the Seattle World's fair. Any of these files may also include related correspondence, planning documents, and photographs of events.

Box 7, Folder 22-29	Activities, 1967-1981
Box 7, Folder 30-31	Art Exhibition Juries, 1964-1980
Box 8, Folder 1-2	Art Exhibition Juries, 1980-1995
Box 8, Folder 3	Articles Written by Jan Van der Marck, 1968-1986
Box 8, Folder 4-6	Aspen Institute, 1993-2004, 1974-1980
Box 8, Folder 7	"Beyond Illustration" Exhibition, circa 1971-1973
Box 8, Folder 8	Dennos Museum Center, 2000-2005
Box 8, Folder 9	F. T. D. Advisory, circa 1970-1974
Box 8, Folder 10	"In the Spirit of Fluxus" Exhibition, circa 1988-1995
Box 8, Folder 11	Job Offers, 1971-1980
Box 8, Folder 12-15	Lectures, circa 1965-2002
Box 8, Folder 16	Museum of New Art, 2000-2003
Box 8, Folder 17-19	Museum Planning and Research, circa 1958-1974
Box 8, Folder 20	NBC Special Report:"Crisis in Thebes", 1994
Box 8, Folder 21	Realist/Naturalist Sculpture, 1985, circa 1972-1973
Box 8, Folder 22	Research on "Iconology Dancing Salome", 1958-1979

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| Box 8, Folder 23 | Seattle Art Museum (Bagley and Virginia Wright Collection), 1964-1999 |
| Box 8, Folder 24 | Seattle World's Fair, 1961-1962 |
| Box 8, Folder 25 | Unidentified Manuscript, 1958 |

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Series 5: Papers Concerning Bookbinding, circa 1962-2009

1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 8-9)

Papers concerning bookbinding document Van der Marck's research and personal collection of contemporary bookbinding and book arts. Files on bookbinders and book artists whose work he purchased for his own collection may include correspondence, sales records, exhibition records, and photographs. Additionally there are files of slides of bindings, correspondence with libraries and organizations such as the Grolier Club, and records of his donations of these works. Miscellaneous records include correspondence, lists, notes, and printed material on this topic.

Box 8, Folder 26	Bookbinding Labels and Statement From Slusser Gallery Exhibit, circa 1996
Box 8, Folder 27	Contemporary Art Bindings, 1996
Box 8, Folder 28-29	Gifts to Koninklijke Bibliotheek, circa 1996-2006
Box 8, Folder 30	Association Internationale de Bibliophile, 1997-2003
Box 8, Folder 31	Bibliotheque Historique De La Ville De Paris, 1997-2009
Box 8, Folder 32	Bibliotheque nationale de France, 1990-2006
Box 8, Folder 33	Claes, Edgard, 2000-2004
Box 9, Folder 1	Ely, Timothy C., 1985-2006
Box 9, Folder 2	Fie, Phillippe, 2004
Box 9, Folder 3	Glaister, Donald, 1980-1998
Box 9, Folder 4	Grolier Club, 1997-2003
Box 9, Folder 5	Hammer, Jonathan, 1991-1997
Box 9, Folder 6-8	Hugnet, Georges, circa 1962-1999
Box 9, Folder 9	Knoderer, Daniel, 1998-2004
Box 9, Folder 10-11	Lecuire, Pierre, 1988-2005
Box 9, Folder 12-13	Leroux, Georges, circa 1986-2002
Box 9, Folder 14	Library of Congress, circa 1988-1992

Box 9, Folder 15-16	Lobstein, Alain, 1986-2005
Box 9, Folder 17-19	Mathieu, Monique, 1985-2007
Box 9, Folder 20	Mowery, J. Franklin, 1990-2001
Box 9, Folder 21	Peller, Hugo, 1990-1991
Box 9, Folder 22	Richard, Michel, 1997-2005
Box 9, Folder 23	Robinson, Ivor, 1982-2005
Box 9, Folder 24	Rousseau, Florent, 1998-2009
Box 9, Folder 25	Taral, Alain, 1990-2009
Box 9, Folder 26	Tarlau, Jill, circa 1997-1999
Box 9, Folder 27-29	Miscellaneous Records, circa 1985-2009
Box 9, Folder 30-32	Slides and Color Transparencies of Bindings Donated or Sold, circa 1980s-1990s
Box 9, Folder 33	Slides, circa 1990s

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