



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Robert Vickrey Papers,
1951-2008, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Correspondence, 1967-2007.....	4
Series 2: Writings, 1974-2008.....	6
Series 3: Personal Business Records, 1983-2001.....	7
Series 4: Professional Activity Files, 1973-1998.....	8
Series 5: Printed Material, 1951-2006.....	9
Series 6: Sound and Video Recordings, 1984-1997.....	10

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Robert Vickrey Papers
Identifier:	AAA.vickrobe
Date:	1951-2008
Extent:	4.3 Linear feet
Creator:	Vickrey, Robert, 1926-2011
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of painter and illustrator Robert Vickrey measure 4.3 linear feet and date from 1951 to 2008. The papers document his career as a portrait painter and illustrator in Massachusetts through correspondence with artists and galleries, draft articles and manuscripts of personal written works, and writings about him by colleagues. Also found are professional files documenting activities with various galleries and museums; printed materials such as newspaper clippings and exhibition catalogs; and sound and video recordings of interviews and the production of a documentary on his career.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Robert Vickrey papers were donated by Robert Vickrey in 2007. Additional records were donated by R. Scott Vickrey, son and executor of Vickrey's estate, in 2016.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid was written by Ricky Gomez in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Robert Vickrey papers, 1951-2008. 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 audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Robert Vickrey (1926-2011) was a portrait painter and illustrator, from Cape Cod, Mass. and Naples, Fla. Vickrey mastered Egg Tempera painting and is well known for his illustrations for the cover of "Time" magazine. Throughout his career, Vickrey also painted portraits of nuns from the order of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. In addition to his artwork, Vickrey wrote numerous newspaper articles, published three books, and was the subject of a PBS documentary.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and illustrator Robert Vickrey measure 4.3 linear feet and date from 1951 to 2008. The papers document his career as a portrait painter and illustrator in Massachusetts through correspondence with artists and galleries, draft articles and manuscripts of personal written works, and writings about him by colleagues. Also found are professional files documenting activities with various galleries and museums; printed materials such as newspaper clippings and exhibition catalogs; and sound and video recordings of interviews and the production of a documentary on his career.

Correspondence consists primarily of letters to museums, galleries, and colleagues. Also included is correspondence from family and friends.

Writings include articles by Vickrey for various publications, including Cape Codder, The Oracle, The Chronicle, The Cape Paper, and The Review; a draft manuscript by Philip Eliasoph for his book "Robert Vickrey: Lyrical Realist"; a manuscript of Vickrey's unpublished memoir, "Time Traveler", concerning his career at Time magazine; and a manuscript by Donald Miller, "Creatures of the Spirit: Robert Vickrey's Nun Paintings". Also included is Vickrey's notebook, "Tiny Trims," containing reel splices.

Printed material consists mainly of newspaper and magazine clippings of Vickrey's artwork and participation in exhibitions. There are also exhibition catalogs and announcements.

Approximately half of the collection consists of VHS tapes, sound reels, and audio cassettes documenting Vickrey's various projects.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1967-2007 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Writings, 1974-2008 (0.7 linear feet; Box 1-2)

- Series 3: Personal Business Records, 1983-2001 (0.3 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 4: Professional Activity Files, 1973-1998 (0.3 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1951-2006 (0.8 linear feet; Box 2-3, 5)
- Series 6: Sound and Video Recordings, 1984-1997 (1.7 linear feet; Box 3-4)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings
Video recordings

Occupations:

Illustrators -- Massachusetts
Portrait painters -- Massachusetts

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1967-2007

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1)

Correspondence consist primarily letters to museums, galleries, and colleagues. There are some letters and postcards from Vickrey's children, and correspondence from a colleague and family friend that includes numerous drawings from his children to Vickrey.

Files are arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 1	Alison, 1986-1989
Box 1, Folder 2	A, Miscellaneous, 1987-2001
Box 1, Folder 3	Ben Franklin Elementary School, 1984
Box 1, Folder 4	B, Miscellaneous, 1984-2004
Box 1, Folder 5	The Cape Codder, 1984-1986
Box 1, Folder 6	Chase Manhattan Bank, 2000
Box 1, Folder 7	C, Miscellaneous, 1985-2000
Box 1, Folder 8	D, Miscellaneous, 1973-2000
Box 1, Folder 9	E, Miscellaneous, 1984-2007
Box 1, Folder 10	Esther and James Ferguson, 1997-1999
Box 1, Folder 11	F, Miscellaneous, 1985-2002
Box 1, Folder 12	Arn Ghigliazza, 1993-1994
Box 1, Folder 13	G, Miscellaneous, 1988-2000
Box 1, Folder 14	Riley Humler, 2000-2001
Box 1, Folder 15	H, Miscellaneous, 1988-2003
Box 1, Folder 16	I, Miscellaneous, 1985, 1998

Box 1, Folder 17	J, Miscellaneous, 1987-1999
Box 1, Folder 18	K, Miscellaneous, 1972-2004
Box 1, Folder 19	L, Miscellaneous, 1987-2001
Box 1, Folder 20	Mike McClaskey, 1992-2001
Box 1, Carton 21	M, Miscellaneous, 1985-2001
Box 1, Folder 22	N, Miscellaneous, 1998-2006
Box 1, Folder 23	Greg O'Brien, 1985-1990
Box 1, Folder 24	O, Miscellaneous, 1967-2007
Box 1, Folder 25	Warren Peters, 1999
Box 1, Folder 26	P, Miscellaneous, 1998-2003
Box 1, Folder 27	R, Miscellaneous, 1988-2003
Box 1, Folder 28	Joshua Smith, 1997
Box 1, Folder 29	S, Miscellaneous, 1970-1999
Box 1, Folder 30	T, Miscellaneous, 1988-1998
Box 1, Folder 31	Carrie Vickrey, 1992-2006
Box 1, Folder 32	Visual Artists and Galleries Association, Inc., 1998-1999
Box 1, Folder 33	V-Z, Miscellaneous, 1971-2003

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Writings, 1974-2008

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Writings consist of manuscripts and clippings of articles and stories Vickrey wrote for newspapers. There is also a manuscript for one of his written works, and there is a manuscript and related materials and image reproduction requests for a book on Vickrey written by Philip Eliasoph.

Files are arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 34-37	Manuscripts and Notes, undated
Box 1, Folder 38	Stories and Poems, undated
Box 1, Folder 39-40	"Time Traveler", undated
Box 1, Folder 41	By Others, 1974, 1985
Box 1, Folder 42	Robert Vickrey Lyrical Realist, 1982
Box 1, Folder 43	Cape Codder, 1985-1988
Box 1, Folder 44	The Review, 1986-1991
Box 1, Folder 45-46	Cape Cod Chronicle, 1988-1998
Box 1, Folder 47	Oracle Echoes, 1990-1991
Box 1, Folder 48	The Cape Paper, Naples, Florida, 1998
Box 1, Folder 49	"Creatures of the Spirit: Robert Vickrey's Nun Paintings", 2002
Box 2, Folder 1	"Creatures of the Spirit: Robert Vickrey's Nun Paintings", 2002
Box 2, Folder 2	Eliasoph Book Materials, 2006
Box 2, Folder 3-6	Reproduction Requests, Eliasoph Book on Vickrey, 2007
Box 2, Folder 7	"Robert Vickrey: The Magic of Realism," by Philip Eliasoph, 2008

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Personal Business Records, 1983-2001

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2)

Personal business records includes invoices, price lists, and agreements with galleries and museums to exhibit and sell his works.

Files are arranged chronologically.

Box 2, Folder 8-15	Harmon-Meek Gallery, 1983-2001
Box 2, Folder 16	Munson Gallery, 1987-1988
Box 2, Folder 17	Parnassus Imprints, 1989
Box 2, Folder 18	ArtsAmerica Inc., 1990-1992
Box 2, Folder 19-20	Gerold Wunderlich and Co., 1994-1999
Box 2, Folder 21	Miscellaneous, 1991-1999

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Professional Activity Files, 1973-1998

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2)

Professional activity files includes material related to various exhibitions and events that Vickrey took part in around the country.

Files are arranged chronologically.

Box 2, Folder 22	Exhibitions, 1973-1977
Box 2, Folder 23	Watson-Guptill Publications, 1978
Box 2, Folder 24	Tamarind Institute, 1982-1996
Box 2, Folder 25	The West Collection, 1983-1985
Box 2, Folder 26	K. W. Prescott, Inc., Meredith Long Gallery, 1984-1989
Box 2, Folder 27	Frank Getlein, 1986-1988
Box 2, Folder 28	Resume, circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 29	The Artist's Magazine, 1987
Box 2, Folder 30	Colorado Historical Society, 1987
Box 2, Folder 31	Frederick Voss, National Portrait Gallery, 1988-1990
Box 2, Folder 32	American Artist, 1992-1993
Box 2, Folder 33	Portsmouth Museum, 1994
Box 2, Folder 34	J. K. Flynn Company, 1995-1998
Box 2, Folder 35	Ogunquit Museum of American Art, 1997

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Printed Material, 1951-2006

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, 5)

Printed material consists mainly of newspaper and magazine clippings of Vickrey's artwork and activities. There are also exhibition catalogs and announcements.

Box 2, Folder 36	Reproductions of Works, undated
Box 2, Folder 37-44	Newspaper Clipping, 1952-2003
Box 2, Folder 45	Magazine Clippings, 1965-2000
Box 3, Folder 1-4	Exhibition Announcements, 1951-2006
Box 3, Folder 5	Exhibition Catalogs, 1988-2006
Box 3, Folder 6	Miscellaneous, 1951-1999
Box 5, Folder 1	Scrapbook, 1954-1980 The scrapbook consists of newspaper clippings and has been disbound. Pages are very fragile.
Box 5, Folder 2	TIME Magazine Covers, 1960-1997 The folder consists of covers for TIME Magazine and an illustrated book on the history of the covers for the magazine from its start date through 1997.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Sound and Video Recordings, 1984-1997

1.7 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)

Sound and video recordings consist of Vickrey interviews and Vickrey reading from one of his books. Much of the material was created during the production of the PBS documentary "Robert Vickrey: Lyrical Realist".

The series is arranged with the VHS at the beginning followed by the audio cassettes of the Vickrey documentary project and the audio reels of the Vickrey project.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Box 3, Folder 7 | "Vick Interviews Movie Critic Cooke, Lancaster" and "Lancaster Interview No. 2", 1997
<i>2 Videocassettes (VHS)</i>
Two video cassettes of Vickrey interviewing movie critic Cooke in Lancaster. |
| Box 3, Folder 8 | "Cape Cods Cockiest Crook", 1997
<i>2 Videocassettes (VHS)</i>
Two VHS recordings of Vickrey taking part in a book presentation and reading from his book <i>Cape Cod's Cockiest Crook</i> at Snow Library. |
| Box 3, Folder 9 | "Springfield Interview 78F" and "R Vickrey Lyrical Realist/Tip O'Neil Speech", circa 1984
<i>2 Videocassettes (VHS)</i>
VHS contain an interview with Springfield, a portion of Tip O'Neil's speech to Congress, and material related to Vickrey Project/Lyrical Realist. |
| Box 3, Folder 10 | Vickrey Project, Cassettes, 1984-1986
<i>7 Sound cassettes</i>
<i>1 Sound cassettes (microcassette)</i>
Primarily consists of audio cassette recordings associated with the Vickrey documentary for PBS, "Robert Vickrey: Lyrical Realist." |
| Box 3, Folder 11-13 | Vickrey Project, Reels, 1984-1986
<i>10 Sound tape reels</i>
Primarily consists of sound audio recordings associated with the Vickrey documentary for PBS, "Robert Vickrey: Lyrical Realist." The reels are divided between cuts of audio and cuts of music used in the actual documentary. |
| Box 4, Folder 1-5 | Vickrey Project, Reels, 1984-1986
<i>18 Sound tape reels</i>
Primarily consists of sound audio recordings associated with the Vickrey documentary for PBS, "Robert Vickrey: Lyrical Realist." The reels are divided between cuts of audio and cuts of music used in the actual documentary. |
| Box 4, Folder 6 | Vickrey Project, Original 1/4 Music Tape, 1984-1986
<i>1 Sound tape reel</i>
One of the original sound reels of music used in the Vickrey project. |
| Box 5, Item 3 | Vickrey Project Original 1/4 Music Tape, 1984-1986 |

1 Sound tape reel

An original reel of music used in the Vickrey Project from which the other reels in the series are based.

Box 4, Folder 7

Vickrey Project Tiny Trims Book, 1984-1986

[Return to Table of Contents](#)