



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Tom Wudl Papers, 1918-2021, bulk 1968-2015, in the Archives of American Art

Ryan Evans

2022 October 5

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Tom Wudl papers
<b>Date:</b>	1918-2022 (bulk 1968-2015)
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.wudltom
<b>Creator:</b>	Wudl, Tom, 1948-
<b>Extent:</b>	7.3 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of California artist Tom Wudl measure 7.3 linear feet and date from 1918-2021 with the bulk dating from 1968-2015. The collection is comprised of biographical material, correspondence, personal business records, writings, teaching materials, printed material, photographic material, and artwork. Some material is in digital formats.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated in 2022 by Tom Wudl.

### Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds a 2019 November 22-24 oral history interview and a 2020 July 15 oral history interview with Tom Wudl.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed in 2022 by Ryan Evans.

### Preferred Citation

Tom Wudl papers, 1918-2021, bulk 1968-2015. 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Tom Wudl (1948- ) is an artist and educator living in Los Angeles, California. Wudl was born in Cochabamba, Bolivia as the son of two industrious Jewish exiles who fled persecution in Vienna and would run several businesses including a textile factory and a dairy company. He dedicated his pursuits to becoming an artist even before the family relocated to Los Angeles with his family at age ten, and was determined to quickly learn English. Wudl received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Chouinard Art Institute, but credits the rest of his art education with extensive travel in Europe and Japan. Wudl is associated with the resurgence of figurative painting in the 1980s, and his subject matter is often inspired by his keen interest in Buddhism. Wudl showed with a number of galleries before finding representation with LA Louver in Venice, CA in the 1980s, a relationship that would endure his entire career. Wudl has exhibited his work in museums and galleries nationally and internationally, including Documenta 5 at Kassel; Sezon Museum of Art, Tokyo, and Nagoya City Museum in Japan; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Art; Pasadena Art Museum; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He taught painting and art history at various schools in the eighties and nineties including the Art Center College of Design, Pasadena; UCLA; UC Irvine; UC Santa Barbara; Claremont College; and Otis College of Art and Design, and eventually established a private teaching practice operating from his studio. Public collections featuring Wudl's work include Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of California artist Tom Wudl (1948- ) measure 7.3 linear feet and date from 1918-2021, with the bulk from 1968-2015. Biographical material includes written biographies, curricula vitae, and resumes, award certificates, and immigration paperwork from Wudl's parents' journeys from Vienna and Cochabamba, Bolivia. Correspondence is both professional and personal in nature, including many cards and letters from students, as well as some letters from museums and galleries. Personal business records include exhibition files and documents relating to the functioning of Wudl's studio including, grants, donations, sales and consignments, as well as print production. Writings include artist statements and autobiographical essays, journals and notebooks, as well as lecture materials and writings by others on Wudl's work, and proposals for exhibitions.

Teaching materials include syllabi and lesson plans, as well as student writing assignments. Also included are planning documents from trips taken with students from Wudl's private teaching practice. Printed material includes announcements, invitations, reviews and catalogs from Wudl's exhibitions, in addition to other artists who Wudl admired, including former students. Also included are artist books inscribed to Wudl and a subject file on Buddhism. Photographic material includes snapshots and other photographs used as source material for Wudl's paintings, as well as photographs of family and friends including Wudl's early childhood in Bolivia. Also included are slides and transparencies of Wudl's artwork, many organized by his gallery LA Louver. Artwork includes a number of sketchbooks and loose drawings, as well as photographs used in artwork by Wudl and photographic artworks by other artists, as well as illustrations for a children's book from 1992, and giclee prints from 2008. Some material is in digital format.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as eight series:

- Series 1: Biographical Material , circa 1918-2013 (0.1 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1970s-2020 (1 Linear foot: Boxes 1-2)
- Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1980-2017 (0.5 Linear feet: Box 2, 8)
- Series 4: Writing, circa 1965-2019 (1.2 Linear feet: Boxes 2-3)
- Series 5: Teaching Files, circa 1984-2013 (0.3 Linear feet: Boxes 3-4)
- Series 6: Printed Material , circa 1968-2020 (1.5 Linear feet: Boxes 4-5, 8)
- Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1950-2015 (1.8 Linear feet: Boxes 5-8)
- Series 8: Artwork, circa 1967-2008 (0.9 Linear feet: Boxes 7-8)
- Series 9: Unprocessed Born-Digital Media (1 folder: Box7)

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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:

Figurative painting, American

### Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

### Occupations:

Educators -- California -- Los Angeles

Painters -- California -- Los Angeles

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1918-2013

#### *0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes written biographies, curricula vitae, and resumes, award certificates, and immigration paperwork from Wudl's parents' journeys from Vienna and Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Box 1, Folder 1      Biography/ CVs/ Resume, circa 1972-2013

Box 1, Folder 2      Certificates and Awards, 1966

Box 1, Folder 3      Wudly Family Immigration Papers (Wien, Bolivia), circa 1918-1971

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## Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1970s-2020

*1 Linear foot (Boxes 1-2)*

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is both professional and personal in nature, including many cards and letters from students, as well as some letters from museums and galleries.

Box 1, Folder 4	A, circa 1984-2012
Box 1, Folder 5	B, circa 1980-2020
Box 1, Folder 6	Mary Celeste, circa 1984-1986
Box 1, Folder 7	Jim Cortesos, circa 2009 Includes one electronic disc, cd-r.
Box 1, Folder 8	C, circa 1976-2013
Box 1, Folder 9	D, circa 2000-2011
Box 1, Folder 10	E, circa 1991
Box 1, Folder 11	F, circa 1974-2011
Box 1, Folder 12	G, circa 1984-2017
Box 1, Folder 13	I, circa 2010-2020
Box 1, Folder 14	Josho (Pat Phelan) Roshi, Chapel Hill Zen Center, circa 2013-2014
Box 1, Folder 15	J, circa 2013-2014
Box 1, Folder 16	K, circa 1984-2019
Box 1, Folder 17	L, circa 1983-2020
Box 1, Folder 18	M, circa 1983-2004
Box 1, Folder 19	N, circa 1976-2004
Box 1, Folder 20	P, circa 1979-2021
Box 1, Folder 21	R, circa 1981-2009
Box 1, Folder 22	S, circa 1971-2016
Box 1, Folder 23	Ching Fong Tsin, circa 1990
Box 1, Folder 24	T, circa 1980s-1990s

Box 1, Folder 25	U, 1979, 1998
Box 1, Folder 26	V, circa 1984-2016
Box 1, Folder 27	W, circa 1977-2020
Box 1, Folder 28	Y, 1998, 2020
Box 1, Folder 29-30	From Students, circa 2000-2020
Box 1, Folder 31-33	Unknown, First Name Only, circa 1980-2020
Box 1, Folder 34	Letters, Drafts from Tom Wudl, 1992, 2007
Box 1, Folder 35	Handmade Cards by Children, circa 1970s-1980s
Box 1, Folder 36	Letters of Recommendation for Tom Wudl, 1988-2004
Box 1, Folder 37	Addresses, circa 1970s-2000s
Box 1, Folder 38	Business Cards, circa 1970s-2000s
Box 2, Folder 1	Japanese Art Postcards (Blank and Inscribed), circa 1970s-2000s

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## Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1980-2017

*0.5 Linear feet (Box 2, 8)*

Scope and Contents: Personal business records include exhibition files and documents relating to the functioning of Wudl's studio including, grants, donations, sales and consignments, as well as print production.

Box 2, Folder 2	Donations, circa 2011, 2014
Exhibitions	
Box 2, Folder 3	Young Talent Awards: 1963-1983, LACMA (Summer 1983), 1984
Box 2, Folder 4	Exhibition and Panel Discussion LA Louver (Feb. 9, 2012), circa 2012 Includes two electronic discs, cd-r.
Box 2, Folder 5	Tom Wudl: Reflections from the Flowerbank World LA Louver (Sep.-Oct. 2013), circa 2013-2014
Box 2, Folder 6	Exhibition and Lecture (Nov.-Dec. 2013) Cuesta College, circa 2013
Box 2, Folder 7	Exhibition Proposal, Contemporary Buddhist Art by Tom Wudl at the Rubin Museum, by Dale Wright, circa 2013
Exhibitions, Students	
Box 2, Folder 8	It's Not...Teatime at Tom's, Thursday Evening Students 423 Molino St. (Oct. 3 2009), circa 2009
Box 2, Folder 9	Various Open Studios at 423 Molino St., circa 2009-2011
Box 2, Folder 10	Susan Hazeltin Connell, 423 Molino St. (Mar. 20, 2010), circa 2010
Box 2, Folder 11	A Creative Collective, 423 Molino St. (Oct. 7-29, 2011), circa 2011
Box 2, Folder 12	Etchings, Stan Baden Printing, circa 2011
Galleries and Museums	
Box 2, Folder 13	Annina Nosei Gallery, circa 1980-1983
Box 2, Folder 14-16	LA Louver, circa 1983-2016
Box 2, Folder 17	LA Louver, Artwork Inventory, circa 2017
Box 2, Folder 18	LACMA, 2011, 2015
Box 2, Folder 19	MoCA LA, circa 2010-2013

Box 2, Folder 20	Ota House, circa 1995
Box 2, Folder 21	Giclee Printing, Bowhaus, circa 2008-2012
Box 2, Folder 22	Grants, Flintridge Foundation Awards for Visual Arts Application, circa 2008-2012
Box 2, Folder 23	Sales and Consignments, circa 1983-2013
Box 2, Folder 24	Sales, Mindy Alpern Works (Volunteer), circa 2011-2012
Box 2, Folder 25	Shipping, circa 2013
Box 2, Folder 26	Studio Expenses, circa 1996-2005
Box 2, Folder 27	Studio Lease, 1982
Box 2, Folder 28	Studio Visits, circa 2008-2009
Box 8, Folder 1	Calendar 1991

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## Series 4: Writings, circa 1965-2019

### 1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Writings include artist statements and autobiographical essays, journals and notebooks, as well as lecture materials and writings by others on Wudl's work, and proposals for exhibitions.

Box 2, Folder 29	Artist Statements, circa 2008-2017
Box 2, Folder 30	Autobiographical Essay: "Inconclusive Authenticity: Sacred Art in a Secular World", circa 2019
Box 2, Folder 31	Interview, In Conversation with Mindy Alper (May 11, 2013), circa 2013
Box 2, Folder 32-37	Journal, Art History Notes, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 38	Journal, Notes on Psychology and Dreams, circa 1990s
Box 2, Folder 39-42	Journals, circa 1988-1992
Box 3, Folder 1-16	Journals, circa 1994-2017
Box 3, Folder 17	Journal, Notes, Sketches (Loose), circa 1992-2009
Box 3, Folder 18	Lecture, "Rapture of Dionysus" Aspen (Mar. 19, 1992), circa 1992
Box 3, Folder 19	Lecture on Duchamp, Modernism, circa 1998 Includes photographic lecture slides, 35mm.
Box 3, Folder 20	Recipes, circa 1990s-2004
Box 3, Folder 21	Mechanical for Catalog Tom Wudl: You've Got to Be Kidding!? Cannon Art Gallery (2003), circa 2003
Box 3, Folder 22	"The Avatamsaka in Art: Reflections on the Flowerbank World" by Jane Singer, circa 2013
Box 3, Folder 23	By Others, Miscellaneous Student Writing, circa 1990s-2010
Box 3, Folder 24	By Others, Miscellaneous, circa 1965-1980s

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## Series 5: Teaching Files, circa 1984-2013

### 0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)

Scope and Contents: Teaching materials include syllabi and lesson plans, as well as student writing assignments. Also included are planning documents from trips taken with students from Wudl's private teaching practice.

Box 3, Folder 25	College of Creative Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara, circa 1984-1986
Box 3, Folder 26	Otis Institute of Parsons School of Design, Los Angeles, circa 1984-1986
Box 3, Folder 27	Otis Institute of Parsons School of Design, Art History Class Materials, Assignments, circa 1986-1987
Box 4, Folder 1	Lesson Plans, circa 1990s
Box 4, Folder 2	Miscellaneous Teaching Material, circa 1994
Box 4, Folder 3	Student Trips, circa 2008-2013

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## Series 6: Printed Material, circa 1968-2020

*1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 4-5, 8)*

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes announcements, invitations, reviews and catalogs from Wudl's exhibitions, in addition to other artists who Wudl admired, including former students. Also included are artist books inscribed to Wudl and a subject file on Buddhism.

Box 4, Folder 4	Album, Tom Wudl, Paintings and Works on Paper (with Biography), circa 2009
Box 4, Folder 5-6	Album, LA Louver: Tom Wudl, Selected Works 1971-2003 (with Press, Biography), circa 2003
Box 4, Folder 7	Allegories by Martha Ronk, Illustrations by Tom Wudl, 1998
Box 4, Folder 8	Artist Books, Signed, 1977, 1990
Box 4, Folder 9	Box Car Magazine, no. 1-2, 1983
Box 4, Folder 10-11	Buddhism, circa 1990s-2015
Box 4, Folder 12-14	Clippings (Reviews), circa 1971-2020
Box 4, Folder 15	Greg Colson (Student), circa 1979-2010
Box 4, Folder 16-17	Exhibition Announcements, Invitations, circa 1971-2020
Box 8, Folder 2	Exhibition Announcements, Invitations, and Posters, circa 1980s-1990s
Box 4, Folder 18	Solo Exhibitions (Wudl), circa 1982-2012
Box 4, Folder 19-21	Group Exhibition Catalogs (with Wudl), circa 1971-1997
Box 5, Folder 1	Group Exhibition Catalogs (with Wudl), circa 1997-2011
Box 5, Folder 2-4	Solo Exhibition Catalogs, Other Artists, circa 1969-2003
Box 5, Folder 5	Solo Exhibition Catalogs, Wudl Students, 2003, 2005
Box 5, Folder 6	Group Exhibition Catalogs, Other Artists, 1997-2010
Box 5, Folder 7	Sobato Fiorello, Postcards, 1997-2010
Box 5, Folder 8	Charles Garabedian, circa 1983-2004
Box 5, Folder 9	R.B. Kitaj, circa 1969-2003
Box 5, Folder 10	Landscape Images, circa 1980s-1990s

Box 5, Folder 11	Magazine Covers by Tom Wudl, 1982, 1995
Box 5, Folder 12	Postcards (Blank), circa 1970s-1990s
Box 5, Folder 13	Ed Rucha, 1968, 1976
Box 5, Folder 14	Students, Miscellaneous, circa 2000s-2020
Box 5, Folder 15	Zines by Monica Leal Cueva, circa 2010
Box 5, Folder 16	Wet! The Magazine of Gourmet Bathing (Features Wudl bathroom, notes) (Dec. 1976, Jan. 1977), 1976
Box 5, Folder 17	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1970s-2020

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## Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1950-2015

## 1.9 Linear feet (Boxes 5-8)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material includes snapshots and other photographs used as source material for Wudl's paintings, as well as photographs of family and friends including Wudl's early childhood in Bolivia. Also included are slides and transparencies of Wudl's artwork, many organized by his gallery LA Louver.

Box 5, Folder 18	Album, Artwork Photographs and Transparencies (1971-1982), circa 1970s-1980s
Box 5, Folder 19	Album, Tom Teaching, circa 2000s
Box 5, Folder 20	Album, "Bees" Snapshots, circa 1990s
Box 5, Folder 21	Album, Untitled (Garden) Snapshots, circa 1990
Box 5, Folder 22	Album, Untitled (Flowers) Snapshots, circa 1990s
Box 5, Folder 23	Album, "Plants" Snapshots, circa 1990s
Box 5, Folder 24	Album, Untitled (Woman Playing Violin) Snapshots, with Negatives, circa 1990s
Box 6, Folder 1	Album, Untitled (Woman Playing Violin) Snapshots, circa 1990s
Box 6, Folder 2	Album, Untitled (Studio Artwork Images) Snapshots, circa 2011
Box 6, Folder 3	Album, Untitled (Studio, Model, Still-Life) Snapshots, circa 1990s
Box 6, Folder 4	Album, Untitled (Wudl Exhibition Opening) Snapshots, circa 2000
Box 6, Folder 5	Cats, circa 1980s
Box 6, Folder 6	Childhood Photographs, circa 1950-1963
Box 6, Folder 7	Family Photographs, circa 2000s
Box 6, Folder 8	Family Photographs (Melanie and Henry), circa 2000-2015
Box 6, Folder 9	Painting Details, Landscape, circa 1990s
Box 6, Folder 10	Panoramic Landscape, Collage, circa 1980s
Box 8, Folder 3	Tom Wudl Images, circa 1980s
Box 6, Folder 11	Tom, Students in Studio, circa 1990s-2000s

Box 6, Folder 12	Inkjet Prints, Works and Exhibition (1971-1993), circa 2000-2015
Box 6, Folder 13	Inkjet Prints, Works and Exhibition (1995-2015), circa 2010-2015
Box 6, Folder 14	Inkjet Prints, Works and Exhibition (2003-2007), circa 2003-2007
Box 6, Folder 15	Inkjet Prints, Panoramas and Details, circa 2003-2010
Box 6, Folder 16	Slides, Artwork and Exhibition (1968-1979), circa 1970s-1990s
Box 6, Folder 17	Slides, Artwork and Exhibition (1980s), circa 1980s-1990s
Box 6, Folder 18-19	Slides, Artwork and Exhibition (1990s), circa 1990s
Box 6, Folder 20	Slides, Artwork and Exhibition (2000s), circa 2000s
Box 6, Folder 21-22	Slides, Artwork by Other Artists, circa 1980s-2000
Box 6, Folder 23	Transparencies, Artwork (1978-1984), circa 1978-1990s
Box 6, Folder 24	Transparencies, Artwork (1985-1988), circa 1985-1990s
Box 7, Folder 1	Transparencies, Artwork (1989-1991), circa 1990s
Box 7, Folder 2	Transparencies, Artwork and Exhibition(1991-1994), circa 1990s
Box 7, Folder 3	Transparencies, Artwork (1995-1999), circa 1995-1999
Box 7, Folder 4	Transparencies, Artwork (1999), circa 1999
Box 7, Folder 5	Transparencies, Artwork (2000), circa 2000
Box 7, Folder 6	Transparencies, Artwork (2000-2002), circa 2000-2002
Box 7, Folder 7	Transparencies, Artwork (2002-2006), circa 2002-2006
Box 7, Folder 8	Miscellaneous Artwork Images, circa 1970s-2000s
Box 8, Folder 4	Miscellaneous Photographs, circa 1970s-1990s

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## Series 8: Artwork, circa 1967-2008

### 0.9 Linear feet (Boxes 7-8)

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes a number of sketchbooks and loose drawings, as well as photographs used in artwork by Wudl and photographic artworks by other artists, as well as illustrations for a children's book from 1992, and giclee prints from 2008.

Box 8, Folder 5	Sketchbook, circa 1967-1968
Box 7, Folder 9	Sketchbook, circa 1968
Box 7, Folder 10	Sketchbook (Sep. 1968), circa 1968
Box 7, Folder 11	Sketchbook, circa 1987
Box 7, Folder 12	Sketchbook, circa 1988-1989
Box 7, Folder 13	Sketchbook, circa 1989
Box 7, Folder 14	Sketchbook, circa 1989
Box 7, Folder 15	Sketchbook, circa 1991
Box 8, Folder 6	Sketchbook, circa 1992
Box 7, Folder 16	Sketchbook, circa 1993
Box 8, Folder 7	Sketchbook, circa 1996-1997
Box 8, Folder 8	Drawings on Paper, circa 1972-1982
Box 7, Folder 17	Illustrations for a Children's Book, circa 1992
Box 8, Folder 9	Photographs of Nude, Painted Figures (Melanie Wudl Photographed by Maura...), circa 1980s
Box 8, Folder 10	Black and White Photography (Spheres) by Jeffrey Gubbins, circa 1975s-1985s
Box 7, Folder 18	Photographs of Nude, Painted Figures, circa 1980s
Box 7, Folder 19	Giclee Prints on Paper, circa 2008

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## Series 9: Unprocessed Born-Digital Media

Box 7, Folder 20

Born-Digital Media

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