



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

**A Finding Aid to the Marcia Marcus  
Papers, 1928-2016, bulk 1950-2000,  
in the Archives of American Art**

by Hilary Price

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Creator:</b>	Marcus, Marcia, 1928-
<b>Title:</b>	Marcia Marcus papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1928-2016, bulk 1950-2000
<b>Quantity:</b>	8.3 linear feet
<b>Quantity:</b>	0.389 gigabytes
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>The papers of New York painter and educator Marcia Marcus measure 8.3 linear feet and .389 gigabytes (1 computer file), and date from 1928-2016, with the bulk of the materials dating from 1950-2000. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, interviews, writings (including two diaries), project files, personal business records, printed material, photographic material, eight sketchbooks, and artwork. Extensive personal and professional correspondence is with her husband and close friends, galleries, museums, and other arts organizations. Notable correspondents include Sally Avery, Dody Müller, and Robert (Bob) Richenburg, and, to a lesser extent, Dorothy Gill Barnes, Elaine Benson, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, and Myron Stout. Photographic material includes photographs of Marcus at all stages of her life and photographs and slides documenting her paintings.</p>
<b>Language:</b>	Collection is in English

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Marcia Marcus donated her papers in multiple increments between 1974-1982. Her daughter Kate Prendergast donated additional papers in 2016.

### Related Material

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Marcia Marcus conducted by Paul Cummings in 1975.

### Processing Information

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

### Preferred Citation

Marcia Marcus papers, 1928-2016, bulk 1950-2000. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information. Use of archival audiovisual

recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice. Use of electronic records requires advance notice.

## Ownership & Literary Rights

The Marcia Marcus papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

## Biographical Note

Marcia Marcus (1928- ) is a figurative painter working in New York, New York. Born in New York City, Marcus earned her bachelor's degree in fine arts from New York University in 1949, studied at the Cooper Union from 1950-1952, and studied at the Art Students' League with Edwin Dickinson in 1954. In 1951, Marcus exhibited her first painting in a group exhibition at Roko Gallery in New York City. Since then, she has been the subject of over a dozen solo shows and participated in many group exhibitions. Marcus traveled to France from 1962-1963 on a Fulbright fellowship, and was the recipient of many other grants throughout her career including a Esther and Adolph Gottlieb grant and a National Endowment for the Arts grant. Marcus has taught as a visiting artist at a number of colleges and universities throughout the country, including Vassar College, New York University, and Purdue University.

Marcus married Terrence (Terry) Barrell in 1959 and they have two children, Kate and Jane.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of New York painter and educator Marcia Marcus measure 8.3 linear feet and .389 gigabytes (1 computer file), and date from 1928-2016, with the bulk of the materials dating from 1950-2000. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, interviews, writings (including two diaries), project files, personal business records, printed material, photographic material, eight sketchbooks, and artwork. Extensive personal and professional correspondence is with her husband and close friends, galleries, museums, and other arts organizations. Notable correspondents include Sally Avery, Dody Müller, and Robert (Bob) Richenburg, and, to a lesser extent, Dorothy Gill Barnes, Elaine Benson, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, and Myron Stout. Photographic material includes photographs of Marcus at all stages of her life and photographs and slides documenting her paintings.

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as ten series

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1928-2000s (0.7 linear feet; Box 1, OV 9)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1953-2016 (4.0 linear feet; Box 1-5)

Series 3: Interviews, 1970s-1980 (3 folders; Box 5)

Series 4: Writings, 1970s-2014 (0.3 linear feet; Box 5)

Series 5: Project Files, 1960s-1990s (0.2 linear feet; Box 5)

Series 6: Personal Business Records, 1960s-2000s (0.3 linear feet; Box 6)

Series 7: Printed Material, 1950s-1990s (0.8 linear feet; Box 6, OV 10)

Series 8: Photographic Material, 1950s-1990s (1.3 linear feet; Box 7-8)

Series 9: Sketchbooks, circa 1954-2000 (0.3 linear feet; Box 8)

Series 10: Artwork, 1950s-1990s (0.4 linear feet; Box 8, OV 11)

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Archives of American Art under the following terms:

### Subjects:

Art teachers--New York (State)--New York

Painters--New York (State)--New York  
Women painters--New York (State)--New York

**Types of Materials:**

Diaries  
Interviews  
Photographs  
Sketchbooks

**Names:**

Avery, Sally  
Barnes, Dorothy Gill, 1927-  
Benson, Elaine  
De Kooning, Elaine  
Hartigan, Grace  
Müller, Dody  
Richenburg, Robert  
Stout, Myron, 1908-1987

## Series Descriptions/Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 1928-2000s

*0.7 linear feet; Box 1, OV 9*

Biographical material dates from 1928-2000s and consists of address books, calendars, diplomas, certificates, life documents, identification cards, and resumes. A few files relate to Marcus' family and include naturalization papers, life documents, school records, and drawings by her daughters, Jane and Kate. Travel mementos and memorabilia contain maps, tickets, and other items of ephemera saved by Marcus. One file relates to Marcus' teaching activities at Vassar College.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
1	1-2	Addresses and Address Books, 1970s-1990s
1	3	Calendars, 1970-1983
1	4	Diplomas and Certificates, 1940-1984 Oversized item housed in OV 9
1	5	Faculty Evaluations, Vassar College, 1973-1974
1	6-7	Family, Children, circa 1960-1980
1	8	Family, Parents, 1930-1985
1	9	High School Yearbook, 1943
1	10	Life Documents and Identification Documents, 1928-2000
1	11	Memorabilia, circa 1940-1978
1	12	Natal Chart, circa 1970
1	13	Resumes, 1960s-2000s
1	14	Travel Mementos, 1980s

**Box**  
OV 9                      Oversized Diploma from Box 1, Folder 4

### Series 2: Correspondence, 1953-2016

*4 linear feet; Box 1-5*  
*0.389 gigabytes; ER01*

Personal and professional correspondence dates from 1953-2016 and includes illustrated letters, postcards, greeting cards, and memoranda. There is correspondence with her husband, children, and close friends, and letters from galleries, museums, and other arts organizations. Notable correspondents include Sally Avery, Dody Müller, Robert (Bob) Richenburg, as well as Dorothy Gill Barnes, Elaine Benson, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, and Myron Stout. One digital video recording found among the correspondence with Kate Prendergast, Marcus' daughter, documents the storage of Marcus' paintings.

The series is arranged as two subseries, according to Marcus' original filing. Users should note that both subseries often contain correspondence with the same correspondent.

- 2.1: Alphabetical, circa 1960-2016
- 2.2: Chronological, 1953-2013

## 2.1: Alphabetical, circa 1960-2016

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
1	15	Agriss, Pearl, 1986-1987
1	16	Annie (surname unknown), circa 1980-1996
1	17	Art in Embassies Program, United States Department of State, 1990-1996
1	18	Avery, Sally, circa 1960-1989
1	19	A, General, 1986, 2004
1	20	Barrell, Terry, 1961-1962
1	21	Bradley, Norma, 1983-1986
1	22	B-D, General, circa 1982-1992
1	23	Fleurant, Leo, 1980s
1	24	F, General, 1995
1	25	G, General, 1988-1991
1	26	Howard (first name unknown), circa 1985-1995
1	27	H, General, 1980s-2000s

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
2	1	Jacobs, Peter, circa 1980-1990
2	2	K, General, 1990
2	3	Lyles, Gerry, 1990-1997
2	4	Marlow, Billie, 1986-1989
2	5	Müller, Dody, 1960s
2	6	Morrison, George, circa 1980-1996
2	7	M, General, 1990-1994
2	8	Oliver, Richard, 1984-1998
2	9	Pilgrim, Lily, 1984-1990
2	10	Prendergast, Kate (daughter), 1983-2016 Includes digital video recording (ER01)

**Box**  
ER01                      Digital Video Recording from Kate Prendergast to Marcia Marcus, 2010  
*0.389 gigabytes; 1 computer file*

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
2	11	Recommendations for Marcus, 1985-1992
2	12	Richenburg, Bob and Marggy, 1984-1988
2	13	Saks, Judy, 1986-1992
2	14	S, General, 1986, 2010
2	15	Tausik-Pinto, Joan, 1984

2	16	T, General, 1984-1987
2	17	V, General, 1981
2	18	Wade-Day, Van, 1984-1987
2	19	W, General, 1986
2	20	Yadav, Jane (daughter), circa 1980-2000

## 2.2: Chronological, 1953-2013

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
2	21-22	Correspondence, undated
2	23	Chronological Correspondence, circa 1953-1959
2	24-27	Chronological Correspondence, circa 1960-1969
2	28-29	Chronological Correspondence, circa 1970-1972

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
3	1-7	Chronological Correspondence, circa 1971-1974
3	8-16	Chronological Correspondence, circa 1975-1977

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
4	1-8	Chronological Correspondence, circa 1977-1979
4	9-15	Chronological Correspondence, circa 1980-1982

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
5	1-6	Chronological Correspondence, circa 1982-1984
5	7	Chronological Correspondence, circa 1985-1989
5	8	Chronological Correspondence, 1990s
5	9	Chronological Correspondence, circa 2000-2013

## Series 3: Interviews, 1970s-1980

### *3 folders; Box 5*

Interviews date from 1970s-1980 and include two sound recordings with Marcus on sound cassettes and two transcripts. Marcus responds to questions regarding her paintings, her influences, the art scene in New York City, her role as an educator, and other topics.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
5	10	Marcia Marcus Interview by Rose Mosner, Sound Recording, 1970s <i>1 sound cassette</i>
5	10	Marcia Marcus Interview by Unknown Interviewer, Sound Recording, 1970s <i>1 sound cassette</i>
5	11	Marcia Marcus Interview by Elizabeth Yaroz, Transcript, 1980
5	12	Marcia Marcus Interview by Unknown Interviewer, Transcript, 1980



## **Series 4: Writings, 1970s-2014**

*0.3 linear feet; Box 5*

Writings date from 1970s-2014 and consist of artist statements, two diaries, two notebooks, notes, lists, poems, and a few writings by others. The diaries record day-to-day activities and reflections, while the notebooks contain jottings, notes, and lists.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
5	13	Artist Statements, 1970s-1990s
5	14	Diaries (2), 1990, circa 2012
5	15	Notebooks (2), circa 1990, 2013
5	16	Notes and Lists, circa 1980-2014
5	17	Poems, 1980s
5	18	Writings by Others, circa 1970-2003

## **Series 5: Project Files, 1960s-1990s**

*0.2 linear feet; Box 5*

Project files date from 1960s-1990s and contain material related to exhibitions Marcus curated, grant applications, a mail art project, and a collaborative proposal for an exhibition space called Sister Chapel.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
5	19	Exhibitions Curated by Marcia Marcus, circa 1980-1986
5	20-21	Grants, circa 1960s-1990s
5	22	Mail Art Project, First Issue Stamps, 1990-1995
5	23	Sister Chapel Proposal, 1974

## **Series 6: Personal Business Records, 1960s-2000s**

*0.3 linear feet; Box 6*

Personal business records date from 1960s-2000s and consist of conservation documentation relating to Marcus' paintings, leases for residences and studios, financial ledgers, price lists for exhibitions, receipts for art supplies, loan agreements, contracts for exhibitions and teaching positions, as well as documentation related to unemployment benefits.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
6	1	Conservation, 1960s-1980s
6	2	Leases and Housing Documents, circa 1956-1980
6	3	Ledgers, 1980s
6	4	Price Lists, 1980s-1990s
6	5-6	Receipts, Agreements, and Contracts, 1970s-2000s
6	7	Unemployment Documents, 1975-1976

## Series 7: Printed Material, 1950s-1990s

*0.8 linear feet; Box 6, OV 10*

Printed material dates from 1950s-1990s and documents Marcus' extensive exhibition history through announcements, clippings, and exhibition catalogs. A few newsletters and other printed matter consisting of programs, minutes, and sheet music are also found here.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
6	8-10	Announcements, 1950s-1990s
6	11-12	Clippings, 1960s-1990s
6	13	Newsletters, 1974-1980
6	14-16	Exhibition Catalogs, 1960s
6	17-19	Exhibition Catalogs, 1970s Oversized catalog housed in OV 10
6	20-21	Exhibition Catalogs, 1980s
6	22	Exhibition Catalogs, 1990s
6	23	Other Printed Matter, 1970s-1990s

**Box**  
OV 10                      Oversized Exhibition Catalog from Box 6, Folder 17

## Series 8: Photographic Material, 1950s-1990s

*1.3 linear feet; Box 7-8*

Photographic material dates from 1950s-1990s and includes photographic prints, negatives, contact sheets, and slides. Subjects include Marcus at all stages of her life, family, friends, the studio, exhibitions, travel, as well as hundreds of photographs and slides documenting her paintings. One folder contains photographs Marcus used as source material.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
7	1-2	Marcia Marcus, Family, and Friends, 1960s-1990s
7	3-9	Photographs of Artworks, 1950s-1990s
7	10	Source Photographs, Studies for Paintings, 1970s-1990s
7	11	Photo Album (disbound), 1954
7	12	Photo Album (disbound), 1950s
7	13	Photo Album (disbound), 1950s

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
8	1-3	Negatives, Assorted Subjects, 1970s-1990s
8	4-5	Slide Boxes, Assorted Subjects, 1970s-1990s

## **Series 9: Sketchbooks, circa 1954-2000**

*0.3 linear feet; Box 8*

Eight sketchbooks date from circa 1954-2000 and contain hundreds of sketches and studies in pencil, pen, and watercolor. Subjects include flora, fauna, landscapes, and figures.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
8	6	Sketchbook, 1954
8	6	Sketchbook, circa 1960
8	7	Sketchbook, 1963
8	8	Sketchbook, circa 1984
8	8	Sketchbook with Source Photographs (disbound), 1992
8	8	Sketchbook, 1992
8	9	Sketchbook, circa 2000
8	9	Sketchbook, circa 2000

## **Series 10: Artwork, 1950s-1990s**

*0.4 linear feet; Box 8, OV 11*

Artwork dates from 1950s-1990s and includes sketches in pencil and marker, a collage, and over one hundred watercolor studies of flora, fauna, landscapes, and figures.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
8	10	Sketches and Collage, 1950s-1990s Oversized sketches housed in OV 11
8	11-14	Watercolors, 1980s-1990s

<b>Box</b>	
OV 11	Oversized Sketches and Collage from Box 8, Folder 10