



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

**A Finding Aid to the Robert Sperry Papers,
1951-2002, in the Archives of American Art**

by Erin Corley

February 27, 2004

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Creator:	Sperry, Robert, 1927-1998
Title:	Robert Sperry papers
Dates:	1951-2002
Quantity:	12.6 linear feet
Abstract:	The papers of ceramicist Robert Sperry measure 12.6 linear feet and date from 1951-2002. The collection documents Sperry's career as an artist, teacher, and filmmaker through biographical information, correspondence, exhibition files, gallery files, material on projects and workshops, writings, a scrapbook, financial files, printed material, photographs, moving image materials, and artwork.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Robert Sperry papers were donated by Sperry's wife Patti Warashina in 2003 and 2004.

Related Material

Also found in the Archives of American Art are the Patti Warashina papers, circa 1900-1991. An online finding aid is available.

Processing Information

The collection was processed by Erin E. Corley in 2004 as part of the Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Art in America. Motion picture film reels were inspected and re-housed in 2017 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

Robert Sperry papers, 1951-2002. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research. Use requires an appointment.

Ownership and Literary Rights

The Robert Sperry 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

Robert Sperry was born in Bushnell, Illinois, in 1927. He grew up on his family's farm in Druid, Saskatchewan, Canada, and in 1945 was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he first developed an interest in art. After serving in the military, he returned home and completed his B.A. at the University of Saskatchewan in 1950 and a B.F.A. at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1953. While working on his B.A. he met and married

Edyth MacDonald and they had one child, Van, in 1950. He spent one summer as Artist in Residence at the Archie Bray Foundation, in Helena, Montana, and then moved his family to Seattle so that he could complete his M.F.A. at the University of Washington. After graduating in 1955 he stayed at the University and became a professor, teaching ceramics until retiring in 1982. During this time, Sperry widely exhibited his clay vessels in both group and solo exhibitions and was active in the American Craft Council.

When not teaching, Robert Sperry pursued his interest in photography and filmmaking and, in 1963, traveled to Japan to make "Village Potters of Onda," a project that included a documentary film and a collection of black and white photographs. Sperry continued experimenting with film and, in 1967, created a fictional film entitled, "Profiles Cast Long Shadows," which was shown at film festivals throughout the United States. After abandoning another film project in 1970 while going through a divorce, he returned to ceramics as his focus. During the 1970s Sperry developed his techniques, modifying glazes and moving away from the vessel shape. In 1976 Sperry married Patti Warashina, fellow ceramicist and professor at the University of Washington. He began producing murals, which led to several public commissions such as a mural for the IBM Field Engineering Educational Center in Atlanta, created in 1983. *Robert Sperry: A Retrospective*, was exhibited in 1985-1986 at the Bellevue Art Museum, however, Sperry would continue producing and exhibiting new work, and giving lectures and workshops for thirteen more years, until his death in 1998.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of ceramicist Robert Sperry measure 12.6 linear feet and date from 1951-2002. The collection documents Sperry's career as an artist and teacher through biographical information, correspondence, exhibition files, gallery files, material on projects and workshops, writings, a scrapbook, financial files, printed material, photographs, video recordings, films, and artwork.

Biographical files contain items outlining Sperry's career including resumes, teaching evaluations, awards, and interviews. Correspondence includes general correspondence with family, friends, colleagues, schools, galleries, art organizations, and publications as well as named files for those with whom Sperry exchanged a significant amount of correspondence over a long period of time. The Exhibition Files contain materials on group and solo exhibitions Robert Sperry participated in, while Gallery Files hold material, such as correspondence and contracts, related to the galleries which exhibited Sperry's work primarily after 1979. The Project and Workshop Files in Series 5 contain material related to public commissions he completed and workshops he gave during the 1980s and 1990s.

Writings encompass writings by Sperry and others. Sperry's writings vary greatly and include drafts of articles, a family history, poetry, notes and a screenplay, while writings by others are primarily essays on art. Within this series Sperry's event calendars are also found. Sperry compiled a scrapbook which spans 1955 to 1964 and includes correspondence and printed material about exhibitions and newspaper clippings which feature his artwork. He and his wife, Patti Warashina, also compiled Financial Records primarily of their business and living expenses from 1976 to 1984 and earnings as artists and professors at the University of Washington.

The largest series in this collection, Printed Material, provides information largely on Sperry's career through press clippings, exhibition announcements, catalogs, and publications, and also includes other materials on ceramics in general. The Photographs series contains both photos and negatives from Sperry's trip to Japan to film "Village Potters of Onda" as well as photographs of his artwork and his family. Also found in this collection are a few sketches and drawings by Sperry and one drawing by Patti Warashina. Moving image material includes video recordings and motion picture film with a wide range of content, including documentaries about Sperry, studio footage, and experimental and narrative films created by Sperry in a range of styles and genres, including animation such as the animated film "Henry," hand colored film, live action footage, abstract design, and narrative short films by Sperry.

Arrangement

The Robert Sperry papers are arranged as thirteen series, according to type of material. Each series is arranged either in rough chronological or alphabetical order.

Series 1: Biographical Files, 1954-circa 2000, undated (Box 1; 0.3 linear feet)

Series 2: Correspondence Files, 1951-2000, undated (Boxes 1-2; 0.9 linear feet)
Series 3: Exhibition Files, 1963-1999, undated (Boxes 2-3; 1.2 linear feet)
Series 4: Gallery Files, 1960-2000, undated (Boxes 3-4; 0.8 linear feet)
Series 5: Project and Workshop Files, 1967-1996, undated (Box 4; 0.4 linear feet)
Series 6: Writings, 1966-1990, undated (Box 5; 0.5 linear feet)
Series 7: Scrapbook, 1955-1964 (Box 5; 8 folders)
Series 8: Financial Records, 1961-1995, undated (Boxes 5-6; 1.0 linear feet)
Series 9: Miscellaneous Subject Files, 1975-1998, undated (Box 6; 0.2 linear feet)
Series 10: Printed Material, 1955-2002, undated (Boxes 6-10; 3.4 linear feet)
Series 11: Photographs, 1963, undated (Box 10; 0.2 linear feet)
Series 12: Sketches and Drawings, 1984, undated (Box 10; 2 folders)
Series 13: Moving Image Material, circa 1962-1998, undated (Boxes 10-12, FC 13-18; 3.1 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Ceramicists--Washington (State)
Ceramics--Study and teaching
Filmmakers
Potters--Japan

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Interviews
Motion pictures (visual works)
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sketches
Transcripts
Videotapes
Works of art

Names:

Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
University of Washington. -- Faculty
Warashina, Patti, 1940-

Series Descriptions/Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Files, 1954-circa 2000, undated

(Box 1; 0.3 linear feet)

This series includes artist statements, curriculum vitae and resumes, as well as a complete biography listing all of Sperry's professional achievements. It also contains files on awards Robert Sperry received which typically include correspondence, brochures, and other related materials concerning the awards. There are two files on interviews, including a transcript for an interview conducted by the Archives of American Art for the Northwest Oral History Project and two audio cassettes of a radio interview. Also found are teaching evaluations, Patti Warashina's resume, and other miscellaneous materials. The series is arranged alphabetically by type of material, with miscellaneous materials at the end.

Box	Folder	
1	1	Artist Statements, undated
1	2	Award, Bellevue Film Festival, 1967
1	3	Award, International Academy of Ceramics Membership, 1983-1986, undated
1	4	Award, National Endowment for the Arts Visual Artists Fellowship Grant, 1984-1988
1	5	Award, American Crafts Council Honorary Fellow, 1987
1	6	Biography, circa 2000
1	7	Curriculum Vitae and Bibliography, 1956-1989
1	8	Interview, Audio Cassette, "Private Talks with Public Artists," 1988
1	9	Interview, Transcript, Archives of American Art, 1983-1984
1	10	Memorial Announcement, 1998
1	11	Patti Warashina Short Resume, circa 1998
1	12	Selected Resumes, 1954, 1991-1999
1	13	Teaching Evaluations, 1957-1961
1	14	"Who's Who in American Art," undated
1	15	Miscellaneous, 1954-1988, undated

Series 2: Correspondence Files, 1951-2000, undated

(Boxes 1-2; 0.9 linear feet)

This series contains both personal and professional correspondence. However, some correspondence related to Robert Sperry's professional career is also located within series 3, 4, and 5.

The Correspondence Files are organized into two subseries:

2.1: General Correspondence, 1951-2000, undated

2.2: Named Files, 1955-1999, undated

2.1: General Correspondence, 1951-2000, undated

General Correspondence primarily consists of letters from family, friends, artists, and colleagues, including numerous cards and postcards. Also within are professional correspondence from galleries, schools, art associations,

and art publications. An item of note is a letter to Sperry from artist Morris Graves, written June 14, 1967. Files are arranged chronologically by year.

Box	Folder	
1	16-37	General Correspondence, 1951-2000, undated

2.2: Named Files, 1955-1999, undated

Named Files are arranged alphabetically by the correspondent's name and contain letters, cards and postcards to Sperry. Included are files on individuals, primarily family, friends, and colleagues, with whom Sperry exchanged a significant amount of correspondence over a long period of time. Also found are files on museums, schools, art organizations, and publications. Most notable are several handmade birthday and anniversary cards given to Sperry by his wife, Patti Warashina.

Box	Folder	
1	38	A. Kaup & Associates, 1983-1985
1	39	Alfred Auerbach Associates, 1962, undated
1	40	American Craft Council, 1959-1975, 1993-1997
1	41	Art in Form, 1982-1983
1	42	Art Resource Technology, 1986, 1992
1	43	Baross Films, 1979, undated
1	44	Bauer, Fred, 1964, 1991, undated
1	45	Bauer, Gretchen, 1983, 1987, undated
1	46	Bauer, Lisa, 1984-1990
Box	Folder	
2	1	Beigler, Myron (Mike) and Dolly, 1987, undated
2	2	Biskeborn, Susan, 1990
2	3	Caruso, Nino, 1965-1966, 1975-1992, 1996
2	4	<i>Ceramics: Art and Perception</i> , 1991, undated
2	5	<i>Ceramics Monthly</i> , 1976-1986
2	6	Cleveland Museum of Art, 1965-1966
2	7	Chasanoff, Allan, 1980-1982
2	8	Dobson, Dwight and Nancy, 1986-1996
2	9	Earnest, Aileen Ryan, 1986-1987
2	10	Efron, Jean, 1988-1993, undated
2	11	Everson Museum of Art, 1962-1965, 1988
2	12	Fisher, Robert, 1992-1993, undated
2	13	Gibson, Marge and Bob, 1984, 1993, undated
2	14	Griffith, Malcolm, 1986-1989, 1998, undated
2	15	Guggenheim, Shelly and Judy Mannes, 1985-1989, undated

2	16	Harlow, Margaret, 1993, 1995
2	17	Harrington, LaMar, 1979-1984, 1994, 1996
2	18	Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1979, 1989
2	19	Jacobs, Daniel, 1981-1982, 1987-1991
2	20	Kehl, Richey, 1973, 1998, undated
2	21	Kleinsmith, Gene, 1984-1987
2	22	Kolva, Jim, and Pat Sullivan, 1994
2	23	Kurath, Martha S. (Jody), 1981, 1987-1997, undated
2	24	Larsen, Jack, 1982, 1990-1993, undated
2	25	Mahler Fine Arts Consulting, Inc., 1999
2	26	Mannheimer, Joan, 1981-1987
2	27	Marquis, Pamela, 1986-1987
2	28	<i>Metapsychology</i> , 1987
2	29	McDowell, Scott, 1977, undated
2	30	Museum of Contemporary Crafts, 1962, 1964-1966, undated
2	31	Nelson, Glenn C., 1964, 1981-1982
2	32	Newton, Dorothy (Dot), 1984-1997, undated
2	33	Nordness, Lee, 1977, 1988-1994
2	34	Oregon Ceramic Studio, 1961-1965
2	35	Peterson, Susan, 1980-1997
2	36	Poole, Kristin M., 1991
2	37	PONCHO, 1991
2	38	Publicity Letters, 1985
2	39-40	Recommendation Letters for Students, 1973-1994, undated
2	41	Schwartz, Judith, 1981-1985, 1989
2	42	Seattle Art Museum, 1974-1991, 1996
2	43	Seattle Arts Commission, 1981-1986
2	44	Sinker, John, Jr., 1993, undated
2	45	Smith, Paul J., 1987, 1990, undated
2	46	Smithsonian Institution, 1962-1964, undated
2	47	Sperry, Kathy and Chris Walton, 1990-1993, undated
2	48	Sperry, Van and Family, 1986, 1990, 1996, undated
2	49	Staggs, Virginia (Jinks), 1984, 1990-1996, undated
2	50	St. Martin's College, Olympia, Washington, 1960-1962
2	51	University of British Columbia, 1962-1964
2	52	University of Washington, 1955-1989
2	53	U.S. Department of State, 1965-1966
2	54-55	Warashina, Patti, 1976-1997, undated

2	56	Wilson, Ian and Bette, 1981-1997, undated
2	57	Wing Luke Memorial Museum, 1975-1979
2	58	Zakin, Richard, 1982-1993, undated

Series 3: Exhibition Files, 1963-1999, undated

(Boxes 2-3; 1.2 linear feet)

Exhibition Files contain material on the group and solo exhibitions in which Robert Sperry participated. Files typically include correspondence, expense lists and receipts, notes, and printed materials, including brochures, announcements, and press clippings. Most notable is the material on *Robert Sperry: A Retrospective*, held in 1985 at the Bellevue Art Museum. Files are arranged chronologically by year of exhibition.

Box	Folder	
2	59	<i>The Village Potters of Onda</i> (1964-1966), 1963-1966, 1986
2	60	American Studio Pottery (1966), 1966-1967
2	61	Burien Art Festival (1966), 1966
2	62	"Form and Quality" (1966, 1967), 1965-1967
2	63	<i>Distinguished Contemporary Potters Invitational Show</i> (1975), 1975
2	64	<i>Functional Ceramics</i> (1977), 1977
2	65	Robert Sperry at Nagatani Gallery, 1977
2	66	<i>Function: Non-Function</i> (1979), 1979
2	67	Robert Sperry at Erica Williams/Anne Johnson Gallery (1979-1980), 1979, undated
2	68	<i>Crafts Northwest Circa 1980</i> , 1979-1980
2	69	<i>Contemporary Ceramics: Response to Wedgewood</i> (1980), 1980
2	70	<i>American Crats</i> (1980), 1979-1980
2	71	Ceramic Sculpture Invitational at Whatcom Museum of History & Art (1980), 1980
2	72	<i>The Washington Year: A Contemporary View</i> (1981), 1980-1981
2	73	Wichita Art Association Decorative Arts Retrospective (1981), 1980-1981
2	74	"Ceramic Traditions" (1981-1983), 1981-1983
2	75	Robert Sperry at Erica Williams/Anne Johnson Gallery (1981), 1981-1982
2	76	"American Clay II" (1982), 1982
2	77	<i>Pacific Currents/Ceramics 1982</i> , 1982
2	78	<i>Variations in Clay</i> (1982), 1982
2	79	Robert Sperry at Gordon Woodside/John Braseth Galleries (1983), 1983
2	80	<i>Potter's Choice</i> (1983), 1982-1983
2	81	"Regional Crafts: A Contemporary Perspective" (1983-1984), 1983
2	82	<i>Clay: 1984</i> , 1983-1984
2	83	<i>Platters and Related Forms</i> (1984), 1984
2	84	<i>Ceramic Sculpture Invitational</i> (1984), 1984, undated
2	85	<i>Skeet Shoot</i> (1984), 1984

2	86	<i>Potters & Prints</i> (1984-1985), 1984-1985
2	87-89	<i>Robert Sperry: A Retrospective</i> (1985-1986), 1983-1986
2	90	<i>10/40 Anniversary Celebration</i> at the Bellevue Art Museum (1986), 1985-1986
2	91	<i>Pacific Northwest Art Expo</i> (1986), 1986
2	92	<i>Northwest Impressions: Works on Paper</i> (1986), 1986
2	93	<i>West Coast Clay</i> (1986), 1986
2	94	<i>Outside Japan</i> (1986), 1986-1987
2	95	<i>Drawn to the Surface: Artists in Clay and Glass</i> (1987), 1987
2	96	"Now & Then" (1987), 1987
2	97	<i>Robert Sperry: Ceramics, Paperworks, Drawings</i> (1987), 1986-1987
Box	Folder	
3	1	<i>FOCUS: Seattle</i> (1987), 1986-1987
3	2	"Ceramics in Architecture: Drawings, Sketches, and Models" (1987), 1986-1987
3	3	<i>Canton Art Institute Ceramic Invitational</i> (1987), 1985-1987
3	4	<i>Northwest Clay</i> (1987), 1987-1988
3	5	Marylhurst College, 1987-1988
3	6	<i>Craft Today: Poetry of the Physical</i> (1987-1988), 1985-1988
3	7-8	<i>Clay Revisions: Plate, Cup, Vase</i> (1987-1989), 1986-1989
3	9	"A Fine Place to Work: The Legacy of the Archie Bray Foundation" (1988), 1988
3	10	<i>Black and White</i> (1988), 1988
3	11	<i>Architectural Art: Affirming the Design Relationship</i> (1988), 1987-1988
3	12	Robert Sperry at Whatcom Museum of History & Art (1988), 1987-1989
3	13	"School of Art: Students and Teachers at the University of Washington, 1975-1988" (1988), 1988
3	14	<i>Contemporary Survey: A Visible Presence in the Northwest</i> (1988), 1987-1988
3	15	<i>Northwest Ceramics, Today</i> (1988-1989), 1986-1989
3	16	<i>Washington Crafts: Then & Now</i> (1989), 1988-1989
3	17	Northwest Designer Craftsmen, 1989
3	18	"Mirror Images: Reflections in Clay" (1989), 1989
3	19	<i>Surface and Form</i> (1989), 1989
3	20	<i>The Spectacle of Chaos</i> (1989), 1989
3	21	Bumbershoot: <i>Decade of Abstraction 1979-1989</i> , 1989
3	22	Media Gallery (1989), 1988-1989
3	23	<i>Clay AZ Art XV</i> (1989), 1988-1989
3	24	<i>Clay Now</i> (1989), 1988-1989
3	25	<i>Michigan Ceramics '89</i> , 1988-1989
3	26	<i>Art Works for AIDS</i> (1990), 1990-1991

3	27	<i>100 Years of Washington Art: New Perspectives</i> (1990), 1990
3	28	Robert Sperry at Janet Hudson Gallery (1990), 1990
3	29	<i>Black & White: An Exhibition of Contemporary Ceramics</i> (1990), 1989-1990
3	30	"13th Annual Clay Exhibition" at Millersville University (1990), 1989-1990
3	31	<i>NCECA Conference 1991</i> , 1990-1991
3	32	"Beyond Serving" (1991), 1990-1991
3	33	<i>Minor Works by Major Artists</i> (1991), 1990-1991
3	34	<i>Artists at Work</i> (1991), 1990-1991
3	35	<i>Archie Bray Foundation Benefit Exhibition</i> (1991), 1991
3	36	Robert Sperry at Helen Drutt Gallery (1991), 1991
3	37	Swidler Gallery (1991), 1991
3	38	<i>The Artful Charger</i> (1991), 1989-1991
3	39	<i>Walls: Large-Scale Ceramic Sculpture Eight Variations</i> (1991), 1990-1991
3	40	<i>Masterworks: Pacific Northwest Arts and Crafts Now</i> (1991), 1991
3	41	Seattle Art Tour (1992), 1992
3	42	<i>Black & White Ceramics II</i> (1992), 1990-1992
3	43	Corporate Art West (1992), 1992
3	44	<i>National Ceramic Invitational</i> (1992), 1991-1992
3	45	Twist Platter Exhibition (1992), 1992
3	46	<i>Revolving Techniques</i> (1992), 1991-1992
3	47	<i>1992 Ceramics Invitational at Sunbird Gallery</i> , 1991-1993
3	48	"Studio Potter's Twentieth Anniversary Collection" (1992), 1991-1992
3	49	Schneider-Bluhm-Loeb Gallery Show, 1992-1993, undated
3	50	Robert Sperry at the National Academy of Sciences (1993), 1991-1994
3	51	<i>Pacific Rim Japan</i> (1993), 1993
3	52	<i>Green Meadow Invitational Pottery Show</i> (1993), 1992-1993
3	53	<i>North by Northwest</i> (1993), 1993
3	54	<i>Artfair Seattle 1993</i> , 1993
3	55	<i>Year of the American Craft</i> (1993), 1992-1993
3	56	"Clay 1993: A National Survey," 1993
3	57	<i>Contemporary American Ceramics</i> (1993), 1992-1993
3	58	<i>Robert Sperry: New Works</i> (1993), 1992-1993
3	59	<i>Chicago International New Art Forms Exposition</i> (1993), 1993
3	60	<i>Architectural Clay</i> (1993), 1992-1993
3	61	<i>Living Treasures</i> (1993), 1992-1993, undated
3	62-63	<i>The Legacy of the Archie Bray Foundation</i> (1993), 1993
3	64	<i>Art Works for AIDS '93</i> , 1992-1993
3	65	"Arts and Crafts of the Pacific Northwest" (1994), 1994

3	66	"30 Ceramic Sculptors Exhibition" (1994), 1994
3	67	James Renwick Alliance Tour to Seattle (1994), 1994
3	68	<i>Contemporary Crafts and the Saxe Collection</i> (1994), 1991-1994
3	69	<i>Potters & Prints</i> (1994), 1994
3	70	"Influence and Introspection: Pacific NW Ceramics" (1995), 1995
3	71	"Heart of the Arts" (1995), 1994
3	72	<i>Art Works for AIDS</i> (1995), 1994-1995
3	73	"Clay: a Continuing Tradition" (1996), 1996
3	74	<i>The Estate of Robert Sperry: Ceramics and Prints</i> (1999), 1999
3	75-79	Miscellaneous, 1964-1966, 1975-1999, undated

Series 4: Gallery Files, 1962-2000, undated

(Boxes 3-4; 0.8 linear feet)

This series contains files for galleries which exhibited and sold works by Robert Sperry, and may include exhibition announcements and invitations, brochures, correspondence with Sperry, contracts, invoices, and consignment lists and agreements. However, materials relating to certain exhibitions will be found in the Exhibition files in Series 3. The bulk of the material is dated after 1979 with the exception of the Henry Gallery, America House, and the Contemporary Crafts Gallery. Materials in this series are arranged alphabetically by gallery name.

Box	Folder	
3	80	Albertson-Peterson Gallery, Inc., 1984-1993, undated
3	81	America House, 1960-1966, undated
3	82	American Craft Museum, 1981-1997, undated
3	83	Annex Gallery, 1987, undated
3	84	Art South, 1986, 1992
3	85	Bellevue Art Museum, 1979-1986, 1991, 1998, undated
3	86	Bentley-Tomlinson Gallery, 1992-1995, undated
3	87	Contemporary Crafts Gallery, 1967, 1975-1986, undated
Box	Folder	
4	1	Cross Creek Gallery, 1986-1987, undated
4	2	Dorothy Weiss Gallery, 1985-2000
4	3	Elaine Potter Gallery, 1984-1986, undated
4	4	Elements Gallery/Eddy Beasley Associates, 1982-1992, undated
4	5	Erica Williams/Anne Johnson Gallery, 1979-1982, 1992, undated
4	6-7	Esther Saks Gallery, 1984-1991, undated
4	8	Following Sea, 1975-1980, undated
4	9	Gordon Woodside/John Braseth Galleries, 1983-1984
4	10	Great American Gallery (Gillette-Frutchey), 1982-1985, undated
4	11	Helen Drutt Gallery, 1981, 1991-1993, undated

4	12	Henry Gallery, University of Washington, 1961-1971, 1979-1995, undated
4	13	Hokin Gallery, 1990-1991, undated
4	14	Impressions Gallery, 1979-1981, undated
4	15-17	Joanne Rapp Gallery/The Hand and the Spirit, 1983-1994, undated
4	18	Kavesh Gallery, 1991, 1994-1995
4	19	Maple Hill Gallery, 1986, undated
4	20-21	Maveety Gallery (Lawrence Gallery), 1984-1993, undated
4	22	Netsky Gallery, 1982-1986, undated
4	23-24	Robert Kidd Gallery, 1981-1992, 1998, undated
4	25	Southwest Craft Center, 1985-1987, undated
4	26	Sylvia Ullman's American Crafts, 1975-1979, 1988, undated
4	27	Wita Gardiner Gallery, 1987-1988

Series 5: Project and Workshop Files, 1967-1996, undated

(Box 4; 0.4 linear feet)

Files in this series typically contain correspondence, expense lists, receipts, itineraries, notes, and printed material related to sculpture projects and workshops that Robert Sperry completed primarily during the 1980s and 1990s. Project files include public commissions, notably the King County Administration Building Mural Project, IBM Wall Project, and the SAFECO sculpture. Files are arranged chronologically by year.

Box	Folder	
4	28	"Profiles Cast Long Shadows" Film Project, 1967, undated
4	29	Anderson Ranch Arts Foundation Workshop, 1979-1981
4	30	University of Iowa Workshop, 1980
4	31	"Ceramics 80" Workshop, 1980, 1982
4	32	Georgia State University Workshop, 1981
4	33	National Council on Education for Ceramic Arts 1982 Panel Member, 1981-1982
4	34-35	Washington State Arts Commission Art in Public Places Program, 1981-1985
4	36	Fraser Valley Potters Guild Workshop, 1982-1983
4	37	IBM Wall Project, 1983-1985
4	38	King County Administration Building Mural Project, 1983-1986
4	39	Florida Craftsmen Conference Workshop, 1986-1987
4	40	National Council on Education for Ceramic Arts Conference '88: "East Meets West," 1987-1988
4	41	"Clay Revisions: Plate, Cup, Vase Clay Conference '89," 1988-1989
4	42	Kaplan Mural Commission, 1988-1989
4	43-45	SAFECO Sculpture Project, 1988-1991, undated
4	46	Kerns Art Center Workshop, 1989
4	47	Emily Carr College of Art & Design Lecture, 1989-1990

4	48	Hewlett-Packard Commission, 1990
4	49-50	Saint Louis Galleria Mural Project, 1990-1991
4	51	Peoples State Bank Project, 1991, undated
4	52	"Functional Pottery: Past, Present, Future" Symposium, 1991-1992
4	53	National Council on Education for Ceramic Arts Conference '94: "Gumbo Ceramique," 1993-1994
4	54	"Focus on Fire" Workshop, 1994
4	55	Phoenix College Workshop, 1994-1996
4	56	"Fahrenheit 96: Solid.Liquid.Solid" Symposium, 1996
4	57	Miscellaneous, 1988-1989, 1996, undated

Series 6: Writings, 1966-1990, undated

(Box 5; 0.5 linear feet)

This series houses writings by Robert Sperry and others, as well as Sperry's calendars. Writings by Sperry contain drafts for two articles published in art magazines. Also of interest is a family history he wrote which includes memories of his childhood on his family's farm, as well as many scanned photographs. This series also includes the screenplay, treatment and shooting script, and notes for "The Room" a film which Sperry never completed. Also found are many personal writings such as a brief journal, poetry, and miscellaneous notes. Writings by Others contain essays on art topics. Also included are various drafts of the catalog for the 1985 Robert Sperry retrospective. This sub-series is arranged alphabetically by author's last name.

The Writings are organized into three subseries:

- 6.1: Writings by Sperry, 1966-1990
- 6.2: Writings by Others, 1986, undated
- 6.3: Calendars, 1976-1984

6.1: Writings by Sperry, 1966-1990

Box	Folder	
5	1	Article, "Abstractions in Black and White," <i>Ceramics Monthly</i> , 1989-1990
5	2	Article, <i>The Studio Potter</i> , 1985-1986
5	3	Family History, "Growing Up on the Prairies," undated
5	4-5	Journal, 1976-1978, 1982, 1990, undated
5	6	Notes, "The Room," undated
5	7	Notes, Miscellaneous, 1976, 1986, undated
5	8-9	Poetry, 1966-1973, undated
5	10	Screenplay, "The Room," undated
5	11	Treatment and Shooting Script, "The Room," undated

6.2: Writings by Others, 1986, undated

Box	Folder	
5	12	Author Unknown, "The McCloud Gold Medal for Peter Voulkos," 1986

5	13	Author Unknown, "Patti Warashina's Little Worlds," undated
5	14	Author Unknown, "Robert Sperry," undated
5	15	Ball, F. Carlton, "Biographical Notes," undated
5	16-17	Kangas, Matthew, Catalog for "Robert Sperry: A Retrospective," 1986
5	18	Krogstad, Karl, "Idiot Savant," undated
5	19	Romberg, Jim, "An Ancient Rerun," undated

6.3: Calendars, 1976-1984

Box	Folder	
5	20-22	Calendars, 1976-1984

Series 7: Scrapbook, 1955-1964

(Box 5; 8 folders)

This series contains one scrapbook which includes materials that Robert Sperry gathered between 1955 and 1964. The items are primarily related to exhibitions and newspaper articles featuring Sperry's artwork and include exhibition announcements and correspondence, photographs, and numerous press clippings.

Box	Folder	
5	23-30	Scrapbook, 1955-1964

Series 8: Financial Records, 1961-1995, undated

(Boxes 5-6; 1.0 linear foot)

This series consists mainly of files for living and business expenses for Robert Sperry and his wife Patti Warashina from 1976 to 1984. Files include bills, receipts, and handwritten lists of expenses. Also found are files for records of earnings from the University of Washington, various lectures, and pottery sales. Other financial records include income tax returns, stocks, and the Myrtle Sperry Estate. Materials are arranged alphabetically by subject with miscellaneous items at the end.

Box	Folder	
5	31	Art Model Expenses, 1978-1979
5	32	Auto Expenses, 1982
5	33-41	Books and Photograph Expenses, 1976-1984
5	42-45	Entertaining and Gift Expenses, 1976-1984
5	46	Household Expenses, 1982
5	47	Income Tax Returns, 1982
5	48	Karl Krogstad Payments, 1980-1982
5	49-52	Lecture Expenses and Earnings, 1976-1979

Box	Folder	
6	1-5	Lecture Expenses and Earnings, 1980-1984

6	6	Myrtle Sperry Estate, 1983
6	7	Patti's Trip to Japan, Expenses, 1978
6	8	Personal Purchases, 1982
6	9-20	Pottery Expenses, 1976-1984
6	21	Pottery Sales, 1976-1984
6	22	Shop Tool Expenses, 1978, 1980-1983
6	23	Stocks and IRA, 1984
6	24	Trip to England and Italy, Expenses, 1979
6	25-26	University of Washington Wages, 1961, 1976-1984, 1986
6	27	Miscellaneous, 1963-1995, undated

Series 9: Miscellaneous Subject Files, 1975-1998, undated

(Box 6; 0.2 linear feet)

This series contains materials on a variety of topics and include all correspondence, printed material, notes, and other related documents. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box	Folder	
6	28	Dolphin Defenders Membership, undated
6	29	Donation of Papers to the Archives of American Art, 1995, 1998
6	30	Estate of Myrtle Sperry, 1983
6	31	Estate of Zoe E. Sperry, 1978
6	32	Exhibition Juror, <i>Craft Art South 1981</i> , 1981
6	33	Exhibition Juror, "Vessels in Celebration," 1994-1996
6	34	Glaze Recipes and Notes, 1975, undated
6	35	"Globalization and Modern Art" Cover Design, 1994
6	36	Krogstad Studios Movie Investment, 1980-1985, undated
6	37	Multiple Myeloma, 1996-1997, undated
6	38	Patti Warashina's Japan Trip, 1978
6	39	Request for Travel Funds, 1979
6	40	Teaching Committee Reports, undated

Series 10: Printed Material, 1955-2002, undated

(Boxes 6-10; 3.4 linear feet)

This series includes printed material and publications which mention Robert Sperry and his artwork as well as materials on events in the arts. There are numerous newspaper and magazine clippings on Sperry, his exhibitions and workshops, and other miscellaneous articles and images that he found interesting. Files of clippings about Sperry contain many reviews of his work. Also within this series are exhibition announcements and catalogs for Sperry and other artists, brochures for galleries and events, calendars of events, gallery guides, and newsletters. The series contains many art publications and a few non-art publications which mention Sperry and show his work, and books primarily on ceramics. This series is arranged alphabetically by type of material with miscellaneous items at the end.

Box	Folder	
6	41	Book, <i>2020 Vision: Health in the 21st Century</i> , 1996
6	42	Book, <i>Art in Seattle's Public Places</i> , 1992
6	43	Book, <i>Ceramics: A Potter's Handbook</i> by Glenn C. Nelson, 1971
6	44	Book, <i>The Craftsman's World</i> , 1959
6	45	Book, <i>Dimensions of Design</i> , 1958

Box	Folder	
7	1	Book, <i>The First World Congress of Craftsmen</i> , 1965
7	2	Book, <i>Jet Dreams: Art of the Fifties in the Northwest</i> , 1995
7	3	Book, <i>Research in the Crafts</i> , 1961
7	4	Brochures, Miscellaneous, 1987-1988, 1992-1993, undated
7	5	Brochures, United Tile, undated
7	6	Brochures, Workshops, 1963-1965, 1975-1994, undated
7	7	Calendars of Events, 1966, 1987-1993, undated
7	8	Catalogs, Ceramic Supplies, undated
7	9	Catalogs, PONCHO Auction, 1985, 1991
7	10	Catalogs, Workshops, 1968, 1978, 1986-1987
7	11	Clippings, Biographical, 1956-1998, undated
7	12	Clippings, Humorous, 1992-1993, 1997, undated
7	13	Clippings, Images, 1979, 1985-1988, undated
7	14-19	Clippings, Workshops and Exhibition Articles, 1955-1999, undated
7	20-26	Clippings, Miscellaneous, 1958-1996, undated
7	27-29	Exhibition Announcements, Robert Sperry, 1956-1969, 1976-2000, undated
7	30-32	Exhibition Announcements, Other Artists, 1957-2001, undated
7	33-35	Exhibition Catalogs, Robert Sperry, 1956-1961, undated

Box	Folder	
8	1-20	Exhibition Catalogs, Robert Sperry, 1962-1968, 1977-1997, 2002
8	21-23	Exhibition Catalogs, Other Artists, 1961-1966, 1982-1996, undated

Box	Folder	
9	1	Gallery Guides, 1986-1987, 1993-1999
9	2	Newsletters, <i>The Arts</i> , 1983-1985
9	3-4	Newsletters, Miscellaneous, 1957, 1961-1998
9	5	Other, Arthur Efron, "Technology and the Future of Art," undated
9	6	Other, International Academy of Ceramics Bulletin, 1984, 1985, 1987
9	7	Other, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation List of Fellowship Recipients, 1991-1992

9	8	Other, Matthew Kangas Published Writings, 1981-1982, undated
9	9-10	Publications, <i>American Ceramics</i> , 1983, 1986, 1991, 1993
9	11-16	Publications, <i>American Craft</i> , 1980-1987, 1990-1994
9	17	Publications, <i>Argus</i> , 1981
9	18	Publications, <i>ARTFORUM</i> , 1964
9	19	Publications, <i>Art Gallery International</i> , 1989
9	20	Publications, <i>Art in America</i> , 1979-1980
9	21	Publications, <i>Arts Line</i> , 1984
9	22	Publications, <i>Ceramic Art</i> , 1966
9	23	Publications, <i>Ceramics: Art and Perception</i> , 1994
9	24-26	Publications, <i>Ceramics Monthly</i> , 1980-1987, 1990, 1993
9	27-30	Publications, <i>Craft Horizons</i> , 1955, 1960, 1962-1964
9	31	Publications, <i>Creative Crafts</i> , 1961
9	32	Publications, <i>Design Quarterly</i> , 1958
9	33	Publications, Miscellaneous (Non-Art), 1982, 1987, 1990
9	34-35	Publications, <i>NCECA Journal</i> , 1982-1983, 1987-1989

Box	Folder	
10	1	Publications, <i>New Art Examiner</i> , 1987
10	2	Publications, <i>The Studio Potter</i> , 1985
10	3	Publications, <i>Sunset</i> , 1963
10	4	Publications, <i>Surface</i> , 1990
10	5	Publications, <i>Vanguard</i> , 1982
10	6	Reports, "Art in the Embassies Program Progress," undated
10	7	Reports, University of Washington Fortieth Biennial Report, 1967-1969
10	8	Tool Instruction Manuals, undated
10	9	Miscellaneous, 1961-1966, 1986, undated

Series 11: Photographs, 1963, undated

(Box 10; 0.2 linear feet)

This series contains photographs, negatives, and slides, mainly from Robert Sperry's stay in Japan in 1963 while making the film "Village Potters of Onda." Also found are photographs and negatives of Sperry, his family (first wife Edyth and son Van), and artwork by him and other artists. The slides include photos taken by Sperry in 1976 at Grayland State Park, Washington, and Palm Gardens, Florida, and in 1979 at an unidentified political event. This series is arranged alphabetically by subject with negatives and slides filed separate from photographs.

Box	Folder	
10	10	Artwork by Sperry, undated
10	11	Hiroshima Visit, 1963
10	12	Japan, 1963

10	13	Japanese Potters, 1963
10	14	Miscellaneous, undated
10	15	Other Artists, undated
10	16	Sperry and Family, undated
10	17	Sperry in the Studio, undated
10	18	Unidentified, undated
10	19	Negatives, Henry Gallery Exhibition Pottery, undated
10	20	Negatives, Hiroshima Visit, 1963
10	21	Negatives, Japan, 1963
10	22	Negatives, Nature, undated
10	23	Negatives, Sperry and Family, undated
10	24	Negatives, Sperry in the Studio, undated
10	25	Negatives, Student Artwork, undated
10	26	Negatives, Unidentified, undated
10	27	Negatives, "Yanagihara," circa 1963
10	28	Slides, 1976, 1979, undated

Series 12: Sketches and Drawings, 1984, undated

(Box 10; 2 folders)

This series contains sketches and drawings by Robert Sperry which do not appear to be related to his ceramic works. Also found is one small pen drawing by his wife, Patti Warashina.

Box	Folder	
10	29	Sketches and Drawings by Robert Sperry, undated
10	30	Drawing by Patti Warashina, 1984

Series 13: Moving Image Material, circa 1962-1998, undated

(Boxes 10-12, FC 13-18; 3.1 linear feet)

Moving image material includes video recordings and motion picture film with a wide range of content. Video recordings include two documentaries on Sperry, studio footage, exhibition footage. Motion picture film includes footage for Sperry's film "Profiles Cast Long Shadows" as well as other short films and experiments in a range of styles and genres, including animation such as the animated film "Henry," hand colored film, live action footage, abstract design, and narrative short films by Sperry. A research copy of eight film titles is available on DVD, including "Familiar Thickets", "Celanton Painting", "Room", "Hamada", "Skull Waves at Deception Pass", "Family", "Experimental Color Print", and "Food Color". Lab notes are also found for the films "Color Printing Experiment" and "Breakfast."

Box	Folder	
		Video Recordings
10	31	"Attitudes: Goal Setting for Achievement," 1988 <i>1 videocassette (VHS)</i>

- 10 32 "Bob Sperry in the Studio," 1987
2 videocassettes (VHS); 1 video labeled "Edited," 1 labeled "Uncut"
- 10 33 "Robert Sperry: A Northwest Master," 1998
1 videocassette (VHS)
- 10 33 "Views & Visions in the Pacific Northwest: The Making of an Exhibition," 1990
1 videocassette (VHS)
- 10 34 SAFECO Promotional Video," 1991
1 videocassette (VHS)

Film

- 10 35 Lab Notes for "Color Printing Experiment" and "Breakfast," circa 1966
- 10 36 Research Copy of 8 Film Titles, circa 2002
1 videodisc (DVD)

Box

Film

- 11 "Animated Drawing Experiments," circa 1966
1 film reel; 16 mm
- 11 "Animated Napoleon," circa 1965
1 film reel; 16 mm
Motion picture film stored separately in film cans numbered FC 13
- 11 "Art 129," circa 1963
2 film reels; 16 mm
- 11 "Belly Dancer," circa 1968
1 film reel; 16 mm
- 11 "Breakfast," 1966
4 film reels; Reels include edited film, outtakes, A roll, and B roll; 16 mm
Edited film, A Roll, and B Roll stored separately in film cans numbered FC 14-16;
lab notes found in Box 10, Folder 35
- 11 "Celantano Painting," circa 1967
1 film reel; 16 mm
1 videodisc (DVD)
See Box 10, folder 36 for research copy on DVD
- 11 "Caterpillar," circa 1967
1 film reel; 16 mm
- 11 "Cello-Tak," circa 1967
2 film reels; Colored plastic applied to clear film strips; 16 mm
Motion picture film stored separately in film cans numbered FC 17-18
- 11 "Color Printing Experiment," circa 1966
3 film reels; A Roll, B Roll, C Roll; 16 mm
Lab notes found in Box 10, folder 35
- 11 "Driving Footage," circa 1966
1 film reel; 16 mm
- 11 "Experimental Color Print," circa 1967
1 videodisc (DVD)
1 film reel; 16 mm
See Box 10, folder 36 for research copy on DVD

- 11 "Family," circa 1967
1 videodisc (DVD)
1 film reel; 16 mm
 See Box 10, folder 36 for research copy on DVD
- 11 "Familiar Thickets," circa 1967
1 videodisc (DVD)
3 film reels; Reels include positive sound print, magnetic soundtrack, and work print; 16 mm
 See Box 10, folder 36 for research copy on DVD; Note that work print leader reads "Village Potters of Onda," but footage matches the title "Familiar Thickets"
- 11 "Food Color," circa 1967
1 videodisc (DVD)
1 film reel; Hand colored; 16 mm
 See Box 10, folder 36 for research copy on DVD

Box

Film

- 12 "Hamada," circa 1967
1 videodisc (DVD)
1 film reel; 16 mm
 See Box 10, folder 36 for research copy on DVD
- 12 "Hey There Voyager/Now Look Here Voyager," 1966
1 film reel; Hand painted optical soundtrack; 16 mm
- 12 "Later Henry," circa 1965
2 film reels; Original and print of hand-painted film; 16 mm
- 12 "Profiles Cast Long Shadows" Outtakes and Production Elements, 1967
7 film reels; Labels include "Amusement Park," "Amusement Park Skull Outtakes," "Prostitute Scene Outtakes," "Rape" A Roll, B Roll, Outtakes; and "Footage of Woman Outtakes"; 16 mm
- 12 "Room," circa 1967
2 film reels; Labeled "Room" and "Mickey Guston (Profiles Segment), The Room"; 16 mm
1 videodisc (DVD)
 Research copy for reel labeled "Room" found in Box 10, folder 36; footage may be related to "Profiles Cast Long Shadows" project
- 12 "Skull Waves at Deception Pass," circa 1967
1 videodisc (DVD)
1 film reel; 16 mm
 Research copy found in Box 10, folder 36
- 12 "Stills - Band - Fire," circa 1966
1 film reel; 16 mm
- 12 "Van - Motorbike," circa 1962
1 film reel; 16 mm
- 12 "Visual Structure," circa 1965
1 film reel; 16 mm

Box

FC 13 1 Motion Picture Film Reel from Box 11, "Animated Napoleon"

Box
FC 14-16 3 Motion Picture Film Reels from Box 11, "Breakfast"

Box
FC 17-18 2 Motion Picture Film Reels from Box 11, "Cello-Tak"