



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

**A Finding Aid to the Robin Tewes Papers,
1950-2016, in the Archives of American Art**

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Creator:	Tewes, Robin
Title:	Robin Tewes papers
Dates:	1950-2016
Quantity:	8.4 linear Feet
Abstract:	The papers of painter and educator Robin Tewes measure 8.4 linear feet and date from 1950-2016. The collection documents the life of a veteran New York artist, active in artist run galleries, such as Fifth Street Gallery, and in artists' organizations. Among the papers are biographical material, correspondence, nine notebooks, project files, teaching files, personal business records, printed material, photographic material, artwork, nine sketchbooks, and a few artifacts.
Language:	English
Language:	Collection is in English

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated to the Archives of American Art in 2016 by Robin Tewes.

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Robin Tewes papers, 1950-2016. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Conditions Governing 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.

Conditions Governing Use

The Robin Tewes 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 / Historical

Robin Tewes (1950-) is a New York painter and educator. Born and raised in Queens, New York, Tewes graduated from the High School of Art and Design in 1968 and received her BFA from Hunter College in 1978. Tewes was an original member of P.S. 122 Painting Association and founded the Fifth Street Gallery which operated on the Lower East Side in the late 1970s. Tewes has taught at several colleges and universities around New York City including Bard College, Hunter College, Pace University, Parsons the New School for

Design, and the School of Visual Arts. She has been included in numerous exhibitions, both domestically and internationally.

Scope and Contents

The papers of painter and educator Robin Tewes measure 8.4 linear feet and date from 1950-2016. The collection documents the life of a veteran New York artist, active in artist run galleries, such as Fifth Street Gallery, and in artists' organizations. Among the papers are biographical material, correspondence, nine notebooks, project files, teaching files, personal business records, printed material, photographic material, artwork, nine sketchbooks, and a few artifacts.

Notable correspondents include Tewes' longtime friend and writer Beverly Donofrio, as well as Andrea Belag, Vija Celmins, Petah Coyne, Ilona Granet, Mark Innerst, Joyce Kozloff, Ruth Marten, Mark Tansey, Marcia Tucker, Martha Wilson, and Nina Yankowitz.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 11 series.

Missing Title

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1950-2012 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)

Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1970-2016 (0.9 linear feet; Box 1-2)

Series 3: Notebooks, 2007-2015 (0.4 linear feet; Box 2)

Series 4: Project Files, circa 1975-2015 (1.6 linear feet; Box 2-3, OV 10-11)

Series 5: Teaching Files, 1997-2015 (0.4 linear feet; Box 3-4)

Series 6: Personal Business Records, circa 1975-2010 (0.2 linear feet; Box 4)

Series 7: Printed Material, circa 1970-2015 (2.5 linear feet; Box 4-6, OV 12)

Series 8: Photographic Material, circa 1958-2015 (0.6 linear feet; Box 7, OV 13; 332 Megabytes; ER01)

Series 9: Artwork, circa 1950-2015 (0.7 linear feet; Box 7, OV 14-15)

Series 10: Sketchbooks, circa 1984-2010 (0.6 linear feet; Box 8-9)

Series 11: Artifacts, circa 2000, circa 2009 (0.2 linear feet; Box 9)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Study and teaching
Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
Photographs

Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

Names:

Belag, Andrea
Celmins, Vija, 1938-
Coyne, Petah
Donofrio, Beverly
Innerst, Mark, 1957-
Kozloff, Joyce
Marten, Ruth
Tansey, Mark, 1949-

Tucker, Marcia
Wilson, Martha, 1947-
Yankowitz, Nina

Series Descriptions/Container Listing

12549002: Biographical Material, 1950-2012

0.3 linear Feet; Box 1

Biographical material dates from 1950-2012 and includes addresses, an astrological reading, certificates, childhood artwork and writings, diplomas and school records, family clippings, a lease to Fifth Street Gallery, marriage and birth announcements, and a few writings by Tewes and about Tewes. Tewes' writings mostly date from her time as a student at Hunter College, but there are a few artist statements as well.

- 2549038 Address Books and Mailing Lists, circa 1980-2005
- 2549041 Artist Certification, City of New York, 1986
- 2549047 Astrology Reading, 1985
- 2549053 Birth Certificate, 1950
- 2549056 Childhood Art and Writing, circa 1950-1972
- 2549059 Diplomas, Report Cards, School Records, 1957-2012
- 2549062 Family Clippings, 1943, 2002
- 2549065 Lease, 1976-1979
- 2549068 Marriage and Birth Announcements, 1983, 1990
- 2549071 Writings, 1962-2009
- 2549074 Writings about Tewes, 1981-2007

22549005: Correspondence, circa 1970-2016

0.9 linear Feet; Box 1-2

Correspondence dates from circa 1970-2016 and includes both personal and professional correspondence. Many letters exchanged between Tewes and her family capture details of her early life, especially reflections from trips abroad. There are also many detailed letters from Tewes' longtime friend, the writer Beverly Donofrio. Notes and personalized exhibition announcements from artists are also found here and include Andrea Belag, Vija Celmins, Petah Coyne, Ilona Granet, Mark Innerst, Joyce Kozloff, Ruth Marten, Mark Tansey, Marcia Tucker, Martha Wilson, and Nina Yankowitz. Professional correspondence is with galleries, museums, and various art organizations regarding exhibitions, benefits, and residencies.

- 2549077A, General, 1981-2006
- 2549080B, General, 1981-2009
- 2549083 Coyne, Petah, circa 1985-1994
- 2549089C, General, 1981-2015
- 2549092 Donofrio, Beverly, 1990-2004
- 2549095D, General, 1980-2005
- 2549098E, General, circa 1990-2007
- 2549101 Franklin Furnace, 1981-2015
- 2549104F, General, circa 1990-2008
- 2549107 Gifts, Auctions, 1980s-2010s
- 2549110 Gund, Agnes, 1998-2008

2549116G, General, circa 1980-2009
2549119H, General, 1983-2008
2549122I-J, General, 1983-1992
2549125K, General, 1993-2010
2549128L, General, 1983-2007
2549131M, General, circa 1990-2008
2549134N, General, 1988-2014
2549137O, General, circa 2000-2007
2549140Pettibone, Nancy (Becker) and Richard, 1994-2013
2549143P, General, circa 1980-2010
2549146Recommendations, circa 2000-2012
2549152Q-R, General, 1982-2013
2549155S, General, 1986-2015
2549158Tewes Family, circa 1970-2010
2549161Tewes Family, circa 1970-2010
2549164T, General, circa 1980-2009
2549167U-V, General, circa 1995, 2006
2549170John Weber Gallery, 1994-1998
2549173W, General, 1983-2016
2549176Y-Z, General, 1991-2012
2549179Holiday and Greeting Cards, circa 1980-2010
2549182Postcards, circa 1980-2010
2549185Outgoing Letters, 1980-2004

32549008: Notebooks, 2007-2015

0.4 linear Feet; Box 2

Nine notebooks date from 2007-2015 and include scattered notes, lists, doodles, sketchbooks, reflections, travel itineraries, names, and addresses.

2549188Notebook, "Upstate Mostly," 2007
2549191Notebook, 2008
2549197Notebook, 2008-2009
2549200Notebook, 2010
2549203Notebook, 2013
2549206Notebook, [Substitute Teacher], 2013
2549209Notebook, 2013-2014
2549212Notebook, 2014
2549215Notebook, 2014-2015

42549011: Project Files, circa 1975-2015

1.6 linear Feet; Box 2-3, OV 10-11

Project files date from circa 1975-2015 and include material from a number of personal projects, illustration commissions, and professional activities. Files include proposals and mock-ups for artist books, sketches and logistical details for installations, applications and correspondence relating to grants and residencies, and material relating to the artist run Fifth Street Gallery and Painting Studio 122 (P.S. 122). There are also several files relating to the activities of the Guerrilla Girls, including correspondence, exhibition material, and printed material.

- 2549218Abbey Mural Workshop, 2009
- 2549221Bingo Installation Sketch and Proposal, 1975-1985
Oversized sketch housed in OV 10
- 2549224Books
 - 2549230"4 Rooms, 4 Stories" Proposal, 2003
 - 2549233"The Painting She Found" Proposal, circa 1985
 - 2549236ROOMS, 1997
 - 2549239Other Proposals, 2002-2004
- 2549242Fifth Street Gallery, 1977-1980
- 2549341Grants and Residencies, 1989-2011
- 2549344Guerrilla Girls
 - 2549347Announcements, circa 1985-2015
 - 2549350Artifacts, circa 1980-2000
 - 2549353Clippings, 1985-2015
 - 2549356Exhibition Catalogs, 1987-1991
 - 2549359Getty Research Institute, 2006-2008
 - 2549362Letters, circa 1985-2008
 - 2549365Mailing List, circa 1985-2005
 - 2549368Periodicals, circa 1985-1995
 - 2549371Posters and Postcards, 1985-2015
Oversized Poster housed in OV 11
 - 2549374Statements, circa 1985-2000
- 2549401Illustrations for Book Jackets, circa 1980
- 2549404Illustrations for Medical Publications, 1985-1990
- 2549410Painting Space 122 Association (P.S. 122), circa 1975-2010
- 2549413Rainbow Tent Project, "Something Lost/Something Gained," 1992-1993
- 2549716Oversized Bingo Installation Sketch from Box 2, Folder 18
- 2549719Oversized Guerrilla Girls Poster from Box 3, Folder 10

52549014: Teaching Files, 1997-2015

0.4 linear Feet; Box 3-4

Teaching files date from 1997-2015 and include correspondence, syllabi, assignments, and student evaluations from Tewes' positions at Bard College, Hunter College, Pace University, and a few others school where Tewes' taught as

adjunct professor. While teaching at Pace University, Tewes earned a graduate degree in teaching. Material relating to the degree and her student teaching work is included here.

- 2549416Bard College, 1997-2000
- 2549422Hunter College, 2009-2011
- 2549425Pace University, 2005-2015
- 2549428Student Teaching and Certification, 2010-2012
- 2549434Other Schools, 1997-2008

62549017: Personal Business Records, circa 1975-2010

0.2 linear Feet; Box 4

Personal business records date from circa 1975-2010 and consist of a card index of Tewes' work detailing the title, size, date, and price of paintings alongside a photographic slide. Price lists, inventories, agreements, and one folder relating to her father's business are also found here.

- 2549437Artwork Card Index, 1980s
- 2549446Business with Father, John Tewes, circa 1995-2000
- 2549452Price Lists, Inventories, Agreements, circa 1975-2010

72549020: Printed Material, circa 1970-2015

2.5 linear Feet; Box 4-6, OV 12

Printed material dates from circa 1970-2015 and includes announcements, books by Tewes, books featuring illustrations by Tewes, exhibition catalogs, and other published material documenting Tewes' career and the many exhibitions featuring her work. There are also several folders of source material consisting of clippings from magazines which Tewes had arranged by subjects including backgrounds, faces, presidents, rooms, and textures.

- 2549455Announcements, circa 1970-2015
 - Oversized Announcements from 2000s housed in OV 12
- 2549458Books by Tewes, 1982, 1994-1995
- 2549485Books and Journals featuring Tewes' Illustrations, circa 1970-2015
- 2549494Clippings, circa 1980-2010
- 2549500Exhibition Catalogs, 1980s-1990s
- 2549563Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1990-2012
- 2549569Other Publications, 1976-2008
- 2549572Source Material, 1970s-1980s
- 2549731Oversized Announcements from Box 4, Folder 13

82549023: Photographic Material, circa 1958-2015

0.6 linear Feet; Box 7, OV 13
332 megabytes; ER01

Photographic material dates from circa 1958-2015 and includes photographs of Tewes at all stages of life with family, friends, and in her studio. Several decades of Tewes' artworks are also documented here, as well as several exhibition installations. Formats include black and white and color photographic prints, digital photographs, negatives, transparencies, and slides.

- 2549587Tewes, Family, and Friends, circa 1958-2015
Oversized photographs of Tewes housed in OV 13
- 2549590Artwork
 - 2549593Prints, 1970s-1990s
 - 2549596Digital Photographs, 2005-2006
332 megabytes; 119 computer files
 - 2549602Negatives and Transparencies, 1970s-1990s
 - 2549605Slides, circa 1970-2010
- 2549608Exhibitions, circa 1980-1995
- 2549749Oversized Photos of Tewes from Box 7, Folder 1

92549026: Artwork, circa 1950-2015

0.7 linear Feet; Box 7, OV 14-15

Artwork dates from circa 1950-2015 and includes a hand drawn animation made while Tewes was still a high school student, early illustration and design work, several Rorschach inkblot experiments, a folder of collaged traffic related clippings, as well as hundreds of preliminary pencil drawings for paintings. Photographic printouts used as source material are also found in these folders.

- 2549614Animation from High School, 1963
- 2549617Early Illustration and Design Work, 1969-1972
- 2549620Inkblots, circa 1998
- 2549626Parking Meter and Traffic Light Collage Series, circa 1950-1955, 1979
- 2549629Studies and Source Material
 - 2549632"Diane," circa 2005
 - 2549635"Dylan Marcus," circa 1991
 - 2549638"Living Room, Mom," circa 2000
 - 2549644"We Be Happy Series," circa 2010
Oversized studies housed in OV 14
 - 2549647General, circa 1972-2015
Oversized studies housed in OV 15
- 2549764Oversized Studies, "We Be Happy Series" from Box 7, Folder 16
- 2549770Oversized Studies, General from Box 7, Folder 17

102549029: Sketchbooks, circa 1984-2010

0.6 linear Feet; Box 8-9

Nine sketchbooks date from circa 1984-2010. Some books are unique artist's books in which Tewes explores a theme throughout, while others are more typical sketchbooks filled with preliminary sketches and ideas. The three sketchbooks in Box 9 all use the Rorschach inkblot as the basis for additional drawing. Media includes pencil, paint, collage, pen, ink, tape, and cut paper.

- 2549653Sketchbook, circa 1984
- 2549656Sketchbook, 1987-2015

2549662 Sketchbook, "Dream Fragments," 1990-1991
2549665 Sketchbook, "Repeated Dream Fragments," 1992-1993
2549668 Sketchbook, 2004-2005
2549683 Sketchbook, "Dreams, Sketches, and Ideas for Paintings," 2005-2007
2549692 Sketchbook, "Portraits, Demons, and Angels," 2007
2549695 Sketchbook, "Faces and Dreams," 2009
2549701 Sketchbook, "Red, White, Blue, Black World," 2010

112549032: Artifacts, circa 2000, circa 2009

0.2 linear Feet; Box 9

Artifacts contain a dress worn by Tewes' mother while posing for a painting in 2009 and five small paintbrushes dating from circa 2000.

2549707 Dress, circa 2009

2549710 Paintbrushes, circa 2000