

Donald Saff records on Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (ROCI), 1976–1991

Summary

Creator:	Saff, Donald
Title:	Donald Saff records on Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (ROCI)
Dates:	1976–1991 (bulk 1982–1991)
Call Number:	RRFA 10
Volume:	15.75 cubic ft. (45 boxes)
Location:	Scholarship Center. Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, New York.
Biographical Abstract:	Donald Saff is an artist, art historian, and educator. In 1984, Rauschenberg asked Saff to serve as the Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (ROCI)'s artistic director, a role he held until the project's conclusion in 1991.
Scope and Content Abstract:	<p>The Donald Saff records date from 1976 to 1991 (bulk 1982–1991), when he worked closely with Robert Rauschenberg on the Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (ROCI) project and tour. The 15.75 cubic feet of ROCI materials document Saff's role as artistic director, often as the primary contact between Rauschenberg and international agencies, local artists, and cultural institutions. Types of material in the collection include reports, tour and venue planning, incoming and outgoing correspondence, photographs, legal agreements, travel documents, published statements and translations, newspaper and magazine articles, and Saff's notes.</p> <p>The collection also contains a small amount of material from 1976 to 1991 documenting side projects related to Rauschenberg.</p>
Arrangement:	Organized into 2 series: 1. Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (ROCI) and 2. Rauschenberg-Related Projects.
Restriction:	Portions of the collection are restricted. Please contact the Archives for more information on restricted folders.
Preferred Citation:	Donald Saff records on Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (ROCI). Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Archives, New York.

Biographical Note

Donald Saff is an artist, art historian, and educator. In 1968 Saff founded the printmaking workshop Graphicstudio at the University of South Florida, Tampa, where he served as a Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Visual Arts Department, and as Founding Dean of the College of Fine Arts. In the early 1970s Saff worked with Rauschenberg at Graphicstudio on numerous experimental print projects.

In 1984, Rauschenberg asked Saff to serve as the Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (ROCI)'s artistic director. ROCI (pronounced "Rocky," the name of the artist's pet turtle) was inspired by Rauschenberg's belief in the power of art as a catalyst for positive social change. Funded almost entirely by the artist, Rauschenberg traveled to countries around the world often where artistic experimentation had been suppressed, with the purpose of sparking a dialogue and achieving a mutual understanding through the creative process.

In his role as ROCI's artistic director, Saff worked closely with Rauschenberg and was responsible for many aspects of the research, planning, and implementation of the project. Between 1985 and 1990, the project was realized in ten countries in the following order: Mexico, Chile, Venezuela, China, Tibet, Japan, Cuba, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), Malaysia, and Germany, with a final exhibition held in 1991 at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. After ROCI was completed, in 1991 Saff established Saff Tech Arts (later Saff and Company) in Oxford, Maryland, where he collaborated with Rauschenberg to create several series in the 1990s. Saff is the author of several essays on Rauschenberg's work. In addition to their long working relationship, Saff and Rauschenberg remained friends until the artist's death in 2008.

Subjects

Saff, Donald, 1937–
Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925–2008
Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange

Container List

Series 1: Rauschenberg Overseas Cultural Interchange (ROCI), 1976–1991 (bulk 1982–1991)
12.6 cubic ft.

Series 1. Rauschenberg Overseas Cultural Interchange (ROCI) contains records related to the planning, purpose, and public response to ROCI. This series documents the entire ROCI project and tour from its planning and conception to the final exhibition at the National Gallery of Art in 1991. Highlights of the series include planning documents, correspondence, travel schedules, tour and exhibition details, and international relations.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
		General	
1	1-2	Catalogue (2 folders)	1985-1991
1	3	Clipping Services	1984
1	4	Exhibition Planning and Locations	1984-1990
1	5	Fax Log	1990-1991
1	6	Film (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1984-1990
R1	1		
1	7-15	Letterhead and Business Cards (9 folders)	1985-1990, undated
1	16	Mailing Lists	1985
1	17	Notes (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1984, 1986, undated
R1	2		
R1	3	Personnel (restricted)	1985
2	1-2	Photographs (2 folders)	1984-1991
2	3	Program Proposals	1984
2	4-5	Requests for Information (2 folders)	1986-1991
2	6	Tour Dates	1985
		Travel	
2	7-8	General Guides (4 folders)	ca. 1980s
3	1-2		
3	3	Research	1984-1985
R1	4-6	Woodard, Brenda (3 folders, restricted)	1984-1990
3	4	Trisha Brown Dance Company (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1983-1985
R1	7		
		Artwork	
3	5	Inventory	ca. 1991
3	6-9	Reproductions (4 folders)	undated
R15	1	Warehouse Receipts (restricted)	1984
4	1	Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Act	1982-1985
		Correspondence	
4	2	General (3 folders, 2 restricted)	1984, 1990-1991
R1	8-9		
4	3	381 Lafayette Staff (4 folders, 3 restricted)	1984-1990
R1	10-12		
4	4-5	Buehler, Thomas (3 folders, 1 restricted)	1987-1990
R1	13		
4	6-11	Captiva Staff (12 folders, 4 restricted)	1985-1990
5	1-2		
R1	14-17		
R1	18	Cloud Management (restricted)	1985-1989
5	8-12	Daily (24 folders, 7 restricted)	1984-1991
6	1-6		
7	1-6		

R1	19		
R2	1-6		
7	7-8	Easylink (3 folders, 1 restricted)	1985-1986
R2	7		
7	9	Gorewitz, Rubin (3 folders, 2 restricted)	1985-1989
R2	8-9		
7	10-11	Gray and Company (3 folders, 1 restricted)	1985-1987
R2	10		
R2	11	Grutman, Bennet (restricted)	1990
7	12	Houston, Sam (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1984-1985
R3	1		
7	13	Johnson, Jill	1990
7	14	Kennedy, Edward M.	1987
R3	2	Kheel, Theodore (restricted)	1986
R3	3	Koshalek, Richard (restricted)	undated
7	15	Kotz, Mary Lynn (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1987-1988
R3	4		
7	16	Rauschenberg, Robert (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1985
R3	5		
35	1	Swinburn, Gema	1984-1985
8	1	University of South Florida	1984
8	2	Film	1990-1991
R3	6-13	Finance (11 folders, restricted)	1983-1990
R4	1-3		
		Foreign Contacts and Possible Sites	
8	3	General	1987-1989
8	4	Africa	1986-1990
8	5	Argentina	1984-1986
8	6	Australia	1985
8	7	Brazil	1984-1989
8	8	Central America	1989
8	9	England	1989
8	10	Europe	undated
8	11	Far East (Thailand)	1984-1985
8	12	Greece	1989
8	13	India	1985-1986
8	14	Indonesia	1986
8	15	Israel	1985-1986
8	16	Italy	1985
8	17	Korea	1987-1988
8	18	Middle East	1984
8	19	Peru	1984
8	20	Philippines	1987-1988
9	1-6	Senegal (7 folders, 1 restricted)	1989-1990

R4	4		
9	7	South America	undated
9	8	Spain	1985
9	9	Sri Lanka	undated
9	10	Zimbabwe	1989
R4	5-10	Fundraising and Sponsors (7 folders, restricted)	1984-1989
R5	1		
R5	2	Inventories (restricted)	1985-1990
R5	3-9	Legal (7 folders, restricted)	1984, 1987
R5	10	Meeting Notes (2 folders, restricted)	1984-1985,
R6	1		undated
35	2	Object Project	1986
R6	2	Personnel (restricted)	1984
		Publicity	
9	11	General	1985-1987
R6	3	Carole Sorrell, Inc. (restricted)	1984
9	12	Livet-Reichard, Inc. (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1985-1988
R6	4		
10	1-6	Magazine and Newspaper Clippings (7 folders)	1983-1990
35	3		
10	7	NPR Morning Edition Cassette Tape	1985
11	1-9	Press Kits (11 folders)	1976-1990
12	1-2		
12	3-4	ROCI Berlin (2 folders)	1990
12	5-6	ROCI Chile (2 folders)	1984-1985
12	7-9	ROCI China (3 folders)	1985
12	10	ROCI Cuba (3 folders)	1988
35	4-5		
13	1-3	ROCI Japan (3 folders)	1986
13	4	ROCI Malaysia	1990
13	5-8	ROCI Mexico (4 folders)	1985
13	9-10	ROCI USA (3 folders)	1990
14	1		
14	2	ROCI USSR	1989
14	3-7	ROCI Venezuela (6 folders)	1985
35	6		
		Reports	
14	8-9	Biweekly (3 folders, 1 restricted)	1984-1987
R6	5		
15	1	Historical Account (15 folders, 14 restricted)	1987
R6	6-8		
R7	1-4		
R8	1-6		
R9	1		

		ROCI Berlin	
15	2	Artworks	1989-1990
15	3	Catalogues and Posters	1990
15	4	Catalogue / Mueller, Heiner	1989-1990
15	5	Contacts	undated
		Correspondence	
15	6-7	General (2 folders)	1986-1990
15	8-9	Buehler, Thomas (3 folders, 1 restricted)	1988-1990
R9	2		
15	10	Captiva Staff	1988-1990
15	11	Hammer, Armand (Occidental Petroleum Corporation)	1988-1989
15	12	Polak, Wolfgang	1988-1990
16	1	Polak, Wolfgang and Schlein, Gunter (Kunstpedition)	1988-1990
16	2	Rauschenberg, Robert (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1988-1990
R9	3		
16	3	Rennert Bilingual (translation service)	1988-1990
16	4	Ruckhaberle, Dieter (Staatliche Kunsthalle)	1988-1989
16	5	Schlien, Gunter	1990
16	6	Stephan, Viola	1988
16	7	Floor plan	undated
16	8	Memoranda and Notes	1990
16	9	Photographs (Xerox only)	1990
16	10	Publicity	1989-1990
16	11	Press Release	1990
16	12	Receipts	1990
R9	4	Shipping (restricted)	1990
		Travel	
R9	5	General (restricted)	1990
16	13	Hotel Reservations	1990
16	14	Saff, Donald	1988-1990
R9	6	Visa Application (restricted)	1990
		ROCI Chile	
16	15	Award	1986
16	16	Briefing Paper	undated
16	17	Catalogues and Posters	1985
16	18	Contacts	undated
		Correspondence	
16	19	General	1985
R9	7	Decapack (restricted)	1984-1985
16	20	Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes	1985-1988
17	1	Discussion with artists, writers / transcript	1985
R9	8	Finance (restricted)	1985-1986
17	2	Itinerary	1985

17	3	Lapis Lazuli	1986
R9	9	Legal (restricted)	1985
17	4	Notes	1984, undated
17	5	Photographs	1985
17	6	Press Releases	1985
17	7	Publications / "Artists and Poets"	undated
		ROCI China	
17	8	Brochure	1985
17	9-10	Catalogue (2 folders)	1985-1987
17	11	Chien, Chun-Wuei Su (4 folders, 3 restricted)	1984-1987
R9	10-12		
17	12	Contacts	undated
		Correspondence	
17	13	Daily	1985-1988
17	14	External	1985-1989
17	15	Qiang, Chen	1985
17	16	Xu, Han, Ambassador of China	1987
17	17	Exhibitions	1985
R9	13	Finance (restricted)	1985
17	18	Lhasa Apso (Dogs)	undated
17	19	Publicity (3 folders)	1983-1987
18	1-2		
18	3	"Speech at Lhasa Opening" / Rauschenberg, Robert	undated
18	4	"Statement" / Saff, Donald	1985
		ROCI Cuba	
35	7	Artwork	ca. 1988
		Catalogue	
18	5	General	1988
18	6	Retamar, Roberto Fernández	1987-1988
18	7	Contacts	undated
		Correspondence	
18	8	General	1987-1990
18	9	Avlet, Beatriz	1987-1990
18	10	Captiva Staff	1987-1988
18	11	Castro, Fidel	1989
18	12	Centro Wilfredo Lam (2 folders)	1988-1990
35	8		
18	13	Cowart, Jack (National Gallery of Art)	1989
18	14	Ministerio de Cultura	1987-1988
18	15	Retamar, Roberto Fernández	1987
R9	14	Damage Report (restricted)	1988
18	16	Floor Plan (2 folders)	1988

35	9		
18	17	Global Amateur Radio Event	1988
18	18	Guest List	1988
18	19	Invitations	1988
		Inventories	
19	1	Artwork	1988
19	2	Camera and Video Equipment	1988
19	3	Ham Radios	1988
19	4	Negotiation Trip	1987
19	5	Notes	1988-1989, undated
R9	15	Passports and Visas (restricted)	1987-1988
19	6	Posters	1989
19	7	Program of Events	1988[?]
19	8	Publicity	1988
R10	1-2	Shipping (2 folders, restricted)	1988
		Statement	
19	9	“¿Que es ROCI?”	undated
19	10	“ROCI” / Saff, Donald	1988, undated
19	11	Travel	1988
		ROCI Japan	
		American Embassy Interlink Festival 1986	
19	12	Correspondence	1986
19	13	Press Kit	1986
19	14	Catalogue and Poster (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1986-1990
R10	3		
19	15	Contacts	1986, undated
		Correspondence	
19	16	General (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1986-1987
R10	4		
19	17	Buehler, Thomas (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1986-1990
R10	5		
19	18	Captiva Staff (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1986-1987
R10	6		
19	19	Cordova, David	1986
19	20	Nakaya, Fujiko (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1986-1987
R10	7		
R10	8	Rauschenberg, Robert (restricted)	1986
19	21	Rupani, Vasu	1987
R10	9	Finance (restricted)	1986-1987
20	1	Laforet Museum	1984

20	2	Publicity	1986
20	3	Travel Brochures	undated
20	4	"Trends 1986" / United States Information Agency	1986-1987
		ROCI Malaysia	
20 R10	5 10	General (2 folders, 1 restricted)	undated, 1989
20	6	Balai Seni Lukis Negara Catalogue	1987
20	7	Bali (unrealized ROCI venue)	1989
20	8-9	Catalogue and Poster (2 folders)	1990
20	10	Contacts	ca. 1989
		Correspondence	
20	11	General	1989-1990
21	1-2	Balai Seni Lukis Negara (National Art Gallery) (2 folders)	1987-1990
21 R10	3-5 11	Buehler, Thomas (4 folders, 1 restricted)	1989-1990
21	6	Captiva Staff	1989-1990
21 R10	7-8 12	Echelman, Janet (3 folders, 1 restricted)	1989-1990
22 R10	1-2 13	Ministry of Culture and Tourism (3 folders, 1 restricted)	1989-1990
22	3	Publicity	1990
22	4	Rennert Bilingual (translation service)	1990
22	5	Floor Plan	ca. 1990
22	6	Maps (includes Bali)	undated
22	7	Ministry of Culture	undated
22	8	Photographs	undated
22	9	Pins	ca. 1987
22	10	Planning	1989
23	1	Salleh, Muhammed Haji	1989-1990
23 R10	2-7 14-15	Travel (9 folders, 2 restricted)	1989-1990
		ROCI Mexico	
23	8	Catalogue	1985
23	9	Contacts and Daily Log	ca. 1985
		Correspondence	
23	10	General	1985
23	11	Centro Cultural Arte Contemporaneo	1986-1988
23	12	Events and Invitations	1985
23	13	"Interview Questions" / Tagonar, Hector	undated
R10	16	Legal (restricted)	1985
23	14	Museo Rufino Tamayo	1984-1985
R10	17	Notes (restricted)	1984-1989
23	15	Paz, Octavio	1985-1987

23	16	Travel	1985
		ROCI USA	
		Catalogue	
24	1	General	1990-1991
24	2	Correspondence	1990-1991
		Drafts	
35	10	General	undated
24	3	“Chronology” (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1990-1991
R11	1		
24	4	“Conversation Introduction”	1990-1991
24	5-6	“Conversation with Robert Rauschenberg and Donald Saff” (5 folders)	1990-1991
25	1-3		
25	4	“Forward”	1990-1991
25	5	“Introduction” / Cowart, Jack	1991
25	6	“To Live is to Fly” / Brooks, Rosetta	1991
		Correspondence	
25	7	General	1986-1990
25	8	Brown, Carter	1984-1990
25	9	Buehler, Thomas	1990-1991
26	1	Cowart, Jack	1984-1990
26	2	National Gallery of Art	1988-1990
R11	2	Finance (restricted)	1990
26	3	Guest Lists	1991
26	4	Invitations	1991
R11	3	Legal (restricted)	1990
26	5	Memoranda	1990-1991
26	6	Press Kit	1991
26	7	Publicity	1991
		Receptions	
26	8	General	1985-1990
26	9	Berlin	1990
26	10	Chile and Venezuela	1985
26	11	China	1986
26	12	Cuba	1989
26	13	Japan	1987
27	1	Malaysia	1990
27	2	Mexico	1985
27	3	USSR	1990
27	4	Retail / Wall Calendar	1991
R11	4	Shipping and Crating (restricted)	1990
27	5	Takata, Kaori	1991
27	6	Travel	1991
		ROCI USSR	

27	7-8	General (2 folders)	1988-1989, undated
		Artists Union of the USSR	ca. 1989
		Correspondence	
27 R11	9-10 5	General (3 folders, 1 restricted)	1988-1990
27	11	Salakhov, Aidan	ca. 1989
27 R11	12 6	Salakhov, Tahir (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1988-1989
R11	7	Legal (restricted)	1990
27	13	Memoranda and Notes	ca. 1989
		Artwork	
27	14	Checklists	undated
27	15	Inventory	1989
27	16-19	Catalogue and Posters (4 folders)	1988-1989
27	20	Contacts	1988-1990
		Correspondence	
28	1-2	General (2 folders)	1985-1989
28	3	Banuscher, Frank	1989
28 R11	4 8	Buehler, Thomas (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1988-1989
28	5	Castro, Fidel	undated
28	6	DiCarlo, Rosemary	1989
28	7	Erhard, Werner	1987
28	8	Gorbachev, Mikhail	1988
28	9	Hammer, Armand and Jacobs, Richard D. (Occidental Petroleum Corporation)	1988-1989
28	10	Kluver, Billy	1989
28 R11	11 9	Knoedler Gallery (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1987
28	12	Rauschenberg, Robert	1988
28	13	Shkondima, Asya (Russian translator)	1988-1989
28	14	Staff	1988
28	15	United States Embassy, Moscow	1989
28	16	Customs Information	1988
28	17	Fabric	1988-1989
28	18	Film	1988
R11	10	Finance (restricted)	1988
28 R11	19 11	Installation (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1988-1989
28 R11	20-21 12	Memoranda and Notes (3 folders, 1 restricted)	1987-1988
28	22	Photographs	undated
R11	13	Planning	1988

28	23	Publicity	1988
28	24	Schedule	1989
R11	14	Shipping (restricted)	1988-1989
28	25	Studio Visits	undated
29	1-3	Travel (6 folders, 3 restricted)	1986-1989
R11	15		
R12	1-2		
29	4-5	Trisha Brown Dance Company (3 folders, 1 restricted)	1988-1989
R12	3		
29	6	Viola Stephan Filmproduktion	1988-1989
R12	4-6	Visas (3 folders, restricted)	1988-1989
		ROCI Venezuela	
29	7-9	Catalogue (3 folders)	1985
29	10	Checklist	ca. 1985
29	11	Contacts	undated
		Correspondence	
29	12	General	1984-1985
29	13	Rauschenberg, Robert	1985
29	14	United States Embassy, Caracas	1984-1985
29	15	Memoranda and Notes	1985, undated
29	16	Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Caracas	1985, undated
29	17	Publicity	1985
R12	7	Shipping (restricted)	1985
29	18	Travel	1985
R12	8-12	Shipping and Crating (11 folders, restricted)	1984-1990
R13	1-6		
		Statements	
29	19	Letter of Intent	1984
29	20	“One Artist’s Pilgrimage in Behalf of World Peace” / Saff, Donald	1985
29	21	Overview	undated
29	22	“Progress Report”	1982
29	23	“The ROCI Story”	1989
29	24-25	“Statement of Purpose” (2 folders)	1984, undated
R13	7-11	Travel (5 folders, restricted)	1984-1988
		United Nations	
29	26	Correspondence	1985
29	27	“Introduction” / Saff, Donald	1984
30	1	Invitation Lists	1984
30	2-3	Press Release (2 folders)	1984-1985

30	4	Reception	1984
30	5	Speech	1984

Series 2: Rauschenberg-Related Projects, 1976–1991 (bulk 1982–1991)

3.15 cubic ft.

Series 2. Rauschenberg-Related Projects contains materials on projects that are related to Rauschenberg but not related to ROCI. This includes planning for exhibitions, general correspondence, research materials, and press clippings.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
31	1	Art for China Appeal	1989
		Correspondence	
31	2	General	1989
31	3	381 Lafayette Staff	1985-1990
31	4	Kheel, Ted	1985-1989, undated
31	5	McGrath, Lee Kimche	1990
31	6	Salakhov, Tair	1990
31	7	Urban Adventures / Dakota	1987
31	8	Change, Inc.	undated
		Exhibitions	
31	9	Atlantic Center for the Arts / “Robert Rauschenberg: Made in Tampa Suite and Chinese Summerhall Series”	1989
31	10	Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston / “Robert Rauschenberg: Works from Four Series: A Sesquicentennial Exhibition”	1987
31	11	Heland Wetterling Gallery / “Rauschenberg”	1989
31	12	John and Marble Ringling Museum of Art / “Robert Rauschenberg: Works from the Salvage Series”	1985
35	11	Leo Castelli and Sonnabend Gallery / “Rauschenberg on Greene Street: Kabal American Zephyr, Japanese Clay Works, Japanese Recreational Clayworks, 7 Characters, Chinese Summerhall”	1982-1983
R14	1	Finance (restricted)	1989
35	12	Graphicstudio	undated
		Inventories	
31	13	Archives	1985
R14	2	Artwork (restricted)	1985-1989
R14	3	Knoedler Gallery (restricted)	1987
31	14	Lab School	1985-1987
		Magazine and Newspaper Clippings	

31	15-16	Rauschenberg Articles (4 folders)	1981-1991
32	1-2		
32	3	Time Magazine Covers	1976-1987
32	4	New American Paperworks Project	1986
32	5	Nomination Hearings for Robert Bork	1987
35	13	Publicity ("Bank Job")	1980
32	6-7	"Rauschenberg: Art and Life" / Kotz, Mary Lynn (3 folders, 1 restricted)	1985-1990
33	1-3		
R14	4		
		Rauschenberg, Robert	
33	4	Awards and Nominations	1989
33	5	Biography	1990
33	6-9	Interview Transcripts (4 folders)	1985-1990
33	10	Statements About Art	1988-1989
33	11	Travel Schedule	1982-1990
33	12	Reproductions	undated
33	13	Saff Writings on Rauschenberg	1989-1990
34	1-2	Venice Biennale (2 folders)	1990
34	3	Very Special Arts	1989
34	4	Visual Arts Rights Act	1987