

Guide to the Charles Yoder records related to the Robert Rauschenberg Studio, 1976-1993

Summary

Title:	Charles Yoder records related to the Robert Rauschenberg Studio
Call Number:	RRFA 14
Dates:	1976-1993
Extent:	3 Cubic Feet in 8 manuscript boxes and 1 flat box 1.3 Gigabytes (approximately 700 files)
Repository:	Robert Rauschenberg Foundation 381 Lafayette Street, New York, NY
Abstract:	Charles Yoder is an artist and educator who worked as Curator for Robert Rauschenberg's studio from 1975 to 1980, and as Project Curator for Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (ROCI) from 1984 to 1990. The Charles Yoder records related to the Robert Rauschenberg Studio documents Rauschenberg's studio operations, especially the organization and execution of the international tour of ROCI exhibitions. The collection contains financial and legal documentation, daily journals, administrative correspondence, travel coordination, installation maps, photographs, and ephemera.

Administrative Information

Provenance:	Donated by Charles Yoder in November 2018 and May 2019; the accession numbers associated with this gift are ACC 42 and ACC 47.
Restrictions:	Portions of the collection are restricted. Please contact archives@rauschenbergfoundation.org for more information on restricted materials.
Copyright:	Copyright belongs to the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation.
Preferred Citation:	Charles Yoder records related to the Robert Rauschenberg Studio. RRFA 14. Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Archives, New York.

**Processing
Information:**

Collection processed by Meghan Lyon.

When extant, the original file groupings created by Charles Yoder were retained. All files in the collection were assigned descriptive titles and re- housed into archival folders and sleeves. Most photographs in the collection were digitized for access by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Archives in March and May 2019.

Historical Note

Charles Yoder met Robert Rauschenberg at Castelli Graphics, where Yoder worked while studying printmaking at Pratt Institute. Yoder eventually became Director of Castelli Graphics, where he provided photographic documentation of artwork, and managed shipping, installation, and sales. When Yoder transitioned from Castelli to the Robert Rauschenberg Studio circa 1975, he provided all services listed above in addition to printmaking assistance.

Yoder worked as the Curator to Robert Rauschenberg from 1975 to 1980. At that time, employment titles in the studio were informal and Yoder's position encompassed a range of responsibilities such as purchasing materials, scheduling travel, organizing exhibitions, and assisting in the production of artworks. In 1984, following a brief hiatus from the studio, Rauschenberg requested Yoder's service as the Project Curator for Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange (ROCI), a project inspired by Rauschenberg's belief in the power of art as a catalyst for positive social change. 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. As Project Curator, Yoder was involved in planning every exhibition of the international ROCI tour with the exception of ROCI USA, and was on-site for the execution of each exhibition except ROCI BERLIN, ROCI USSR, and ROCI USA.

Yoder left ROCI near the end of the project, and returned to Rauschenberg's Studio in 1993 to assist with a movement of Rauschenberg's artwork from a storage facility on Great Jones to a warehouse on 38th Street. In 1993, Yoder left the studio to focus on his painting and printmaking practice.

Scope and Content

The bulk of the materials in the Charles Yoder records related to the Robert Rauschenberg Studio include administrative correspondence, travel schedules, expenditures, shipping and exhibition checklists, financial and legal documents, photographs, journals, and ephemera. Materials date from the late 1970s to the early 1990s.

Overall, the collection offers a glimpse of how the studio operated as a business from the ground-floor perspective. Highlights from this collection include the photographs from the international ROCI tour, and the hand-written daily journals which Yoder produced from 1976 to 1980, as well as throughout his involvement in ROCI. Content photographs from ROCI include installation views, documentation of works being shipped, scenery of host countries, and candid images of the ROCI production crew. Daily journals (1976-1980) comprise of lists of tasks, such as phone calls to make, print studios to visit, materials to buy, and trips to coordinate. Studying the journals consecutively reveal histories of Robert Rauschenberg's decision making, and provide evidence of relationships

with curators, museum directors, art dealers, and other artists. Yoder's journals offer detailed accounts of studio operations; entries record events of each occurring business day and are largely impersonal. During his years as Project Curator for ROCI (1984-1990), journal pages are often interspersed with ledgers, receipts, correspondence, shipping documents, and installation notes. Materials with insurance values, conservation, and tax-related information have been restricted.

Personal materials within the collection document a few of Yoder's art-related activities from the early 1980s that are not affiliated with the Rauschenberg Studio or ROCI.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Journals from 1976 to 1980 are arranged chronologically. Journals from 1984 onward are arranged under ROCI, and, when identifiable, under the appropriate host country.

Subjects

Art, Modern.
 Photographs.
 Rauschenberg Overseas Culture Interchange
 Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925-2008

Collection Inventory

Box	Title	Date
3	38th Street Warehouse Move (2 folders)	1993
1 2	Journals (15 folders)	1976-1979
3	Metropolitan Museum of Art: The 1/4 Mile or 2 Furlong Piece	1987-1988
	Personal	
3	Beneton Real Estate Corp.: Services Rendered	1988
3	Emerson Community College Gallery of Art: "Donald Saff: Sculpture"	1987-1988
6	Photographs: Negatives and Contact Prints	undated
R2	Schlien Fine Art Shipping, Inc. (2 folders, restricted)	1980-1981
	ROCI	
4	General	1984

Box	Title	Date
4 R1	Checklists (5 folders, 2 restricted)	1985-1988
R1	Correspondence: Buehler, Thomas (restricted)	1984
R1	Employment Contract Draft (restricted)	1984
R1	Finance Ledger (restricted)	1984
R1	Independent Contractor Agreement (restricted)	1985-1987
R1	Insurance (2 folders, restricted)	1984-1985
4 R1 6	Journals (6 folders, 2 restricted)	1984-1986
R1	Legal (restricted)	1984
4	Photographs: ROCI Chile and ROCI Venezuela	1985
	ROCI Chile	
4	Correspondence	circa 1985
6	Floor Plans: Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes	1985
4	Photographs (3 folders)	1985
	ROCI China	
6	Checklists	1985
4	Correspondence	undated
4	Photographs	1985
	ROCI Cuba	
R1	Checklists (3 folders, restricted)	1987-1988
4 6 R1	Correspondence (3 folders, 1 restricted)	1987-1988, circa 1988
4	Expenditures	1988
4	Floor Plans: Castillo de la Fuerza and Casa de las Américas	1988
R1	Journals (restricted)	1988
4	Photographs (5 folders)	1988
	ROCI Japan	
R2	General	1986-1987
4 R1 R2	Correspondence (5 folders, 4 restricted)	1986-1987

Box	Title	Date
7	Exhibition Banners	circa 1986
R2	Journals (2 folders, restricted)	1986, circa 1986
R2	Ledger (restricted)	1986
4 5	Photographs (4 folders)	1986
5	Services Rendered	1986
	ROCI Malaysia	
R2	General (restricted)	1990
R2	Checklists (restricted)	1990
6	Expenditures	1990
5	Photographs (7 folders)	1990
	ROCI Mexico	
5	General	circa 1984
R2	Checklists (restricted)	1985
R2	Correspondence (restricted)	1985
R2	Journals (2 folders, restricted)	1985
5	Octavio Paz: "A Wind Called Bob Rauschenberg"	1985
5	Photographs	1985
	ROCI Tibet	
R2	Checklists (restricted)	1985
5	Photographs	1985
	ROCI USSR	
R2	Journals (restricted)	1988
6	Services Rendered	1988
6	Stencils	1988
R2	ROCI Venezuela: Shipping (restricted)	1985
R2	Services Rendered (restricted)	1985-1986
R2	Shipping (restricted)	1984
6	Venue Survey	undated