

Guide to the Ed Chappell photographs of Robert Rauschenberg, 1992-2008

Summary

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| Title: | Ed Chappell photographs of Robert Rauschenberg |
| Call Number: | RRFA 16 |
| Dates: | 1992-2008 |
| Extent: | 1.5 Cubic Feet in 1 record carton and 1 flat box |
| Extent: | 49 Gigabytes (approximately 3,375 files, some duplicates) |
| Repository: | Robert Rauschenberg Foundation 381 Lafayette Street, New York, NY |
| Abstract: | Ed Chappell is a commercial photographer based in Naples, Florida, who met Robert Rauschenberg in 1992. Ed Chappell photographs of Robert Rauschenberg comprises analog and digital photographs taken by Chappell of Rauschenberg and his activities between 1992 and 2008. The collection contains over 5,000 images in various analog and digital formats. |

Administrative Information

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| Provenance: | Purchased from Ed Chappell of Ed Chappell Inc. in July of 2018. The accession associated with this purchase is Ed Chappell archive of Robert Rauschenberg photographs, ACC 39. |
| Language of Materials: | English . |
| Restrictions: | The collection is unrestricted. |
| Copyright: | Copyright belongs to the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation. |
| Preferred Citation: | Ed Chappell photographs of Robert Rauschenberg. RRFA 16. Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Archives, New York. |

**Processing
Information:**

Collection processed by Shirin Khaki.

Image groupings are based on those created by Ed Chappell. Loose physical images were interfiled. Digital folders were consolidated and de-duplicated, when appropriate. Duplicate digital images were retained when they were in different file formats or when duplicated in project folders. Physical photographs were re-housed into archival folders by photographic session. All folders, physical and digital, were assigned standardized descriptive titles.

Historical Note

Ed Chappell is a commercial photographer based in Naples, Florida. Chappell first met Robert Rauschenberg in 1992 when he was asked to take the artist's portrait for Gulfshore Life magazine. Subsequently, the two struck up a friendship, which resulted in Chappell regularly working to photograph Rauschenberg's artwork and portraits of Rauschenberg in his studio in Captiva, Florida.

Chappell impressed Rauschenberg with his ability to capture the complex, maze-like artwork "A Quake in Paradise (Labyrinth)" (1994). Chappell often photographed artworks at night, spending time with Rauschenberg as the artist worked in the studio. In addition to photographing Rauschenberg and his work in Captiva, Chappell occasionally travelled with Rauschenberg to document events, such as the "Synapsis Shuffle" (1999) selection event in advance of the exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

Becoming a trusted friend of the artist by the end of Rauschenberg's life, Chappell has said of his work for Rauschenberg, "I never went to work there as an employee, mainly because I really cherished that time ..."

Scope and Content

Ed Chappell photographs of Robert Rauschenberg comprises analog and digital photographs taken by commercial photographer Ed Chappell of Robert Rauschenberg and his activities between 1992 and 2008. Images of Rauschenberg in the collection are primarily posed portraits and staged images of the artist at work in his studio. Images from each portrait session are often shot in quick sequence, with bracketed exposures, resulting in many similar images.

Other imagery includes documentation of events, including Merce Cunningham's dance performances "Summerpace" and "Interscape" (2000) and documentation of the "Synapsis Shuffle" (1999) selection event in New York. Additionally, the collection contains 2005 installation images of "Rauschenberg's A Quake in Paradise (Labyrinth)" exhibition at Bob Rauschenberg Gallery, Edison Community College; outdoor images of Captiva; Rauschenberg working with his staff at his studio during the last year of his life; and images of prints related to a 2008 lawsuit filed by Rauschenberg against Robert Francis Montgomery.

The collection also contains photographs taken at the memorial held for the artist in Captiva in May 2008. The Memorial Party Selects folders contain a selection of duplicate Rauschenberg portraits and unique snapshots of Rauschenberg from early 2008, presumably compiled for the memorial event. In

July 2008, shortly after the artist's death, Chappell photographed Rauschenberg's home and studio, documenting Rauschenberg's art and source materials.

The collection consists of over 5,000 images split between analog and digital formats. Analog photographic material includes black and white and color negatives and transparencies on 35mm, medium format, 4 x 5, and 8 x 10 film, and a small number of contact sheets and high quality portrait test prints. The digital portion of the collection consists of images primarily in various RAW formats such as CR2, NEF, and DCR files, PSD files, and some TIFF and JPEG files. There is also a small number of .xmp and .html files.

Arrangement

The photographs are grouped by photographic session or project, and arranged in roughly chronological order.

Subjects

Art, Modern.
Artists' studios.
Photographs.
Portraits.
Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925-2008

Collection Inventory

| Box | Folder | Title | Date |
|-----|---------|--|---------------|
| | Digital | Portraits | 1992-2007 |
| | Digital | GulfShore Life Magazine | November 2003 |
| | Digital | Portraits with "Party Line (Scenario)" (2 folders) | February 2004 |
| | Digital | Studio Exterior | April 2004 |
| | Digital | Captiva | October 2004 |
| | Digital | Edison Community College, "Rauschenberg's A Quake in Paradise (Labyrinth)" | February 2005 |
| | Digital | "Scenarios" Catalog | July 2005 |
| | Digital | Working in Studio with "Scenarios" and "Runts" (2 folders) | April 2007 |

| Box | Folder | Title | Date |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| | Digital | Studio | October 2007 |
| | Digital | Memorial Party Selects (2 folders) | May 2008 |
| | Digital | Memorial Party | May 18, 2008 |
| | Digital | Home and Studio (2 folders) | May 20-22, 2008 |
| | Digital | Last Shoot (2 folders) | July 2008 |
| | Digital | Robert Francis Montgomery Lawsuit | December 2008 |