



Robert Rauschenberg Foundation
381 Lafayette Street
New York, New York 10003

Guide to the Robert Rauschenberg papers, Performance series

Finding aid date: March 2024

This excerpt ONLY includes information about the Performance series.

Collection Summary

Creators:	Robert Rauschenberg Robert Rauschenberg Studio
Title:	Robert Rauschenberg papers
Call Number:	RRFA 01
Repository:	Robert Rauschenberg Foundation 381 Lafayette Street, New York, NY

Administrative Information

Provenance:	The collection was created and assembled by the Robert Rauschenberg Studio and formally deposited in the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Archives in 2016.
Restrictions:	Some files in this series are restricted. Please contact archives@rauschenbergfoundation.org for more information about restricted materials.
Copyright:	Copyright belongs to the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation and third party rights holders. Please contact archives@rauschenbergfoundation.org for more information.
Preferred Citation:	Robert Rauschenberg papers. RRFA 01. Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Archives, New York.

Series Inventory

Series 5: Performance

Dates: 1957-2003 (Bulk 1961-1989)

Extent: 2.5 Cubic Feet in 5 manuscript boxes

Historical Note: Performance was an integral part of Robert Rauschenberg's artistic output. In addition to choreographing and performing in his own works, Rauschenberg collaborated with choreographers throughout his career. He designed sets, costumes and lighting for Trisha Brown, Merce Cunningham, and Paul Taylor, among others. Rauschenberg was involved with the Judson Dance Theater in the early 1960s, an experimental collective of dancers and visual artists. The first performance choreographed by Rauschenberg was "Pelican" (1963) performed at the Pop Art Festival in Washington, D.C. in May 1963. His most productive period as choreographer occurred between 1963 and 1967; Rauschenberg's choreographed performances from this time period include "Linoleum" (1966), "Map Room II" (1965), and "Spring Training" (1965). From 1954 to 1964 Rauschenberg worked as the lighting, set and costume designer for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, accompanying the group on a world tour in 1964. Having first met in the 1960s, Rauschenberg's collaboration with Trisha Brown spanned multiple decades and included set and costume design for "Glacial Decoy" (1979) and "Set and Reset" (1983).

For a full performance history see: <https://www.rauschenbergfoundation.org/artist/performance-history>

Scope and Content: The Performance series contains materials related to performances that Robert Rauschenberg created, collaborated on, or participated in. The series also contains a selection of documentation of performances by Rauschenberg's collaborators and friends. The bulk of the documentation consists of handwritten or typed notes, sketches, and scores by Rauschenberg and collaborators, and printed materials such as flyers, posters and programs publicizing and documenting the events. Highlights of the series include Rauschenberg's costume design sketches for Merce Cunningham; Rauschenberg's notes and supply lists for his performances including "Map Room II" (1965), "Open Score" (1966), "Pelican" (1963), and "Spring Training" (1965); and Rauschenberg's notebooks documenting his participation in multiple works by various artists. Collaborators represented in this series include Trisha Brown, Merce Cunningham, Deborah Hay, Yvonne Rainer, and Paul Taylor. The majority of the records in this series date from the 1960s through the 1980s.

This series does not contain documentary photographs or audiovisual materials. Photographs documenting performance events can be found in the Photograph collection (RRFA 09). Audiovisual materials documenting performance events can be found in the Audiovisual collection (RRFA 02). Additional materials related to "Open Score" (1966) can be found in the Experiments in Art and Technology (E.A.T) sub-series of the Projects and Exhibitions series.

Arrangement: This series is arranged alphabetically by artist, choreographer, performance group, or event name. Unidentified performances or choreographers and files about the work of various choreographers are found at the end of the series.

Processing Information: Rauschenberg's studio staff compiled the majority of the materials in the Performance series. When appropriate, related materials were integrated into the series during processing.

Box	Title	Date
	General	
PF1	Chronology and Descriptions	undated
PF1	Exhibition: "Rauschenberg/Performance," Cooper Union: Notes	1983
PF1	Press Clippings (2 folders)	1962-1970, undated
	Bastard Theater	
PF1	General: Correspondence	1966
PF1	5 Choreographers in Concert, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)	1966
PF1	The Bridge: Programs	1966
	Brown, Trisha	
PF1	General	1976-2003
PF1	"Carmen," Teatro di San Carlo: Signed Program and Press Clippings	1986-1987
PF1	"Glacial Decoy" (2 folders)	1979, undated
PF1	"L'Orfeo": Project Files	1999
	"Set and Reset"	
PF1	General	1983
PF1 R7	Financial (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1983
R5	Legal (restricted)	1983-1984
PF1	Photographs	1983
PF1	Printed Material	1983
PF1	Stage Set Diagrams and Notes	1983
PF1	Stock Film Footage Research	1983
PF1	Trisha Brown Dance Company	1981-1989
PF1	Walker Art Center Residency: Press Clippings	1979
PF1 R5	Unidentified Dance: Costume Design (2 folders, 1 restricted)	undated
PF2	Cage, John: "Composition as Process: Changes" Lecture Score	circa 1958
PF2	"The Construction of Boston (A Collaboration)": Postcard	1962

Box	Title	Date
	Cunningham, Merce	
PF2 PE121	General (3 folders)	1963-2001, undated
PF2	50th Anniversary, Lincoln Center Festival	2002
PF2	"Aeon": Rauschenberg Notes (3 folders)	circa 1961, undated
PF2	"Antic Meet": Rauschenberg Notes (2 folders)	undated
PF2	Boston Ballet: Contract	1974
PF2	"Changeling": Rauschenberg Notes	circa 1957
PE122	"Crises"(?): Cunningham(?) Notes	undated
PF2	Fourteenth American Dance Festival: Signed Program	1961
R5	Interscape: "Interscape Mirage" loan (restricted)	2006
PF2	Merce at the Minskoff	1977
PF2	Merce Cunningham and Dance Company, Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Printed Material	1978
PF2	Merce Cunningham and Dance Company, The Theatre de Lys: photograph of 1953 poster	1991
PF2	"Minutiae": Cunningham Statement(?)	1974
	"Night Wandering"	
PF2	Costume Reconstruction	1977
PF2	Rauschenberg Notes	circa 1958
PE122	"Nocturnes": Rauschenberg Costume Designs	undated
PE130	"Springweather and People": Rauschenberg Costume Designs	undated
PF2	"Suite of Five": Rauschenberg Notes (2 folders)	undated
PF2	"Summerspace": Costume Reconstruction	1976, 1999
	"Travelogue"	
PF2	Finance	1977
PF2	Rauschenberg Notes	circa 1977
PF2	"Tantric Geography" at Minskoff	1976-1977
PF2	Tour 1961-1962: Packing List	undated
	Tours	
PF2	Theater Specifications	1963

Box	Title	Date
PF2	Programs (2 folders)	1962-1963, undated
	World Tour 1964	
PF2	Itinerary (2 folders)	1964
PF2	Programs (2 folders)	1964
	Unidentified Dances	
PF3	Dance Scores	undated
PF3	Rauschenberg Notes (2 folders)	undated
	Various Dances	
PE122	Rauschenberg Lighting Notes	undated
PF3	Rauschenberg Notebooks: Lighting Notes and Instructions for "Crises," "Aeon," "Antic Meet," "Suite," "Night Wandering," "Changeling," "Rune," "Septet," "Collage," "Summerspace"	undated
PF3	Rauschenberg Notes	1958-1963
PF3	Dunn, Judith: "Speed Limit": Notes	undated
PF3	Fahlström, Öyvind: Six Performances in Sweden	1962-1964
	Farber, Viola: "Brazos River"	
PF3	General	1976-1978
PF3	Catalogue Draft	1977
PF3 R5	Correspondence (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1976-1977
PF3	David Tudor Sketch	1976
PF3	Notes (including Rauschenberg Notes)	1976
PF3	Photographs	1976-1977
PF3	Press Clippings	1976-1977
PF3	Printed Material	1976
PF4	First New York Theater Rally: Press Releases and Schedules (2 folders)	1965
PF4	Five Choreographers in Three Dance Concerts: Program, Proposed Performance Area	1966
	Five New York Evenings	
PF4	Press Clipping	1964
PF4	Rauschenberg Notebook	undated

Box	Title	Date
	Hay, Deborah	
PF4	"20 Permutations of 2 Sets of 3 Equal Parts in a Linear Pattern"	1969
PF4	Notebook	circa 1970
PF4	"Serious Duet": Score	circa 1966
PF4	Unidentified Dance: Rauschenberg Notes	undated
	Judson Dance Theater	
	Concert for New Paltz	
PF4	Flier	1964
PF4	Rauschenberg Notes	1964
PF4	A Concert of Dance #3 and #4	1963
PF4	A Concert of Dance #14	1964
PF4	A Concert of Dance by Trisha Brown and Deborah Hay	1966
PF4	A Dance Concert of Old and New Works	1966
PF4	Dunas, William and Harris, Gary: "Wax"	1969
PF4	Phone List	undated
PF4	Modern Dance Workshop	1964
PF4	Morris, Robert: "Waterman Switch": Notes	undated
PF4	NOW Festival, Washington, D.C.	1966
PF4	Paxton, Steve	
PF4	General	undated
PF4	"Deposits" (performed by Deborah Hay and Steve Paxton): Score	undated
PF4	Performance History 1962-1964 and Notes (Notebook)	undated
	"Proxy"	
PE130	Rauschenberg Score	circa 1962
PF4	Rauschenberg Notes	circa 1962
PF4	Unidentified Dance: Paxton(?) Notes	undated
PF4	"Walkin There": Notes	1967
PF4	Pop Art Festival, Washington, D.C.	1963, 1989
PF4	Port Townsend Summer School of the Arts: Theatre Workshop	1967
	Rainer, Yvonne	
PF4	"Parts of Some Sextets": Rauschenberg Notes	undated
PF4	"Terrain": Rauschenberg Notes	undated

Box	Title	Date
PF4	Two Evenings of Modern Dance, Wadsworth Atheneum: Poster	1965
PF4	Rainer, Yvonne and Morris, Robert: Unidentified: Judson Poster	1965
	Rauschenberg, Robert	
PF4	"3 Act Play": Rauschenberg Sketches and Notes	undated
PF4	"Gold Standard"	1964
	"Linoleum"	
PF4	Burt Stern's Studio Program	1968
PF4	Channel 13 Announcement	1966
PF4	Rauschenberg Notes (2 folders)	circa 1966
PF4	Score	circa 1966
	"Map Room II"	1966, 1989
PF4	Paxton(?) Notes	undated
PF5	Rauschenberg Notes	undated
	"Open Score"	
PF5	Rauschenberg Notebook	undated
PF5	Rauschenberg Notes (2 folders)	circa 1966, undated
PF5	"Pelican": Rauschenberg Notes	circa 1963, undated
PE122	"Shot Put": Rauschenberg Notes	undated
PF5	"Spring Training": Supply Lists	undated
PF5	"Untitled," International Design Conference Aspen: Project File	1973
	"Urban Round"	
PF5	School of Visual Arts Program	1967
PF5	Rauschenberg Score	undated
	Sogetsu Art Center	
PF5	Programs	1964
PF5	Travel Ephemera	1964
PF5	Stockholm Festival for Art and Technology, Visions of the Present: Planning Documents	1966
PF4	Surplus Dance Theater: "Exchange": Paxton Notes	circa 1964
	Taylor, Paul: Paul Taylor Dance Company	

Box	Title	Date
PF5	General (2 folders)	1978-1979, circa 1983
PF5	92nd Street Y Performance: Review	1958
PF5	Theatre de Arts: Program (includes "3 Epitaphs" and "Tracer")	undated
PF5	Program	undated
PF5	Three Events, New York University Loeb Student Center: Poster (photo reproduction only)	1967
PF5	Two Benefit Performances for the Committee to Defend the Panthers	circa 1970
PF5	Whitman, Robert: "The Night Time Sky": Program	1965
PF5	Young American Poets: Program of Poetry Events (photocopy only)	undated
	Unidentified	
PF5	Notes	undated
PF5	Stage Design	undated
	Unidentified Choreographers	
	Unidentified Performances	
PF5	Rauschenberg Dance Notes	1964
PF5	Rauschenberg Performance Notes (possibly includes "Spring Training" and "Linoleum")	undated
PF5	Score	circa 1970
PF5	Unidentified ("Television Score"): Rauschenberg Notes	undated
PF5	Unidentified ("T.V. Piece"): Rauschenberg Notes	1966
	Various Choreographers	
PF5	Various Works: Rauschenberg Notebook (includes notes for "Spring Training")	undated