

## Guide to the Susan Davidson papers, 1942-2015

### Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Davidson, Susan, 1958-
<b>Title:</b>	Susan Davidson papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1942-2015 (bulk 1990-2010)
<b>Call Number:</b>	RRFA 11
<b>Volume:</b>	11.5 cubic ft. (26 boxes)
<b>Location:</b>	Robert Rauschenberg Foundation 381 Lafayette Street, New York, NY
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Susan Davidson papers contains materials used to research, plan, and execute exhibitions and publications on the artist Robert Rauschenberg, including <i>Robert Rauschenberg: A Retrospective</i> (1997); <i>Robert Rauschenberg: The Early 1950s</i> (1991); and <i>Rauschenberg</i> (2004).
<b>Arrangement:</b>	Organized into 2 series: 1. Robert Rauschenberg: A Retrospective, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and 2. Robert Rauschenberg Projects and Research.
<b>Restriction:</b>	Portions of the collection are restricted. Please contact the Archives for more information on restricted folders.
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	Susan Davidson papers. Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Archives, New York.

## Biographical Note

As an art historian and curator, Susan Davidson has been engaged with Rauschenberg's work with since 1990. She was a curatorial advisor to the artist from 2001 until his death in 2008 and served as a board member to the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation from 2009 until 2014 after which she served on occasion as a curatorial advisor. Her numerous exhibitions and publications on the artist, include *Rauschenberg in China* (Co-curator, 2016; Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing), *Robert Rauschenberg: Photographs 1949–1965* (Schimer/Mosel, 2011), *Robert Rauschenberg: Gluts* (Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, 2009); *Rauschenberg: On and Off the Wall* (Musée Contemporain, Nice, France, 2005); and *Rauschenberg* (Palazzo dei Diamanti, Ferrara, Italy, 2004). She co-curated with Walter Hopps *Robert Rauschenberg: A Retrospective* for the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and its international tour (1997–99) and was assistant curator for *Robert Rauschenberg: The Early 1950s* (The Menil Collection, Houston, 1991).

In addition to her work on Rauschenberg, Ms. Davidson was a Senior Curator for Collections and Exhibitions at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York from June 2002 until November 2017. Before joining the Guggenheim, Ms. Davidson was the collections curator at the Menil Collection in Houston. Ms. Davidson holds advanced degrees in art history from the Courtauld Institute, London, and George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The Susan Davidson papers contains materials used to research, plan, and execute exhibitions and publications on the artist Robert Rauschenberg. Exhibitions of note include *Robert Rauschenberg: A Retrospective* (1997), organized by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; *Robert Rauschenberg: The Early 1950s* (1991), organized by the Menil Collection, Houston; and *Rauschenberg* (2004) at Gallerie d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Ferrara, Italy. Types of materials include correspondence, memoranda, planning documents, legal agreements, exhibition floor plans, interview transcripts, printed materials, photographs, proof sheets, audiovisual materials, research binders, and notes. Research makes up the bulk of this collection, much of which are photocopies of original articles and documents, and were collected in the 1990s. Inclusive dates of the collection reflect the dates of creation for these original research materials.

## ***Robert Rauschenberg: A Retrospective* Exhibition Tour Chronology**

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum,  
Guggenheim Museum SoHo,  
and Guggenheim Museum at Ace Gallery, New York  
September 19, 1997-January 7, 1998

The Menil Collection, Contemporary Arts Museum,  
and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
February 13-May 17, 1998

Museum Ludwig, Cologne  
June 27-October 11, 1998

Guggenheim Museum Bilbao  
November 21, 1998-March 7, 1999

### **Subjects**

Davidson, Susan, 1958-  
Hopps, Walter, 1932-2005  
Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925-2008  
Menil Collection (Houston, Tex.)  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York, New York)  
Art, Modern

### **Container List**

**Series 1: Robert Rauschenberg: A Retrospective, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1942-2000 (bulk 1995-1999)  
6 cubic ft.**

Series 1. *Robert Rauschenberg: A Retrospective*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum contains records documenting the planning and execution of the 1997 *Robert Rauschenberg: A Retrospective* exhibition held at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, and its presentation at the following venues: The Menil Collection, Houston, Texas; Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany; and Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao. Highlights include planning documents for the exhibition and its catalogue,

correspondence (including original correspondence from Rauschenberg), and travelling exhibition information.

This series is arranged alphabetically. Access copies of audiovisual materials do not exist at this time. Please contact the Archives for more information.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
R1	1	Acquisitions (restricted)	1998
		Audio Guide	
1	1	General	1997, undated
1	2	Lichtenstein Example	1993
1	3	Script	1997
		Audiovisual Materials	
20	-	Corcoran Brochure (2 Audiocassettes)	undated
20	-	“The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao / Robert Rauschenberg: The Art of Performance” (VHS)	undated
20	-	“Leo Steinberg Lecture In the Peter B. Lewis Theatre, October 21, 1997” (VHS)	1997
20	-	Rauschenberg, Robert, interviewed by David Sylvester, BBC Programme, June 14, 1965, recorded August 1964 (Audiocassette)	1964
20	-	“Robert Rauschenberg: A Charlie Rose Special” (VHS)	1998
1	4	Robert Rauschenberg Performance Compilation	circa 1997
20	-	“Robert Rauschenberg: A Retrospective” B-Roll Package (VHS)	circa 1997
20	-	“Trisha Brown and Robert Rauschenberg Collaboration: Dialogue, February 14, 1998” (VHS)	1998
20	-	“The Works: Robert Rauschenberg” Roll 74 / Nicholas Cernovitch footage (VHS)	1997
20	-	“The Works: Robert Rauschenberg” Working Copy (VHS)	undated
20	-	Unidentified (Audiocassette)	undated
20	-	Unidentified (VHS)	undated
		Catalogue Information	
1	5 – 7	General (3 folders)	1995-1997
1	8	Bibliography / Kotz, Mary Lynn	1996

1	9	Captions (2 folders)	1997
2	1		
2	2 – 3	Chronology (2 folders)	1996-1997
		Correspondence	
2	4	General	1997
2	5	Photography / Franks, Pam (2 folders, 1	1997
R1	2	restricted)	
R1	3	Finance (restricted)	1999
2	6	Layout	Undated
2	7	Performance Essays	1997
2	8 – 10	Photography (6 folders)	1991-1999,
3	1 – 3		undated
3	4	Rights and Reproduction	1997
3	5	Robert Rauschenberg: Original Writings	1997, undated
3	6 – 8	Text (4 folders, 1 restricted)	1996 – 1997,
R1	4		undated
4	1 – 2	Checklists (2 folders)	1995, 1997
R1	5 – 6	Conservation (2 folders, restricted)	1990, 1996- 1999, undated
		Correspondence	
4	3	General (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1993-1998, undated
R1	7		
4	4	Charlie Rose Show	1998
4	5	Graduate Students	1994, 1996, 1997
4	6	Kren, Alfred	1993
4	7	Letters of Congratulations	1997-1999
4	8	Rauschenberg Studio (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1996-1999
R1	8		
4	9	Rosenthal, Rachel	1996
4	10	Crating / Framing	1997
		Education	
4	11	Family Activity Guide	1997
		Programs	
4	12	General	1996-1997
4	13	Steinberg, Leo	1997, undated
5	1	Events: Opening (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1997

R1	9		
		Exhibition Planning	
5	2	General	1995-1997, undated
5 R1	3 10	¼ Mile Painting (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1995, 1997, undated
5	4	Art and Technology Artworks	1986, 1992, 1996-1998
5	5	Guggenheim Meetings	1995-1998
5	6	Performance / Film and Video	1993, 1996- 1997, undated
5	7	Performance Props	1997, undated
5	8	Substitutions / Additions	1996
5	9	Film: Man At Work / BBC Correspondence	1997, undated
		Grants	
5	10	Andy Warhol Foundation For Visual Arts	1998
5	11	Henry Luce Foundation	1995-1996
5	12	National Endowment for the Arts	1996
		Installation	
6 R1	1-2 11	General (3 folders, 1 restricted)	1995, 1996- 1998, undated
6	3-4	Floor Plans (2 folders)	1997
R1	12	Insurance (restricted)	1997
R1	13-14	Legal (2 folders, restricted)	1996-1998, 1998-2000
R1 R2	15 1-10	Loans (11 folders, restricted)	1976-1977, 1995-1998, undated
6 R2	5 11	Memoranda (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1996-1998
6	6	Preliminary Exhibition Proposal / Combine Exhibition	1993-1995
		Press Clippings	
6 7	7 1-3	General (4 folders)	1997-1999
7	4	Kren, Alfred / Artwork Seizure	1998-2000

		Publications	
7	5	@ Guggenheim Magazine	1997
7	6	Tate: The Art Magazine	1998
		Public Relations	
7	7	Fact Sheet	1997
7	8	Press Kit	1997
7	9	Press Release	1997
7	10	Publicity	1997
		Research	
7	11	General	1992, 1995-1997, undated
8	1-2	1950s (2 folders)	1947-1997, undated
8	3-4	1960s (2 folders)	1960-1968, 1996-1997, undated
8	5	1970s	undated, 1970, 1973, 1978
8	6	1980s / 1990s	1986, 1992, 1996
8	7	Archives of American Art	undated
8	8	Artwork, Individual	1996, undated
8	9	Artwork Search	1995, 1997
8	10	Artworks at Auction	1993, 1995-1996
8	11	Auction Sales History, Sotheby's / Christie's	undated
8	12	Calvin Tomkins Interviews Transcripts	1978-1979
		Chronology	
8	13	Notes	1996, undated
8	14	Published Sources	1976, 1985, 1993, 1995
9	1	Dante's Inferno Drawings	1964-1965, undated
9	2	Dienes, Sari	1942, 1943, 1980, 1986, 1990-1993,

			1996, undated
9	3	Exhibition Reviews	1995-1996
9	4	Lists of Works By Series (Chronological)	1995-1996
R2	12	Notes (restricted)	1987, 1995- 1997, undated
9	5	Posters	1976, 1996
9	6	Published texts on Robert Rauschenberg	1986, 1990, 1996
		Rauschenberg, Robert	
9	7	Daily Schedule	1981-1993
9	8	Writings and Filmed Interviews Inventory	1996, undated
9	9	Rosenthal, Rachel	1978, 1989, 1996, undated
9	10	Series and Versions Information	1974, 1996, undated
9	11	Retail	1997, undated
9	12	Rights and Reproductions	1997
R3	1	Shipping (restricted)	1999
		Travelling Exhibition Information	
		Bilbao	
9	13	Audio Guide	1998
10	1	Events: Opening	1998
10	2	Exhibition Planning	1998
10	3-4	Installation (2 folders)	1997-1999, undated
R3	2	Insurance (restricted)	undated
R3	3-4	Loans (2 folders, restricted)	1997-1998
10	5	Public Relations: Press Release	1998
R3	5	Shipping (restricted)	1998-1999
10	6	Wall Text	1998
		Cologne	
10	7	Audio Guide	undated
10	8	Brochure	1998
10	9	Catalogue Info: German Translation	1998
10	10-11	Checklists (2 folders)	1997-1998



R3	6	Conservation (restricted)	1998
11	1	Events (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1998
R3	7		
		Exhibition Planning	
11	2	General	1997-1998, undated
11	3	Canyon: Legal International Transport	1998
11	4	Installation: Floor Plans	1998, undated
R3	8	Loans (restricted)	1997-1998
		Houston	
11	5	Brochure	1997-1998, undated
11	6	Education: Steinberg, Leo / Lecture Transcript	1998
R3	9	Events (restricted)	1997-1998
		Exhibition Planning	
11	7	Contemporary Art Museum Houston (2 folders, 1 restricted)	1996-1998, undated
R3	10		
11	8-9	Menil Collection (3 folders, 1 restricted)	1997-1998, undated
R3	11		
11	10-11	Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (2 folders)	1997-1998
R3	12	Finance (restricted)	1997-1998
		Public Relations	
12	1	General	1997-1998, undated
12	2	Invitations	1997-1998
12	3-4	Press Book (2 folders)	1998
12	5	Press Release	1997
R3	13	Los Angeles (proposed / unrealized) (restricted)	1998
12	6-7	Wall Labels (2 folders)	1997, undated
12	8	Wall Text	1997, undated

**Series 2: Robert Rauschenberg Projects and Research, 1952-2015 (bulk 1990-2015)  
5.5 cubic ft.**

Series 2. Robert Rauschenberg Projects and Research contains general research on Robert Rauschenberg, as well as research connected to other exhibitions, publications, and projects on Rauschenberg, curated or edited by Susan Davidson. Highlights include materials related to the *Rauschenberg* exhibition at Ferrara Arte, research for the *Robert Rauschenberg: The Early 1950s* exhibition (including interviews with fellow artists and contemporaries), and correspondence from Rauschenberg to Jack Tworkov and his family.

This series is arranged alphabetically. Access copies of audiovisual materials do not exist at this time. Please contact the Archives for more information.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
R4	1	Artwork Inventory (restricted)	1999, 2000
12	9	Auctions	1973, 1992, 2002
		Audiovisual Materials	
20	-	“The Cool School” (DVD-R)	circa 2008
12	10	“Gallery Talk: A Conversation with Robert Rauschenberg, Josef Helfenstein, and Susan Davidson”	2007
20	-	Lateral Pass, Trisha Brown Dance Company, Naples, Italy, 1987 (DVD-R)	1987
20	-	Martin, Knox, interviewed by Walter Hopps, March 22, 1991 (Audiocassette)	1991
20	-	Rauschenberg Museum of Modern Art Loop (DVD)	2009
20	-	Weil, Susan, interviewed by Walter Hopps, January 1991 (Audiocassette)	1991
R4	2-3	Conservation (2 folders, restricted)	2001, 2012- 2013
12	11-12	Correspondence (2 folders)	1990-1992, 1995-2006, 2008, 2009
		Essays	
12 R4	13 4	Cullinan, Nicholas, “Double Exposure: Robert Rauschenberg and Cy Twombly’s Roman Holiday.” (2 folders, 1 restricted)	2007

13	1	Dezeuze, Anna, "Unpacking Cornell: Consumption and Play in the Work of Rauschenberg, Warhol, and George Brecht"	2004
13	2	Joseph, Branden W., "Rauschenberg's Screens" draft	2000
13	3	Lawrence, James, "Full Circle" draft	2010
13	4	Rose, Barbara, "Reconstructing Rauschenberg" draft	circa 2005
13	5	Events: World Leaders – A Festival of Creative Genius Exhibitions	2001
13	6	Begnaud, Rick	2009
13	7	Gluts / Peggy Guggenheim Collection	2009
13	8	A Photographic Tribute to the Life of Robert Rauschenberg, 1925-2008	2008
		Rauschenberg / Ferrara Arte	
13	9	Brochure	2003
13	10	Catalogue Information	2003
R4	5	Checklists (restricted)	2003
13	11	Correspondence	2003-2004, undated
13	12	Events: Opening Invitation	2004
13	13	Floor Plan	1999
13	14	Installation (2 folders, 1 restricted)	2004, undated
R4	6		
R4	7	Legal (restricted)	2003
R4	8-10	Loans (3 folders, restricted)	2003-2004
13	15	Notes	2003
13	16	Venue Information	1999, 2003, undated
13	17	Rauschenberg: Jammers / Gagosian London (2 folders, 1 restricted)	2012-2013
R4	11		
13	18	Rauschenberg Tribute Exhibition: An International Juried Competition, Museum of Gulf Coast (2 folders, 1 restricted)	2008-2009
R4	12		
13	19	Robert Rauschenberg: Combines (2 folders, 1 restricted)	2002-2003, 2005, 2006
R4	13		
14	1	Robert Rauschenberg: From the Collection of Terry Van Brunt	2002

14	2	Robert Rauschenberg / Institut Valencià d'Art Modern (2 folders, 1 restricted)	2004-2005
R4	14	Robert Rauschenberg: The Early 1950s	
R4	15	Exhibition Planning (restricted)	1990
		Interviews	
14	3	Brown, Carolyn	1991
14	4	Carone, Nicholas	1991
14	5	Droll, Donald	1978
14	6	Hopps, Walter	1987
14	7	Johns, Jasper	1991
14	8	Martin, Knox	1991
14	9	Rauschenberg, Robert	1991, 1994
14	10	Steinberg, Leo	1991
14	11	Twombly, Cy	1991
14	12	Weil, Susan	1991
14	13	Photography / Kirkland, Wallace	1983, 1991, undated
		Research	
14	14	Historical Exhibitions	1991, undated
14	15	New York City Exhibitions, 1949-1954	1990-1991, undated
14	16	Queries	1978, 1985, 1989-1991, undated
14	17	Source Documents	1991, undated
R4	16	Robert Rauschenberg Transfer Drawings From the 1960s (restricted)	2006
		Interviews	
15	1	Ford, Hermine	2010
15	2	Hopps, Walter	1992
15	3	Rosenthal, Rachel	1989
		Memorial	
15	4	General	2008
15	5	"A Memorial to Robert Rauschenberg: Museum of Modern Art" program	2008
21	1	Menil Collection: Arthur Frakes Donation (2 folders, restricted)	1995, 2002, undated
R4	17		

15	6-8	Newspaper and Magazine Clippings (3 folders)	2000-2011, 2014, 2015
15	9	Online Course / Katz, Jonathan	1997
		Photography	
21	2	“Rauschenberg” Contact Sheets (Photo: Ugo Mulas)	1963-1965
21	3	Rauschenberg, Robert (Photo: Richard Leslie Schulman)	undated
15 16 21	10 1-3 4	Printed Materials (5 folders)	1984-2012, undated
		Proposals	
16	4	BBC Documentary, “Mad About the Boy”	2002, undated
16	5	Deutsche Guggenheim	2002, undated
		Guggenheim Manhattan Project	
R4	18	Checklists / Selections (restricted)	2000-2002
R4	19	Correspondence (restricted)	1999-2001
R4	20	Legal (restricted)	1999-2000
16	6	Newspaper and Magazine Clippings	2000-2002
16	7	Press Release	2000
R5	1	Menil Collection (restricted)	2007, 2008
16	8	One World of Art Design Culture / BMW Art Cars	undated
16	9	Robert Rauschenberg Color Photography Book	2001, 2002
16	10	Tate Liverpool exhibition	2005, undated
		Publications	
		Robert Rauschenberg Photographs 1949-1962	
R5	2	Contract (restricted)	2008, 2010
17	1	Correspondence	1999-2002, 2008-2011, undated
17	2	Photograph Selection	2010
		Research	
17	3	General	2009-2011
17	4	Articles	1983, 1993, 1997, 2006, 2009-2010

17	5	Texts	2011, undated
		Research	
17	6	Rauschenberg, Robert	1976, 2001- 2004, 2008, 2009, undated
		Research Binders	
R5	3	1950s Sequence (restricted)	1954-1959
18	-	Articles on Rauschenberg	1950-1993
17	7	Rauschenberg: Combines (1 binder, 2 folders, 1 restricted)	1982, 1996, undated
18	-		
R5	4		
18	-	Robert Rauschenberg Artwork Not in [Early 50s] Monograph	1988, 1994, undated
19	-	Robert Rauschenberg Bibliography (2 binders)	1958-2001
19	-	Robert Rauschenberg: Early 1950s – Proof Sheets, Ancillary Photos, Not Used in Monograph	undated
19	-	Studio Photos	1953-1965
R5	5	Rights and Reproduction (restricted)	2007
17	8	Writings: Rauschenberg, Robert to Jack Tworkov family (photocopies)	1952, undated