

Finding Aid to James Robert Anderson papers

(#2022-09)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: James Robert Anderson papers

Collection Number: 2022-09

Physical Description: 3 linear feet (3 cartons)

Creator: James Robert Anderson

Date (inclusive): circa 1977-2014

Language of Material: English

Abstract: This collection documents the life and work of the artist James Robert Anderson. Materials include journals, notebooks, personal correspondence, correspondence relating to Anderson's art career, photographs, production materials for art projects and exhibitions, grant applications, news clippings and press about Anderson's HIV status, school coursework, and correspondence relating to the death of Anderson's longtime partner, Rex Jones.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], James Robert Anderson papers (#2022-09), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

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Acquisition Information:

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Margaret Peña in June 2020.

Processing Information:

Finding Aid created by Megan Needels in 2022.

This finding aid uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

Biographical/Organizational History Note:

James Robert Anderson was an artist who lived and worked in San Francisco, California. He worked across several different mediums including charcoal drawings, oil paintings, and multimedia installation. Some of his notable works include From Portraits to Perganon, Rattlesnake in a Moving Car, and the design for the 1982 Gay Games poster. Anderson made national headlines in the early 1990s because of the fact that although he was HIV positive, he never developed AIDS, even without the assistance of medical treatments. Anderson had a longtime partner, Rex Jones, who worked at UCSF and passed away in 2007.

Scope and Content:

This collection documents the life and work of the artist James Robert Anderson. The collection includes records from 1977-2014, with a primary focus on 1985-2010. Materials include journals, notebooks, personal correspondence, correspondence relating to Anderson's art career, photographs, production materials for art projects and exhibitions, grant applications, news clippings and press about Anderson's HIV status, and school coursework.

Indexing Terms:

LGBTQ
Gay men
Art
Long-term relationships
AIDS (disease)
San Francisco Bay Area (Calif.)

Container Listing

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| Carton 1, Folder 2 | New Century GALA invitation design, 2010-2013 |
| Carton 1, Folder 3 | Creative Work Fund, 1996-1997 |
| Carton 1, Folder 4 | Creative Work Fund, 1998-1999 |
| Carton 1, Folder 5 | Creative Work Fund, 1999-2000 |

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|---------------------|---|
| Carton 1, Folder 6 | Exhibition postcards and programs, circa 1993-2011 |
| Carton 1, Folder 7 | Art correspondence [1 of 3], circa 1985-2014 |
| Carton 1, Folder 8 | Art correspondence [2 of 3], circa 1985-2014 |
| Carton 1, Folder 9 | Art correspondence [3 of 3], circa 1985-2014 |
| Carton 1, Folder 10 | Correspondence- miscellaneous letters [1 of 2], circa 1985-2014 |
| Carton 1, Folder 11 | Correspondence- miscellaneous letters [2 of 2], circa 1985-2014 |
| Carton 1, Folder 12 | Notebooks [1 of 4], circa 2004-2014 |
| Carton 1, Folder 13 | Notebooks [2 of 4], circa 2004-2014 |
| Carton 1, Folder 14 | Notebooks [3 of 4], circa 2004-2014 |
| Carton 1, Folder 15 | Notebooks [4 of 4], circa 2004-2014 |
| Carton 1, Folder 16 | Numbered notebooks (1-10), 2010 |
| Carton 1, Folder 17 | Numbered notebooks (11-18), 2011 |
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| Carton 2, Folder 2 | Journal, 1983-1985 |
| Carton 2, Folder 3 | Journal, 1986-1989 |
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Carton 3, Folder 14
Carton 3, Folder 15
Carton 3, Folder 16

Picture Perfect - artists' information, 2002
HIV press [1 of 2], circa 1991-1996
HIV press [2 of 2], circa 1991-1996