

Finding Aids to Personal Papers and
Special Collections in the VMFA Archives



Virginia Artists Archives 02 (VA-02)
Willie Anne Wright Artist Archives, 1958-2003

4 boxes (3.5 linear feet); 171 folders

Processed by
Courtney Yevich Tkacz, VMFA Archivist
2016

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Provenance

The collection was donated to the VMFA Archives by Willie Anne Wright in August 2016.

Abstract

The collection documents the career of renowned lensless photographer Willie Anne Wright. Wright's paintings, serigraphs and drawings were her professional focus until 1972 when pinhole photography became her primary creative medium. Comprised mainly of the exhibition files Wright maintained, as well as information about gallery representation and art sales, the collection traces the evolution of her artistic journey over four decades.

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Publication

The collection is subject to all copyright laws. Upon donation, Wright assigned to the VMFA Archives all of her available rights of copyright in the materials. Digitized content is licensed for

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Preferred Citation

Willie Anne Wright Artist Archives (VA-02). Gift of Willie Anne Wright. VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Processing Note

Original order and folder titles were retained during processing. Social security numbers were redacted on exhibition contracts, photocopied for the collection and originals then destroyed. Copies of checks were destroyed as the financial transactions were documented elsewhere in the collection.

Biographical Note

Willie Anne Wright is a native and resident of Richmond, Virginia. She received a BS in Psychology from The College of William and Mary and an MFA in Painting from Virginia Commonwealth University. She also studied photography at Maine Photographic Workshops, Rockport, Maine; Visual Studies Workshops, Rochester, New York; and VCU.

Wright's paintings, serigraphs and drawings were her professional focus until 1972 when pinhole photography became her primary creative medium. Since then her lensless photography, pinhole and photogram, have been exhibited nationally and internationally, and have been included among numerous publications such as "Art News," "The Oxford American," "Le Stenope," and "The Book of Alternative Processes."

Wright's works are collected privately and publicly, and are in the permanent collections of Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia; Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, Virginia; George Eastman House, Rochester, New York; High Museum of Art, Atlanta Georgia; The Mariners' Museum, Newport News, Virginia; Southeast Museum of Photography, Daytona Beach, Florida; New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, Louisiana; Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, Alabama; Morris Museum of Art, Augusta, Georgia; New Mexico History Museum, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Longwood University, Farmville, Virginia; University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, Virginia; University of Maine, Bangor, Maine; and University of New Hampshire, Dublin, New Hampshire.

(The above information was taken from [Willie Anne Wright: Lensless Photography](#).)

Scope and Content Note

The collection's inclusive dates are 1958-2003, with the bulk of the material dating from 1964-2003. The collection is comprised of correspondence, checklists, invitations, posters, handbills, photographs, publications, press clippings, and other manuscript material.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into three series, and items are arranged chronologically within each series:

[Series 1: Exhibition Files, 1964-2003](#)

[Series 2: Sales and Representation, 1980-2003](#)

[Series 3: Curriculum Vitae and Press, 1958-2003](#)

Controlled Access Points

[Wright, Willie Anne.](#)

[Photography, Artistic.](#)

[Photography, Artistic--Exhibitions.](#)

[Photography, Pinhole.](#)

[Photography, Pinhole--Exhibitions.](#)

[Photography--History--20th century--Exhibitions.](#)

[Photography--History--21st century--Exhibitions.](#)

Related Materials

See further information in the VMFA Library:

Catalogs:

- [The Pinhole Image, Eleven Photographers, 1982](#)
- [My Lensless Imaging: Pinhole Photographs and Photograms : 1972-2002, 2003](#)
- [The Fleeting Glimpse: Selections in Modern and Contemporary Photography from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2010](#)
- [Direct Positive, 2015](#)

Exhibition Files:

- [Exhibition File: Virginia Artist: Willie Anne Wright, 1967](#)
- [Exhibition File: Virginia Artist: Willie Anne Wright, 1971](#)
- [Exhibition File: Virginia Artist One-man Exhibitions \[Willie Anne Wright, David Diller\], 1977](#)
- [Exhibition File: Virginia Artists' Portfolio, 1980](#)
- [Exhibition File: The Pinhole Image: Eleven Photographers, 1982](#)
- [Exhibition File: Civil War Redux: Pinhole Photographs of Re-enactments, 2011](#)
- [Exhibition File: Fleeting Glimpse: Selections of Modern and Contemporary Photography from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2011](#)

Artist File:

- [Artist File: Willie Anne Wright](#)

Digital Collection:

- [Willie Anne Wright Artist Archive Timeline](#)

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS / FOLDER LISTS

Series 1. Exhibition Files, 1964-2003

Box 1-4 (159 Folders)

This series is comprised of exhibition files for both solo and group shows that Wright participated in from 1964 to 2003. If no city is listed, then the location was Richmond. Wright also kept "miscellaneous" files for each decade as well as information about lectures, symposiums, and other events in which she participated.

Box Folder

- 1 Jewish Community Center, 1964
- Midtown Gallery, 1965
- Twentieth Century Gallery, Williamsburg, 1965-1967
- Westhampton College, 1966
- Robinson House, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1967
- University Theatre, Charlottesville, 1967
- Virginia Artists, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1969
- Fredericksburg Gallery of Art, Fredericksburg, 1969
- Windsor Gallery, 1969
- Miscellaneous, 1960s
- American Painting, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1970
- Limestone College, Gaffney, 1970
- Robinson House, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1970
- Westhampton College, 1970
- Thalhimer's First Virginia/North Carolina Invitational, 1970
- Twentieth Century Gallery, Williamsburg, 1970
- Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, 1971
- Virginia State College, Petersburg, 1971
- Virginia Artists, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1971
- Anderson Gallery, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1972
- Current Scene Gallery, Charlottesville, 1972
- Virginia Photographers, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1973
- Sharon Bennett Gallery, Atlanta, 1973
- Exhibition 280, Huntington Galleries, Huntington, 1973-1977
- Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, 1974
- Limestone College, Gaffney, 1974
- Prints – Four Women from Richmond, Fredericksburg Gallery of Art, Fredericksburg, 1974
- Paperworks, Washington Gallery, Georgetown, 1974
- Virginia Artists, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1975
- Virginia Photographers, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1975
- Foundry Gallery, Washington, D.C., 1975
- Carriage House Gallery, 1975
- Columbia Museum of Arts and Science, Columbia, 1975

Box Folder

- 1 Juried Artists, Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association, The Athenaeum, Alexandria, 1975
Willie Anne Wright Pinhole Photographs, Virginia Museum State Services, 1975-1987
Virginia Beach Art Center, Virginia Beach, 1976
Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, 1978
Recent Work by Willie Anne Wright, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1977
Deja Vue Gallery, Toronto, 1977
Virginia Intermont College, Bristol, 1978
Art and the Photographic Image, Scott-McKennis Gallery, 1978-1979
Photographers Invitational, Colorado Institute of Art, Denver, 1979
Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, 1979
Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Valley Authority Washington Visitors Center, Washington, D.C., 1979
Federated Arts Council of Richmond Invitational Exhibition, 1979
Deja Vue Gallery, Toronto, 1979
Miscellaneous, 1970s

- 2 Women Photographers – Six from Virginia, Portsmouth Community Arts Center, Portsmouth, 1980
Women, Image, Nature, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Elkins Park, 1980
Inaugural Exhibition, Virginia Beach Art Center, Virginia Beach, 1980
Virginia Photographers, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1980
Virginia Artists Portfolio, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1981-1994
2nd Street Gallery, Charlottesville, 1981-1985
Portfolio, Richmond Printmaking Workshop, 1981
Virginia Arts for Coleman, Reynolds/Minor Gallery, 1981
Virginia Prints and Drawings, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1981
Virginia Artists – Small Affordable Work, Activities – Lecture, Juror, Newsletter Article, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, 1981-1982
American Set-ups, Wright State University, Dayton, 1981
New Photographs, Anderson Gallery, 1982
Photospiva '82, Joplin, 1982
The Pinhole Image – 11 Photographers, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1982-1991
The Pinhole Image – 11 Photographers, Virginia Beach Art Center, 1982
Pinhole Day, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1982
Juried Exhibition, Light Factory, Charlotte, 1982-1986
Trends in Color, Focus Gallery, San Francisco, 1983
Eye Gallery, San Francisco, 1983
Portraits, Jeffrey Fuller Fine Arts, Philadelphia, 1983
Exhibitions, University of Rochester, Rochester, 1983-1984
Handmade Cameras – Contemporary Images, Tyler School of Art, Elkins Park, 1983
Group Show, Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, 1983
El Día de los Muertos, Galería de la Raza, San Francisco, 1984
Eye Gallery, San Francisco, 1985

Box Folder

- 2 More than Black and White, Longwood College, Farmville, 1985
Visionary Pinhole, Book and Show, Images, Cincinnati, 1985-1986
Senate Offices, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1986-1987
Virginia Society for the Photographic Arts Virgins, Fredericksburg Center for the
Creative Arts, Fredericksburg, 1986
2nd Annual Atlanta Photo Salon, Nexus, Atlanta, 1986
17th Annual Juried Photo Exhibition, Jewish Community Center, 1986
8th Annual Light Images, Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, 1986
Artists Talk on Art, New York, 1986
Pinhole Photographs, Southern Light Gallery, Amarillo College, Amarillo, 1987
Outer Banks to Infinity, Appalachian Environmental Arts Center, Highlands, 1987-1988
Salon 100, Huntington Galleries, Huntington, 1987
Points of Departure, Florance Gallery, 1987
Isis Gallery, 1987
American Color, New Mexico State University, Los Cruces, 1987-1988
Radford University, Radford, 1988
Color Pinhole Photography, Camera Club of New York, New York, 1988
Art Quest '88, Los Angeles, 1988
International Pinhole Show, Center for Contemporary Art of Sante Fe, Santa Fe, 1988
Fine Arts Museum of Long Island, Hempstead, 1988
Bryn Mawr Conference, Bryn Mawr, 1988
Peninsula Fine Arts Center, Newport News, 1989
Images from the Slide Registry, Washington Center for Photography, Washington, D.C.,
1989
The Creative Camera, Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, 1989
International Pinhole Exhibition, Centre Saidye Bronfman, Montreal, 1989
1708 Gallery, 1983-1989
Miscellaneous, 1980s
- 3 Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, 1990
The Pinhole Image – 11 Photographers, Peninsula Fine Arts Center, Newport News, 1990
Arts Council Airport Show, 1990
Philadelphia Print Club, Philadelphia, 1990
Jack Blanton Collection, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, 1990
A Gallery, San Francisco, 1990
Miscellaneous Buckroe Beach, Includes Glover and Willis Pieces, Hampton, 1985-1991
Images from the Slide Registry, Washington Center for Photography, Washington, D.C.,
1991
1st Annual Invitational, Hampton University, Hampton, 1992
Portrait/Self/Portrait, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, 1992
Oddball, Artspace, 1993
Summer Pools, Jack Blanton Fine Arts, 1994
Points and Perspective, Chastain Art Center, Atlanta, 1994
E3 Gallery, New York, 1995

Box Folder

- 3 The Museum of the Confederacy, 1995-1996
Gleaning Light, Photographic Archives, Dallas, 1996
College of Saint Catherine, St. Paul, 1996
Virginia Society for the Photographic Arts Folio Exhibition, Greater Reston Arts Center, Reston, 1996
Civil War Show, East Carolina University, Greenville, 1997
Timeless Wonders, Museum of Anthropology, Chico, 1997
Virginia's Photographers, Longwood Center for the Visual Arts, Farmville, 1997
Peninsula Fine Arts Center, Newport News, 1997
Southland – Myth, Memory and Artifact, The Art Center, Kinston, 1997
Coincidence Gallery, 1997
Picture This – New Photographs from the Collection, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1997
Southern Memory/Southern Vision, Craven Arts Council and Gallery, New Bern, 1997
Magiae Naturalis – Pinhole International 2, Lonsdale Gallery, Toronto, 1999
Carried to the Heart – Faith and Doubt in Contemporary Southern Photography, Millsaps College, Jackson, 1999
Shadows and Relics, 1708 Gallery, 1999
The Virtual Civil War, Higginbotham House Museum, Tazewell, 1999
1708 Gallery, 1990s
- 4 David Scott Gallery, Toronto, 2000
Retro Girls, Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, 2000
Longwood Center for the Visual Arts Permanent Collection Photography Comparison, Longwood Center for the Visual Arts, Farmville, 2000
A Journal of Influences, Eastern Shore Art Center, Fairhope, 2000
Summer Whites, Glen Allen Cultural Center, Glen Allen, 2000
Pinholes and Pixels, Emory and Henry College, Emory, 2000
Paradise, Coincidence Gallery, 2000
Why Pinhole, Visual Studies Workshop, Rochester, 2001
Shards of Light, Adirondack Community College, Queensbury, 2001
Contemporary Photography in Virginia, Art Museum of Western Virginia, Roanoke, 2002
Lightstruck, Emerge Gallery, Greenville, 2002
Members Show, Light Factory, Charlotte, 2002
A History of Photography from the Chrysler Collection, Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, 2002
Day of the Dead, Three Miles Gallery, 2002
Small Works Invitational, 1708 Gallery, 2002
Society for Photographic Education Conference, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2002
Pierian Springs, Richard Williams, 2002-2003
Pure Light – Southern Pinhole Photography, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, 2003

Box Folder

- 4 MinneAperture – An International Exhibition of Contemporary Pinhole Photography, Minnesota Center for Photography, Minneapolis, 2003
25 x 25, 1708 Gallery, 2003
Think Small2, Artspace, 2003
Longwood College – From Their Collection, Longwood Center for the Visual Arts, Farmville, 2003
Art and Auction Magazine, New York, 2003
River City, Memphis, 2003
Visual Arts Center, Portsmouth, 2003
Lensless Images, 1708 Gallery, 2003
Lensless Images: Contract, 1708 Gallery, 2003
Lensless Images: Costs, 1708 Gallery, 2003
Lensless Images: Gallery Plan, 1708 Gallery, 2003
Lensless Images: Notes Received, 1708 Gallery, 2003

Series 2: Sales and Representation, 1980-2003

Box 2, 4 (11 Folders)

This series is comprised of information about the sales of Wright's artwork and galleries that represented her from the 1980s to 2003.

Box Folder

- 2 Sales, 1980s
Inventory of Art, 1980s?
Witkin Gallery, New York, 1980-1986
Ledel Gallery, New York, 1980s
Reynolds/Minor Gallery, 1980s
- 4 1708 Auctions, 1991-2003
Photo America, 2002
Hamilton, Lori, 2001
Holder, Lisa, 2003
Hornsby, Kathy, 2002
Larson, Rebecca Sexton, 2003
Ward, David A., 2002-2003

Series 3: Curriculum Vitae and Press, 1958-2003

Box 4 (1 Folder)

This series is comprised of a compendium created by Wright that includes her full artist curriculum vitae and copies of press clippings and essays about her work from 1958 to 2003. This is a copy as Wright retained the original.

Box Folder

- 4 Willie Anne Wright: Résumé and Documentation from Books, Magazines, Newspapers, 1958-2003