
Accession number: 2001-36

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society
San Francisco, California

Processed by:
Alan A. Foss and Martin Meeker
Date Completed:
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Descriptive Summary
Title: David Cannon Dashiell Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1975-1996
Accession number: 2001-36
Creator: Dashiell, David Cannon (1952-1993)
Extent: 6 Boxes
San Francisco, California.

Abstract: This collection documents the creative works of artist David Cannon Dashiell. This collection includes written, conceptual, and design works produced from the middle 1970s through 1993 when the artist died. Personal items in the collection are limited to a small cache of photographs and slides.

Language: English.

Access
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
Copyright to unpublished materials has been transferred to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Preferred Citation

Acquisition Information

Biography
David Cannon Dashiell was born on July 4, 1952, in Tokyo, Japan. His parents were Samuel Dashiell and Dorothy Cannon; he was the grandson of author Dashiell Hammett. Dashiell's father was a Cartographer for the United States government and lived, primarily, in South East Asia from the American occupation after the Second World War until the height of the Vietnam War. Dashiell thus spent his childhood abroad until he was returned to the United States in 1968 because his father felt that East Asia was becoming dangerous for non-military Americans. He spent the next several years moving from state to state before finishing his high school years in Florida.

Dashiell attended the California Institute of Arts (CalArts) in Valencia, California, where he worked with John Baldessari. From CalArts he received a BFA in 1974 and an MFA in 1976. After graduation, Dashiell moved to Los Angeles and worked at an architecture firm. While establishing himself in the field of graphic and industrial design, Dashiell sought to further explore his sexuality and felt San Francisco would be the ideal place in which to do that. He moved to the City in the early 1980s.

He resumed working as an artist in the context of the spreading AIDS epidemic and, in particular, his sense that he might be infected with the virus (at a point in time when HIV testing was not yet available). Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, Dashiell was a productive and respected conceptual artist; he focused on themes related to the AIDS epidemic, including sexuality, disease, medicine, and apocalyptic symbolism. His works were exhibited at many galleries across the country including Beyond Baroque in Venice, California, and the New Langton Arts in San Francisco. In 1993, he received...
the prestigious Adaline Kent Award from the San Francisco Art Institute. He died from AIDS on 30 June 1993, just a few days prior to his 41st birthday. His works are included in many private collections as well as the San Francisco MOMA, University Art Museum Berkeley, and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Scope and Content of Collection
The David Cannon Dashiell Collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by the artist's estate. The Collection includes a wide sampling of the artist's work. Included in the collection are writing samples (e.g. poetry, plays, and scripts), photographs and slides of the artist's visual/conceptual work, and printed materials detailing video and architectural works. In addition to the many slides and photos representing the artwork, the collection includes personal photos of the artist's friends and family. The collection further includes a number of exhibition catalogs and brochures from his various shows as well as published features and reviews of his work. Very few personal papers are included in the collection.

Arrangement
The collection is divided into 3 series:
1. Overview and Personal Information
2. Creative Works
3. Visual Items

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Gay men
Art
Literature
Title: "Habiliment" painting
Identifier/Call Number: 2001-37

Series 1: Overview and Personal Information, 1981-1996
Physical Description: 1 Box
Scope and Content Note
This series includes material dealing mostly with the artist and his work, including a resume, a short artist biography, a few correspondence items, and the artist's portfolio. Feature articles, reviews, and listings also are included in this series. One folder contains a few items that seem to be simply unrelated items from the artist's estate, including a "whoopie cushion," a torn book label, and several pieces of scrap paper. Also included in this series are grant applications and letters of recommendation.

Box-folder 1/1 Biographical Information, 1992-1993
Box-folder 1/2 Death Notice, 1993
Box-folder 1/3 Inventory list of Artist's Estate, 1996
Box-folder 1/4 Personal Telephone Directory, 1992
Box-folder 1/5 Mailing Lists, 1992
Box-folder 1/6-1/8 Correspondence
Box-folder 1/6 Housing, 1993
Box-folder 1/8 Miscellaneous, 1992-1993
Box-folder 1/9-1/11 Grants
Box-folder 1/9 Applications, 1991-1992
Box-folder 1/10 Letters of Recommendation, 1992-1993
Box-folder 1/11 Grants Received, 1992-1993
Box-folder 1/12 Portfolio, 1992
Box-folder 1/13 Insurance and Inventory of Art Works, 1992-1993
Box-folder 1/14 Miscellaneous Items, n.d.
Box-folder 1/15-1/22 Feature Articles and Reviews
Box-folder 1/15 Artforum, "Reviews", 1993
Box-folder 1/16 Outlook, "Situation", 1991
Box-folder 1/17 Outlook, "Healing Arts", 1992
Box-folder 1/18 Shift, "David Cannon Dashiell", 1990
Series 1: Overview and Personal Information, 1981-1996

- Box-folder 1/22: Miscellaneous Articles, 1989-1990
- Box-folder 1/23-1/24: Art Exhibition Flyers and Catalogs
  - Box-folder 1/23: Folder A, 1988-1993
  - Box-folder 1/24: Folder B, 1987-1996

Series 2: Creative Works, 1975-1993

- Physical Description: 2 Boxes, 4 Folders
- Scope and Content Note
  
  This series contains the extant records of Dashiell's creative work. This series contains items covering an approximately 20-year period. Dashiell's creative output included: written work, conceptual work, and design projects. Note: Box 6 is an oversize box.

  - Box-folder 2/1-2/6: Written Works
    - "Get Your Rocks Off" articles, *California Voice*, 1983
    - Poetry
    - 1982
    - 1983
    - 1984
    - Prose, n.d.
    - "An Imaginary Manifesto," *Mirage #4*, 1993
  - Box-folder 2/7-3/1: Conceptual Works
    - "16 Plays", 1975-1977
    - Drawings Notebook, 1989
    - "Invert, Oracle"
    - Catalog, 1989
    - Fourth Draft, 1988
    - Fifth Draft, 1989
    - "Queer Mysteries"
    - Exhibition Information and Description, 1993
    - Programs, 1993
    - Miscellaneous, 1992-1993
    - Box #0744, 1993
  - Box-folder 3/1: Design Works
    - Buckler Residence and Furniture, n.d.
    - Dolor Residence Specs, n.d.
    - Graphic Design Projects, n.d.
  - Box-folder 6/1-6/4: Drawings
    - Portrait of John Donahue, 1985
    - Portrait of David Freedman, 1985
    - Portrait of Steve Chivers, 1985
    - Portrait of Carolyn Kemp, 1985


- Physical Description: 2 Boxes
- Scope and Content Note
  
  This series includes over 1000 photographs and slides. The majority of the visual material documents Dashiell's various creative projects. Also included in this series are slides and photographs of friends and family as well as photographs and slides of Dashiell's visit to Europe.

  - Box-folder 4/1: London and Amsterdam, n.d.
  - Box-folder 4/2: Florence and Venice, n.d.
  - Box-folder 4/5-4/8: Pompeii Frescos (detail), Mounted Color Photos
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box-folder 4/5</th>
<th>Folder A, n.d.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 4/6</td>
<td>Folder B, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box-folder 4/7</td>
<td>Folder C, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 4/8</td>
<td>Folder D, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 5/1</td>
<td>Identification Cards, 1975-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 5/2</td>
<td>Personal Photos and Slides, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box-folder 5/3</td>
<td>Barry Byford Family Photos, n.d.</td>
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<td>Box-folder 5/4</td>
<td>&quot;Carrie&quot; Slides, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box-folder 5/5</td>
<td>1993 March on Washington Slides, 1993</td>
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<td>Box-folder 5/6</td>
<td>Doler House, &quot;Big Tree Manor&quot;, 1989</td>
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<td>Box-folder 5/7</td>
<td>Bush Street Apartment, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box-folder 5/8</td>
<td>Saturn, Rings, and Moons Slides, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 5/9</td>
<td>&quot;Invert Oracle&quot; Exhibition Slides, 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 5/10</td>
<td>&quot;Queer Mysteries&quot; Exhibition Slides, 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 5/11</td>
<td>Inventory of Artist's Estate Photos and Slides, 1985-1993</td>
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</tbody>
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