Charles Ruas Papers, 1924-2017: Finding Aid

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<td>Location:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Table of Contents

- **Summary Information** ................................................................. 1
- **Biography/History** ................................................................. 3
- **Description** ........................................................................... 3
- **Arrangement** .......................................................................... 4
- **Access and Use** ...................................................................... 4
- **Acquisition and Appraisal** ..................................................... 4
- **Related Materials** .................................................................. 4
- **Processing and Other Information** ....................................... 5
- **Subject Headings** .................................................................. 5
- **Contents List** .......................................................................... 6
  - **Author and Artist Files, 1960-2017** .................................. 6
  - **Photographs, 1924-1991** .................................................... 21
- **Contents List** .......................................................................... 21
Biography/History

Charles Ruas is an American author, interviewer, editor, literary and art critic, and French translator. Born in Tientsin, China, in 1938, Ruas studied French, English, and Comparative Literature at Princeton University, where he received a BA in 1960, MA in 1963, and PhD in 1970. Ruas was a Fulbright scholar at the Sorbonne in 1963 and 1964. From 1974 to 1979, Ruas served as the Director of the Drama and Literature Department for New York's Pacifica station WBAI-FM, where he interviewed many famous cultural and literary icons and initiated several innovative literary programs, including the Audio-Experimental Theatre, which fostered collaboration among artists on multimedia projects for radio, and The Reading Experiment, a year-long series of readings from Marguerite Young's novel Miss MacIntosh, My Darling. Ruas also developed radio programming for the Museum of Modern Art's WPS1 Art Radio, served as an editor for Marguerite Young and other writers, published literary and art criticism for The Soho Weekly News, ARTnews, and Art in America, and conducted interviews of writers for The New York Times Book Review and The Paris Review. In 1985, Ruas published Conversations with American Writers, which includes a group of interviews from the early 1980s with several major writers, including Toni Morrison, Eudora Welty, Truman Capote, Susan Sontag, and others. He lives and works in New York City.

Description

The papers consist of materials related to Charles Ruas's work as a literary editor and interviewer, including transcripts, audiocassette tapes, and CD-ROMs of Ruas's interviews with writers and artists, typescripts and galleys of work by writers Ruas edited, manuscript materials he collected, as well as photographs, correspondence, recordings, and publicity materials that he kept regarding many of the authors with whom he worked.

Interview transcripts and recordings contain Ruas's author interviews, which he conducted for WBAI-FM, WPS1 Art Radio, The Paris Review, and Conversations with American Writers, a book of interviews he published in 1985. Writers represented in the interviews include Toni Morrison, Carlos Fuentes, Michel Foucault, Eudora Welty, Susan Sontag, Truman Capote, Buckminster Fuller, Andy Warhol, Mario Vargas Llosa, Norman Mailer, E. L. Doctorow, Tennessee Williams, Marguerite Young, James Laughlin, and others. While interviews primarily cover specific works by authors and the writing process, some tapes also document readings of work by writers and other live performances. The papers also include typescript drafts and galleys of books by writers whose work Ruas edited, including his own editorial drafts, as well as copies and manuscript materials that were gifted to him by authors, including Susan Howe, his co-host for poetry programming at WBAI-FM, and Marguerite Young, whose epic biography Harp Song for a Radical: The Life and Times of Eugene Victor Debs Ruas edited. Drafts and galleys of work by Helen Adam, Susan Sontag, and Djuna Barnes are also present, along with a group of dust jacket proofs. Also included are some correspondence, interview questions, photographs, and promotional materials from various writers Ruas interviewed or whose work he edited or reviewed.

A significant group of photographs of authors and artists was added to the collection beginning in 2016, including promotional photographs and portraits collected by Ruas, as well as shots from the WBAI recording studio. Some contact sheets and negatives are also present.
Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three primary file groups: Author and Artist Files; Interviews, Radio, and Television; and Photographs.

Author and Artist Files, 1960-2017
Interviews, Radio, and Television, bulk 1975-19841975-2017
Photographs, 1924-1991

Access and Use

Access

This collection is stored offsite. Please consult with the Special Collections about having the collection recalled to Firestone Library for your use. This process normally requires 48-72 hours notice.

The collection is open for research.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. No further photoduplication of copies of material in the collection can be made when Princeton University Library does not own the original. Inquiries regarding publishing material from the collection should be directed to RBSC Public Services staff at rbsc@princeton.edu. The library has no information on the status of literary rights in the collection and researchers are responsible for determining any questions of copyright.

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition


Appraisal

Nothing was removed from the collection during 2015-2018 processing.

Related Materials

Related Archival Material

Selected first editions and inscribed books from Charles Ruas's library are held in the Rare Books Collection.

Audio files containing many of Charles Ruas's recorded interviews can be accessed on the website of Clocktower Productions in Conversations with Writers and Historic Audio from the Archives of Charles Ruas.
Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation
Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Charles Ruas Papers, Box and Folder Number; Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Encoding
This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit 2015-12-15T10:04-0500

Descriptive Rules Used
Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Subject Headings

· Howe, Susan, 1937-
· Morrison, Toni.
· Nin, Anaïs.
· Ruas, Charles.
· Young, Marguerite, 1908-1995.
· WBAI Radio (New York, N.Y.).
· Authors and publishers -- New York (N.Y.) -- 20th century -- Interviews.
· Authors, American -- 20th century -- Interviews.
· Editors - New York (N.Y.) -- 20th century.
· Experimental radio programs -- 20th century -- Sources.
· Novelists, American -- 20th century -- Interviews.
· Radio personalities -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
· Audiocassettes -- 20th century.
· Interviews -- 20th century.
· Photographs -- 20th century.
· Proofs (printed matter) -- 20th century.
· Transcripts -- 20th century.
· American literature
Author and Artist Files, 1960-2017

Size: 7 boxes (3 partial)

Arrangement: Materials are arranged alphabetically by author name, followed by a group of dust jacket proofs.

Description: Consists of typescript drafts, editorial copies, galleys, dust jacket proofs, and notes by other writers with whom Charles Ruas collaborated, including materials he received as gifts from authors, as well as materials directly related to books he edited. Writers represented include Marguerite Young, Susan Howe, Helen Adam, Djuna Barnes, and Susan Sontag. Most prominent are several works by American writer Marguerite Young, including materials regarding her epic biography Harp Song for a Radical: The Life and Times of Eugene Victor Debs. Ruas edited the unfinished manuscript after Young fell ill and could no longer continue writing the third part. The biography was posthumously published by Alfred A. Knopf in 1999. Several draft versions are present, including a copy of Young's 1742-page original draft, Ruas's working editorial draft, and his edited typescript of Part I with a group of unedited cut pages following it. A spiral notebook, containing Young's manuscript draft of a section of the book on Allan Pinkerton, along with some handwritten notes Young made on dinner checks, are also included. In the last few years of her life, when she was very sick, Marguerite Young abandoned nonfiction and returned to writing poetry. Present here are Ruas's set of photocopied typescript and manuscript drafts of Young's last poems, most of which remain unpublished, Young's guide sheet for an unrealized dramatization of her earlier book Angel in the Forest, and a carbon copy of the original typescript of the first two chapters of Miss MacIntosh, My Darling, with handwritten corrections by Young, that the author inscribed and gifted to Ruas. Also of note is a typescript of an early book of collected poems by Susan Howe, Ruas's friend and poetry co-host at WBAI-FM. There are also several commercially available CDs of music and poetry recordings that Ruas collected.

Also present are materials that Charles Ruas kept tucked inside of books given to him by writers he worked with as an interviewer, editor, and book reviewer. These materials include correspondence from writers and their publicists and assistants, Ruas's handwritten scripts and questions for interviews on WPS1 Art Radio, book publicity materials, and photographs of Anaïs Nin and William S. Burroughs taken at the WBAI-FM studio. While most correspondence is addressed to Ruas, some are letters addressed to his associates, Susan Howe and Rob Wynne. Most correspondence is brief and regards logistical details of author interviews and book reviews. Exceptions include a significant group of letters from Anaïs Nin to Rob Wynne, from the mid 1970s, and a strange, lengthy letter from writer Laura Riding Jackson to poet Susan Howe, regarding her distress over a potential interview. Individual letters from John Ashbery and Andy Warhol are also present. Materials removed from inscribed books are filed with photocopies of the inscribed pages. Selected first editions and inscribed books from Charles Ruas's library are held in the Rare Books Collection.

While several photographs that were originally kept with related manuscripts and ephemera are present here, photographs of many of the authors and artists listed here can be found in the Photographs file group.
Adam, Helen, 1961-2008

Adam, Helen, undated
Size: 1 folder
Description: Consists of a San Francisco Burning typescript copy.

Adam, Helen, 1977-2008
Size: 1 folder
Description: Primarily contains correspondence from Helen Adam, including tarot readings Adam did for Charles Ruas and Rob Wynne, and a photograph of her by Luke Wynne.

Adam, Helen, 1961-1977
accessionnumber: AM 2016-44
Size: 2 folders
Description: Includes a typed script with performance notations for the stage version of the ballad opera San Francisco Burning performed at the Judson Church in New York City, along with a letter of rejection addressed to Helen Adam from the Public Theater. Also present is a portrait photograph of Helen Adam, circa 1977, taken by Luke Wynne.

Arensberg, Ann, 1990s
Size: 2 folders
Arensberg, Ann, 1991 June 29
Size: 1 folder
Arensberg, Ann, "Worm Life", undated
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Ashbery, John, 1985 August 7-30
Size: 1 folder

Barnes, Djuna, 1982
Size: 1 folder
Description: Includes uncorrected galley proofs for Creatures in an Alphabet.

Burroughs, William S., 1976
Size: 1 folder
Description: Portrait of Burroughs by Joan Schwartz and a letter from Burroughs's secretary, James Grauerholz, regarding taped interviews.
Campus, Peter, 1976-1977

Campus, Peter, MoMA Video Art Exhibition Information Sheet, 1976-1977  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: MoMA information sheet for the first exhibition of video art by the museum curated by Barbara London. Additional notes on the show by Charles Ruas.

Campus, Peter, Art Performances Resume, 1977  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-110

Carr, Virginia Spencer, 1991

Size: 1 folder

Cooper, Wyatt, 1975-2013

Size: 1 folder

Dearborn, Mary V., 2004

Size: 1 folder

The Expatriate Review, 1973-1974

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: Copy of Issue Number 4, Winter/Spring 1973-74.

Foucault, Michel, 1988 September 20

Size: 1 folder  
Description: Includes a letter from Doubleday that accompanied Ruas's copies of Death and the Labyrinth.

Goldsmith, Barbara, circa 2005

Size: 1 folder  
Description: Photocopy of inscription from book given to Charles Ruas.

Harris, Julie, 1975

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: Consists of a request to be a reader for Miss MacIntosh, My Darling and a note regretting that her schedule does not allow her to accept.

Henderson, Bill, 1979 December 27

Size: 1 folder

Heroes Are Gang Leaders, 2015-2016

accessionnumber: AM 2017-110  
Physical Characteristics: 2 CD-ROMs
Description: Two CDs titled "Flukum" and "Highest Engines Near/Near Higher Engineers."

Howe, Susan, circa 1968-2014

Size: 4 folders

| Howe, Susan, American Strand, circa 1968-1975 | Box: 1 Folder: 3 |
| Size: 1 folder |
| Description: A typescript for a collection of early poetry. |

| Howe, Susan, Hinge Picture, 1974 | Box: 1 Folder: 4 |
| Size: 1 folder |
| Description: Chapbook. |

| Howe, Susan, Chanting at the Crystal Sea, 1975 | Box: 6 Folder: 3 |
| Size: 1 folder |
| Description: Includes a Chanting at the Crystal Sea broadside, with cover design by David von Schlegell. |

| Howe, Susan, Notes on V.R. Lang and the Boston Poets Theatre, 1975-2014 | Box: 7 Folder: 5 |
| Size: 1 folder |
| Description: Consists of Howe's notes for an introduction to V.R. Lang, and on the Boston Poets Theatre, co-founded by her mother, Mary Manning, which is the subject of a WBAI radio documentary by Howe. |

| Jackson, Laura Riding, 1976 February 5-1981 July 6 | Box: 5 Folder: 11 |
| Size: 1 folder |
| Description: Includes a 1981 letter from Juris Jurjevics to Charles Ruas regarding a planned reissue of Laura Riding Jackson's Progress of Stories, as well as a 1976 letter from Laura Riding Jackson to poet and WBAI collaborator Susan Howe regarding taped interviews. |

| Jonas, Joan, 2007-2015 | Box: 5 Folder: 12 |
| Size: 2 folders |
| Jonas, Joan, 2007 |
| Size: 1 folder |

| Jonas, Joan, 2015 | Box: 7 Folder: 6 |
| Size: 1 folder |
| Description: Copy of script for the voiceover for the video projection in "They Come to Us Without a Word," the Venice Biennale 2015. |
Jurjevics, Juris, undated
Size: 1 folder
Description: Contains Ruas's script and questions for an interview with Jurjevics for WPS1.

King, Dave, 2005
Size: 1 folder
Description: Includes Ruas's script and questions for an interview with King for WPS1.

Kosiński, Jerzy, 1975-1993
Kosiński, Jerzy, 1976-1982
Size: 1 folder
Kosiński, Jerzy, 1975-1993
accessionnumber: AM 2016-44
Size: 4 folders
Description: Includes contact sheets, photographs, and negatives of Jerzy Kosiński with Charles Ruas at Radio Station WBAI Pacifica in New York City taken by Joan Schwartz, circa 1975, as well as several publicity photographs taken by Kathryn M. Tidyman. Also a 1993 letter from Jaromir Jedliński to Charles Ruas regarding Kosiński, a printout of Henry Dasko's study "Kosiński's Afterlife," and a Muzeum Sztuki w Łodzi catalog dedicated to Kosiński.

Lalanne, François-Xavier, and Claude, 1991
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Description: 2 copies of illustrated and handwritten menus for the dinner celebrating the Les Lalannes exhibition at the Château de Chenonceau installed by Peter Marino.

Leffingwell, Edward, 2009
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Description: Consists of a completed chapter from Leffingwell's proposal for an unpublished biography of Jack Smith. This chapter is an account of the underground film community of New York, in which Jack Smith and Andy Warhol were major figures, containing biographical information and details about his work by a participant who later curated Jack Smith’s first retrospective at P.S.1. 75 pages.

Listfield, Emily, 1994
Size: 1 folder
Llosa, Mario Vargas, 1984 May 16
Size: 1 folder

Description: Contains a letter from Helene Atwan at Farrar, Straus & Giroux, regarding Llosa, that was originally kept in Ruas's proof copy of Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter.

McIntyre, Vestal, undated Box: 5 Folder: 18

Size: 1 folder

Description: Includes Ruas's script and questions for an interview with McIntyre for WPS1.

Michel, Prince of Greece, 2011 June Box: 5 Folder: 19

Size: 1 folder

Description: Includes a note, addressed to Rob Wynne, regarding a gifted breviary from the Royal Chapel at Versailles.

Nathan, Jean, 2004 Box: 5 Folder: 20

Size: 1 folder

"Niki de Saint-Phalle", 2014 Box: 7 Folder: 9

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Program for exhibition at Grand Palais, Galeries Nationales.

Nin, Anaïs, 1974-1975 Box: 5 Folder: 21-22

Size: 3 folders

Nin, Anaïs, 1974-1976

Size: 2 folders

Description: Includes correspondence between Nin and Rob Wynne, along with a draft of Nin's preface for a new edition of Marguerite Young's Miss MacIntosh, My Darling.

Nin, Anaïs, "Under the Sign of Pisces", 1974 Fall

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Copy of "Under the Sign of Pisces" and newsletter announcing the WBAI programs on Marguerite Young.

Padgett, Ron, 2004 Box: 5 Folder: 23

Size: 1 folder

Post, Steve, 2014 August 3 Box: 7 Folder: 11

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: "Playing the FM Band" memorial program.

Quinlan, Alexis, undated Box: 5 Folder: 24
Quinn, Alice, 2006-2008

Sanders, Ed, 1977 August 31

Sikelianos, Eleni, 2004

Sontag, Susan, 1982-1984

Spanidou, Irini, 1986 March 3-April 18

Von Schlegell, David, 1965

Waldman, Anne, 2017

Waldman, Brahja, 2013-2016

Warhol, Andy, 1980 February 27

Welty, Eudora, 1990
accessionnumber: AM 2016-44

Size: 1 folder

Description: Includes an exhibition announcement for a show of photographs by Eudora Welty at the Old Capital Museum, inscribed by her to artist Rob Wynne.

Willis, Susan, 2005

Size: 1 folder

Description: Includes Ruas’s script and questions for an interview with Willis for WPS1.

Young, Marguerite, circa 1960-1999

Young, Marguerite, Angel in the Forest, Guide Sheet for Dramatization, undated

Size: 1 folder

Description: Prepared for director Tom O'Horgon and actor Victor Limpari's script for a dramatization of Angel in the Forest. The project was never completed.

Young, Marguerite, Harp Song for a Radical, Notes, undated

Size: 1 folder

Description: Includes Young's handwritten notes on checks from Riker's, a luncheonette in the West Village where Young often worked on her biography of Eugene V. Debs, along with a typescript list of names related to the book.

Young, Marguerite, Harp Song for a Radical, Manuscript Draft of Section on Allan Pinkerton, undated

Size: 1 folder

Description: Manuscript draft in spiral notebook.

Young, Marguerite, Harp Song for a Radical, Original Draft with Edits, 1994-1999

Size: 11 folders

Description: Photocopy of original typescript, as it was submitted to Victoria Wilson, Young's editor at Knopf, who asked Charles Ruas to edit the manuscript for publication. Wilson's assistant, Lee Buttala, gave Ruas this copy, following the book's publication in 1999. A note from Buttala and a book publisher's catalog are also included.

Young, Marguerite, Harp Song for a Radical, Working Editorial Draft, circa 1994-1999

Size: 8 folders
Description: Copy of edited typescript.

Size: 3 folders

Description: Includes a full typescript of Part I, pages 1-383, along with a group of unedited cut pages at the end.

Young, Marguerite, Harp Song for a Radical: Edited Draft of Pages 558-1750, 1994-1999
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Consists of a copy of an edited draft of pages 558-1750 of Marguerite Young's Harp Song for a Radical: The Life and Times of Eugene Victor Debs. The draft was written on a typewriter by Marguerite Young and annotated in her handwriting. This copy was collated during Young's last illness by her friends Dr. Marilyn Hamilton and Professor Suzanne Oboler and submitted to Knopf for publication after her death.

Young, Marguerite, Harp Song for a Radical: Edited Draft of Pages 558-1254, 1994-1999
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Box: 7 Folder: 12-14

Young, Marguerite, Harp Song for a Radical: Edited Draft of Pages 1255-1750, 1994-1999
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Box: 8 Folder: 1-3

Young, Marguerite, Last Poems of Marguerite Young Drafts, 1993-1995
Size: 3 folders

Description: Copies of typescript and manuscript drafts of an unpublished collection of later poems by Marguerite Young.

Young, Marguerite, Miss MacIntosh, My Darling, Chapter 1 and 2 Draft, circa 1960-1963
Size: 1 folder

Description: Carbon copy of original typescript with handwritten corrections by Young and a note to Ruas on the first page.

Young, Marguerite, Correspondence and Photograph, 1986 October 27
Size: 1 folder

Description: Includes correspondence with Paul Schullenberger from the MacArthur Fellows Program, regarding Marguerite Young's nomination for a MacArthur Fellowship. Includes a photograph of Marguerite Young holding the completed manuscript of Miss MacIntosh, My Darling.

Young, Marguerite, Publicity, 1995
Box: 8 Folder: 4
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Memorial program with New York Times obituary.

Dust Jacket Proofs, 1980s

Size: 1 folder


Size: 4 boxes (1 partial)

Arrangement: Arranged based on groupings in which materials were received.

Description: Consists of transcripts, audiocassettes, and CD-ROMs, and related materials documenting Charles Ruas's interviews with a variety of authors and cultural icons mainly throughout the 1970s and 1980s, although some recordings date to the mid 2000s. Ruas conducted interviews for broadcast on WBAI-FM radio, as well as for his 1985 book Conversations with American Writers. The transcripts of Ruas's interviews with Carlos Fuentes and Marguerite Young for The Paris Review are also here. Other authors represented within Ruas's interview materials include Toni Morrison, Buckminster Fuller, Michel Foucault, Eudora Welty, Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams, Norman Mailer, Mario Vargas Llosa, E. L. Doctorow, Susan Sontag, James Laughlin, William S. Burroughs, Donald Barthelme, and Joseph Heller, and others. In addition to interviews, some of the recordings document theatrical performances and readings, such as Anaïs Nin's reading of her introduction to Marguerite Young's Angel in the Forest. Interview transcripts often include multiple drafts and usually contain extensive corrections and editing, done in colored pencil, as well as Ruas's notes regarding his initial impressions of writers and their surroundings, which he often incorporated into the introductions of his published interviews. A group of CD-ROMs contain audio files from Ruas's interviews with artists for WPS1 Art Radio in the mid 2000s. Later additions include annotated program descriptions for Ruas's radio series, as well as a proposal for "Arts in New York: A Television Program" and recordings containing its trial program on artist Dan Flavin.

Interview Transcripts, 1975-1984

Size: 1 box

Arrangement: Transcripts are arranged alphabetically.

Arensberg, Ann, circa 1977-1984

Size: 1 folder

Barthelme, Donald, 1976

Size: 1 folder

Capote, Truman, circa 1977-1984
Dahlberg, Edward, 1975
Size: 1 folder
Box: 3 Folder: 4

Doctorow, E. L., 1976
Size: 1 folder
Box: 3 Folder: 5

Edel, Leon, circa 1975
Size: 1 folder
Box: 3 Folder: 6

Forman, Richard, 1975
Size: 1 folder
Box: 3 Folder: 7

Foucault, Michel, 1983-1984
Size: 1 folder
Box: 3 Folder: 8
Description: Includes the French transcript and Ruas's English translation, along with a letter from Ruas to Foucault regarding the interview.

Fuentes, Carlos (The Paris Review), 1981
Size: 1 folder
Box: 3 Folder: 9
Description: Interviewed by Charles Ruas and Alfred MacAdam.

Fuller, Buckminster, circa 1975-1976
Size: 1 folder
Box: 3 Folder: 10

Gardner, John, 1975
Size: 1 folder
Box: 3 Folder: 11

Heyerdahl, Thor, circa 1976-1984
Size: 1 folder
Box: 3 Folder: 12

Kingston, Maxine Hong, circa 1976-1984
Size: 1 folder
Box: 3 Folder: 13

Kosiński, Jerzy, circa 1976-1984
Size: 1 folder
Box: 3 Folder: 14

Laughlin, James, 1976
Size: 1 folder
Box: 3 Folder: 15
Description: Interviewed by Charles Ruas and Susan Howe.

Mailer, Norman, circa 1983-1984
Size: 1 folder
Box: 3 Folder: 16

Morrison, Toni, 1981
Size: 1 folder
Box: 3 Folder: 17
Size: 1 folder
Nicolson, Nigel, 1976

Size: 1 folder
Sontag, Susan, circa 1982-1984

Size: 1 folder
Stone, Robert, 1981

Size: 1 folder
Theroux, Paul, 1980

Size: 1 folder
Vargas Llosa, Mario, 1982

Size: 1 folder
Vidal, Gore, 1984

Size: 1 folder
Young, Marguerite (The Paris Review), 1976

Size: 1 folder
Warhol, Andy, and Bob Colacello, circa 1980-1984

Size: 1 folder
Welty, Eudora, circa 1977-1984

Size: 1 folder
Williams, Tennessee, 1975

Size: 1 folder
"The Struggle Against Censorship", 1974

Size: 1 folder

Description: Transcript of a round table discussion with Maurice Girodias, William Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg, Carl Solomon, and James Grauerholz.

Interview Recordings, bulk 1975-1984, 1975-2005

Size: 1 box

Physical Characteristics: 59 audiocassette tapes and 23 CD-ROMs

Arrangement: Recordings are arranged alphabetically.

Arensberg, Ann, circa 1977-1984

Physical Characteristics: 1 cassette tape

Barthelme, Donald, 1976
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Physical Characteristics</th>
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<tr>
<td>Burroughs, William: Naked Lunch, 1975</td>
<td>3 cassette tapes</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burroughs, William, and Allen Ginsberg: The Yage Letters, 1975</td>
<td>1 cassette tape</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capote, Truman, circa 1977-1984</td>
<td>3 cassette tapes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dahlberg, Edward, 1975</td>
<td>1 cassette tape</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorow, E. L.: Ragtime, 1976</td>
<td>2 cassette tapes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreman, Richard, 1975</td>
<td>1 cassette tape</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foucault, Michel, 1983-1984</td>
<td>2 cassette tapes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuentes, Carlos, 1981</td>
<td>2 cassette tapes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heller, Joseph, circa 1976-1984</td>
<td>4 cassette tapes</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laughlin, James, 1976</td>
<td>4 cassette tapes</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Llosa, Mario Vargas, 1982</td>
<td>1 cassette tape</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mabou Mines Performs 2 Samuel Beckett Plays, undated</td>
<td>2 CD-ROMs</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mailer, Norman, circa 1983-1984</td>
<td>2 cassette tapes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morrison, Toni, 1981</td>
<td>7 cassette tapes</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nin, Anaïs: Introduction to Young's Angel In the Forest Reading, circa 1976</td>
<td>1 cassette tape</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanders, Ed: Miles of Beatnik Glory, circa 1975</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Physical Characteristics: 2 cassette tapes

Seldes, Marian: "Image Inter Word," Reading of Miss MacIntosh, My Darling, 1976-1977

Physical Characteristics: 3 cassette tapes

Settle, Mary Lee, undated

Physical Characteristics: 1 cassette tape

Sontag, Susan, circa 1982-1984

Physical Characteristics: 3 cassette tapes

Spackman, William, undated

Physical Characteristics: 2 cassette tapes

Theroux, Paul, 1980

Physical Characteristics: 1 cassette tape

Vidal, Gore, 1984

Physical Characteristics: 2 cassette tapes

Welty, Eudora, circa 1977-1984

Physical Characteristics: 1 cassette tape

Williams, Tennessee, 1975

Physical Characteristics: 2 cassette tapes

Williams, Eric William, and Reid Whitmore on William Carlos Williams, circa 1976

Physical Characteristics: 1 cassette tape

Description: Tape is marked "William Carlos Williams."

Young, Marguerite: Image Inter Word, 1976-1977

Physical Characteristics: 2 cassette tapes

Young, Marguerite: Taped at Pennyfeathers Loud Noise, circa 1976-1977

Physical Characteristics: 3 cassette

WPS1 Conversations with Writers: From the Archives of Charles Ruas, 2005

Physical Characteristics: 21 CD-ROMs

Description: Includes interviews with David Shipler, Walter Abish, Fanny Howe, Anne Waldman, Edwidge Danticat, Jessica Hagedorn, A. S. Byatt, Wang Ping, Lawrence Osborne, Robin Robertson, Lily Tuck, Patrick McGrath, Christopher Mason, Laura Flanders, Carol Brightman, Ron Padgett, Mary Dearborn, Karole P. B. Vail, Jean Nathan on Dare Wright,
Barbara Goldsmith, Pascale Casanova, and Vestal McIntyre, hosted by Charles Ruas for WPS1, an art radio station run by the Museum of Modern Art's PS1.

WBAI Arts Production Dossier, 1974-1976

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Consists of a dossier outlining arts coverage implemented by Charles Ruas during the period from 1974-1976 at WBAI Pacifica Radio in New York and distributed to the Pacifica network of stations in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Washington, and Boston. During this period, these listener-sponsored stations were the voice of the counterculture, the protest against the Vietnam War, and the Civil Rights Movement. Programs listed and related photographs give an overview of the cultural landscape in New York City at the time.

Radio Program Descriptions, 2017

accessionnumber: AM 2017-110

Description: Consists of three sets of program descriptions, including a photograph and a "playbill" biography introducing each subject. Printouts from Clocktower website, with annotations by Ruas.

Historic Audio from the Archives of Charles Ruas Program Descriptions, 2017

Box: 8 Folder: 5

Conversations with Writers (PS1 MoMA Art on Air) Program Descriptions, 2017

Box: 10 Folder: 5

The Reading Experiment (Marguerite Young: Miss Macintosh, My Darling) Program Descriptions, 2017

Box: 10 Folder: 6

Ruas Audio Archive, 2017

accessionnumber: AM 2017-110

Description: Consists of an unprocessed external hard drive containing digitized audio for three of Ruas's radio series, including "Reading Experiment," with all programs on Marguerite Young's Miss MacIntosh, My Darling; "Historic Audio from the Archives of Charles Ruas" (WBAI Pacifica arts programming); and "Conversations with Writers" (PS1 Art on Air).


accessionnumber: AM 2017-110


accessionnumber: AM 2017-110

Description: Proposal by Marnie Mueller and Charles Ruas of WBAI Pacifica Radio in cooperation with WNYC-TV for a public television program focusing on the arts.
"In Daylight and Cool White", 1978

accessionnumber: AM 2017-110

Physical Characteristics: 2 U-matic video tapes

Description: Consists of two video recordings containing the first trial program for "Arts in New York: A Television Program," the subject of which was minimalist artist Dan Flavin (1933-1996).

Photographs, 1924-1991

Description: Consists of photographic prints, contact sheets, and negatives, primarily in black-and-white, including shots taken in the WBAI studio in New York City, as well as promotional photographs and portraits gifted to Ruas by authors and artists with whom he worked. Most of the photographs taken in the WBAI studio are by Joan Schwartz, including images of various authors reading from Marguerite Young's Miss MacIntosh, My Darling, as well as a number of photographs of poets reading at a New Year's Eve poetry reading at St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery in 1975. In addition to containing photographs of many of the writers and artists reflected elsewhere throughout this collection, musicians and composers like Patti Smith, Lou Reed, and Phillip Glass are also represented in this group of photographs. Also of note is a group of portraits and photographs of performances by Babette Mangolte. While most photographic materials in the collection are described here, some, which were originally kept with manuscript materials and ephemera, are described with the general Author and Artist Files.

Arrangement: Original file groups based on photographer were preserved. Other photographs are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Joan Schwartz WBAI Studio Contact Sheets and Negatives, 1974-1976

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Harry M. Koutoukas, 1975

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: 3A-20A: Harry M. Koutoukas (playwright, performer) in WBAI recording studio, reading from Marguerite Young.

Alice Playten, Harry M. Koutoukas, 1975

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: 3A-14A: Alice Playten (stage actress), reading from Marguerite Young. 14A-20A: Harry Koutoukas in recording studio.

Alice Playten, Harry M. Koutoukas, 1975

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56


Owen Dodson, Christopher Knowles, Robert Wilson, 1975

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56


Page 21
Photographs ... (Continued)

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: 3A-26A: Owen Dodson reading from Marguerite Young’s Miss MacIntosh, My Darling in studio. 27A-38A: Christopher Knowles (left) with Robert Wilson (right) in concert WBAI studio N.Y.

William Burroughs, Peter Zanger, Robert Wilson, Christopher Knowles, 1975

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56


Wyatt Cooper, Dolores Brandon, Leo Lerman, 1975

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: 2A-8A: Wyatt Cooper in studio reading from Miss MacIntosh, My Darling. 9A-11A, 16A-17A: Wyatt Cooper with actress Dolores Brandon, reading from Miss MacIntosh, My Darling. 23A-24A: Charles Ruas with Dolores Brandon in recording studio. 30A-37A: Leo Lerman reading from Miss MacIntosh, My Darling in WBAI studio.

Wyatt Cooper, Betty Lou Holland, Marian Seldes, 1975

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: 3A-6A: Wyatt Cooper with Betty Lou Holland. 7A-16A: Betty Lou Holland reading from Miss MacIntosh, My Darling. 17A-20A: Marian Seldes reading from Miss MacIntosh, My Darling.

Marguerite Young, Honey Rovit, Frances Field, David Rapkin, Charles Potter, 1974

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: 1A-2A: Marguerite Young. 3A: left to right, Honey Rovit, Frances Field, Marguerite Young, and student. 5A-10A: Charles Ruas settling Marguerite Young in recording studio. 11A-17A: Frances Field comforting Marguerite Young, Marguerite Young smoking in studio. 18A-22A: Marguerite Young (left) with Charles Ruas (right). 23A: David Rapkin, recording engineer. 24A: Marguerite Young. 25A-29A: Frances Field, David Rapkin, Marguerite Young, Charles Ruas, Honey Rovit in studio. 30A: Charles Potter, producer for WBAI Pacifica.

Anne Freemantle, Michael Higgins, 1975

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Michael Higgins, Anne Freemantle, Rob Wynne, 1975  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: 5A-6A, 10A: Charles Ruas (left) with Michael Higgins (right) in recording studio. 21A-30A: Michael Higgins reading from Miss MacIntosh, My Darling. 11A-20A: Anne Freemantle. 31A-37A: Rob Wynne, artist, who scored the readings.

Tessa Kaner, Marian Seldes, 1975  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: 8A-21A: Tessa Kaner. 22A-34A: Marian Seldes. Both are reading from Miss MacIntosh, My Darling.

Poetry Reading at St. Mark's on the Bowery, 1975  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56


Richard Foreman "Journal of a Playwright" Rehearsal, 1976  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: From 1A to 36A.

Robert Wilson, Phillip Glass "Einstein on the Beach" Rehearsal, 1976  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: From 5A to 36A.

Halloween Party, WBAI Studio, 1975  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Michael Neumann (jester), Marnie Mueller (program director), and Charles Ruas (arts director) in last picture with bow tie. Contact sheet only.

Babette Mangolte Photographs, 1971-1976  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Richard Foreman, 1971-1973  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Includes a portrait of Foreman (1973) and photographs titled "Particle Theory" (1973) and "HcOh TiEnLa (or) Hotel China" (1971).
Phillip Glass, 1974-1976  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: Includes a photograph by Carol Mesereau of Phillip Glass (center) rehearsing "Einstein on the Beach" by Phillip Glass and Robert Wilson, and standing on right by column with neck scarf, David Warilow from Mabou Mines; and a 1974 and a 1976 portrait of Glass by Mangolte.

Vito Acconci, 1975  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: For "Radio Free America," WBAI.

Trisha Brown in Rehearsal, 1974  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Yvonne Rainer Performance, 1973-1976  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: Includes a photograph of Kate Parker in Yvonne Rainer's film "Kristina Talking Pictures" (1976); a photograph of "Projection #6: I am a stern and unrelenting judge..."; and photographs from "The Story of a Woman Who..." (1973), including Rainer sitting with John Erdman on the floor at her knees and a seascape projection, Rainer (right) and Erdman (left), and Rainer sitting (left) and Erdman sitting (right).

Meredith Monk Performance, 1974  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  

John Ashbery, Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror, 1975  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: Photo credit: Jill Krementz.

Hommage à Bettina, 1990  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: Program with photographs by Irving Penn for Photographie de mode, 1945-1955 (1990).

Elizabeth Bowen, 1981  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: Photograph on promotional material by Knopf.

Ed Bowes, "Romance", 1975  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

John Cage, "Live Concert" Portrait, 1974
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Portrait for Live Concert. Photo credit: Dorothy Norman.

Virginia Carr, Carson McCullers, undated
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Portrait of Virginia Carr, author of The Lonely Hunter: A Biography of Carson McCullers, a biography of Carson McCullers (Photo credit: Al Alexander), along with an undated and uncredited portrait of Carson McCullers.

Joseph Cornell, "La Marquise de la Rochejaquelein", 1943
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Catalog page with description and photograph of work.

Audrey Flack, Photorealism Paintings, 1976
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Photographs of paintings including 1) Jewelry on table, color (Photo credit: Bruce C. Jones); 2) Royal Flush, black and white (Photo credit: Bruce C. Jones); and 3) Smaller color print of Royal Flush (Photo credit: Louis K. Meisel Gal).

Anne Freemantle in Studio, 1975
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Two photographs by Joan Schwartz.

Carlos Fuentes Portrait, circa 1970s
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Photo credit: Jerry Bauer.

John Giorno Meditating in Bunker on the Bowery, circa 1972-1975
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Photo credit: Peter Hujar. A copy of this photograph was made by the Poetry Society of America for their exhibition of contemporary poets.

John Giorno and Anne Waldman, St. Mark's New Year's Eve Poetry Reading, 1975
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Description: Two photographs: John Giorno (left), and John Giorno (left) Anne Waldman (right) at St. Mark's New Year's Eve Poetry Reading, 1975. Photo credit: Joan Schwartz.

Alex Haley Portrait, 1976  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: Author of Roots. Photo credit: Alex Gotfryd.

Michael Higgins Reading in Studio, 1975  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: Two photographs. Photo credit: Joan Schwartz.

Susan Howe and Taylor Mead, St. Mark's New Year's Eve Poetry Reading, 1975  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: Two copies of a photograph. Photo credit: Joan Schwartz.

Joan Jonas and Rick Turner in Morocco, 1965  
accessionnumber: AM 2019-4  
Description: Photo credit: Charles Ruas. Depicts Jonas with her brother sitting at a bar.

Joan Jonas, "Songdelay", 1973  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: Photo credit: Gwenn Thomas. Performers include Gordon Matta-Clark.

Tessa Kaner Reading in Studio, 1975  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: Two photographs. Photo credit: Joan Schwartz.

Harry M. Koutoukas in "Turtles Don't Dream", 1975  
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: Two photographs by Joan Schwartz, along with some clippings about Koutoukas.

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56  
Description: Snapshot by Rob Wynne, showing from left to right, Charles Ruas, Claude Lalanne, François-Xavier Lalanne, M. and Mme. Menier (the owners of the chateau), Jean-Gabriel Mitterand, and an unidentified couple on the balcony of the Château de Chenonceau.
Leo Lerman in Studio, 1975
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Description: Photo Credit: Joan Schwartz.

Michael Lesy, Real Life: Louisville in the Twenties, 1976
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Description: Promotional album page of photographs, Pantheon.

Mabou Mines, 1972-1974
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Taylor Mead Reading at St. Mark's New Year's Eve, 1975
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Description: Photo credit: Joan Schwartz.

Maureen Owen, Meredith Monk, Charles Ruas at St. Marks New Year's Eve Poetry Reading, 1975
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Description: Five photographs, including 1) Maureen Owen, (left) Meredith Monk (right), backstage; 2) Maureen Owen(left), Meredith Monk (middle), Charles Ruas(right); 3) Maureen Owen(left), Meredith Monk (middle), Charles Ruas(right); 4) Meredith Monk (left), Charles Ruas (right); 5) Meredith Monk (left), Charles Ruas (right). Photo credit: Joan Schwartz.

Marianne Moore Portraits, 1924-1981
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Alice Neel Paintings, 1972-1974
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Pablo Neruda Portraits, undated
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Description: Portrait of Pablo Neruda (Photo credit: Jill Krementz) and photograph of portrait painted by Carlo Levi.

Michael Newman A.K.A.L.Q.(Also Known As Lenny Quantum) Performance, 1976

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Photograph of split screen for performance of A.K.A.L.Q. (Also Known As Lenny Quantum) in studio at WBAI. Photo credit: Joan Schwartz.

Anais Nin in Recording Studio, 1975

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Photograph of Anais Nin, seated in WBAI recording studio, with Rob Wynne, artist orchestrating reading. Hands on left, Charles Ruas director. Photo credit: Joan Schwartz.

"The Two Character Play" (Out Cry) Actors, 1975

Description: Photographs of performers in a performance of the play by Tennessee Williams, including a portrait of Robert Stattel, and three portraits of Maryellen Flynn (full face portrait; blowing bubbles; and in costume). Photo credit: F. Laun Maurer.

Lou Reed at St. Mark's New Year's Eve Poetry Reading, 1975

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Photo credit: Joan Schwartz.

Charles Ruas Conversations with American Authors Cover, 1985

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Ed Sanders Promotional Portrait and Reading at Saint Mark's, 1975

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Promotional portrait for "Tales of Beatnick Glory" (Photo credit: Jill Kremente), and photograph of Sanders reading at St. Mark's New Year's Eve Poetry Reading (Photo credit: Joan Schwartz).

Dutch Schultz Leaving Jail in Albany, 1975

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Photograph of Dutch Schultz (left) leaving jail in Albany, N.Y., after posting a $75,000 bond prior to trial for tax evasion. For The Last Words of Dutch Schultz, by William S. Burroughs (1975).

Lore Segal Portrait, circa 1970s

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Author of Lucinella. Photo credit: Maria Elena de la Iglesia.

Marian Seldes Reading Miss MacIntosh My Darling, 1975

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Portrait of Marian Seldes (Photo credit: Jill Krementz) and photograph of portrait painted by Carlo Levi.
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Description: Photograph of Seldes reading in the WBAI studio (Photo credit: Joan Schwartz).

Eleni Sikelianos at St. Mark’s New Year’s Eve Poetry Reading, 1975
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Description: "Child poet" (age 10). Photo credit: Joan Schwartz.

Patti Smith Portrait, 1975
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Description: Patti Smith portrait by Robert Mapplethorpe made for publicity distribution for her first record, distributed by Arista Records.

Tony Smith and Barnett Newman with Seton, Beatrice, and Kiki Smith, circa 1960-1965
accessionnumber: AM 2019-4
Description: Two photographs. One was taken by Barnett or Annalee Newman and shows Tony Smith in front of one of his sculptures; the other, taken by Annalee Newman, shows Barnett Newman with Smith's daughters, Seton, Beatrice, and Kiki Smith, in front of the same sculpture. Both are signed by Seton Smith.

Han Suyin Portrait, 1976
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Description: Author of "Wind in the tower" (1976). Photo credit: Rhoda Nathans.

Anne Waldman in Studio Reading Poetry, 1975
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Description: Two photographs by Joan Schwartz.

Neil Welliver "Cedar Water Pool" Painting, 1976
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Geoffrey Wolff for "Black Sun", 1976
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56
Description: Includes a portrait of Geoffrey Wolff, author of Black Sun (Photo credit: John Osgood), and a photograph of Harry Crosby and Caresse Crosby, the subjects of Black Sun.

Virginia Woolf Portrait, undated
accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: For Portrait of a Marriage.

Rob Wynne Artwork, 1975

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Two photographs of Wynne's "The Mask," drawings in negative and positive, black and white, Stable Gallery.

WBAI Audio-Experimental Theater Mock-up, circa 1974-1976

accessionnumber: AM 2017-56

Description: Gwenn Thomas photograph of Joan Jonas performance inserted into the radio. Designed by Jonathan Andrews.