

Guide to the Ed Chappell photographs of Robert Rauschenberg, 1992-2008

Summary

Creator:	Ed Chappell
Title:	Ed Chappell photographs of Robert Rauschenberg
Call Number:	RRFA 16
Dates:	1992-2008
Extent:	2.5 Cubic Feet in 1 record carton, 2 manuscript boxes, and 1 flat box 49 Gigabytes (approximately 3,375 files, some duplicates)
Repository:	Robert Rauschenberg Foundation 381 Lafayette Street, New York, NY
Abstract:	Ed Chappell is a commercial photographer based in Naples, Florida. He frequently photographed Robert Rauschenberg, his artworks, and activities in the studio and elsewhere between 1992 and 2008. The collection of Ed Chappell photographs of Robert Rauschenberg comprises over 5,000 photographs taken by Chappell in various analog and digital formats.

Administrative Information

Provenance:	Purchased from Ed Chappell of Ed Chappell Inc. in July of 2018. The accession associated with this purchase is Ed Chappell archive of Robert Rauschenberg photographs, ACC 39.
Language of Materials:	Collection materials are in English.

Restrictions: A small portion of this collection is restricted.

Copyright: Copyright belongs to the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation.

Preferred Citation: Ed Chappell photographs of Robert Rauschenberg. RRFA 16. Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Archives, New York.

Processing Information: Collection processed by Shirin Khaki and Erika Hendrix. The arrangement of images into "Sessions" is primarily based on groupings of materials in both analog and digital formats that were devised by Ed Chappell. Digital folders were consolidated and deduplicated during processing, when appropriate. Duplicate digital images were retained when they were in different file formats or when duplicated in project folders. Physical "Photo Archive" binders were kept intact, and other physical photographic materials were re-housed in archival folders, with the original order of contents within folders maintained when possible (e.g. pages of slides or prints).

Dates are based on original folder information and/or handwritten dates on pages in the "Photo Archive" binders. The dates originally assigned by Chappell to digital folders were used even if slight discrepancies exist between the date of the folder and the date(s) of its contents. If the original folder name did not contain a date, then the creation date of the files in the folder was used, whether provided in digital metadata, corresponding materials in the "Photo Archive" binders, or inferred from related documentation of that project. When photos were aggregated for a project, the date of the project was assigned to the folder. Some project folders contain photographs created prior to the date assigned but re-used or associated with that project. For example, "May 2008 Memorial Party Selects" (2008) contains 2007 portraits of Rauschenberg and a small selection of images captured in early 2008; "Gulfshore Life Magazine" (2003) contains images originally taken in 2000 or of indeterminate age. In the case of digital materials, when there was no clear "project file," image files were grouped together and assigned the date range of the photographs contained within the folder: i.e., "1992-2007 Portraits." All folders, physical and digital, were assigned standardized descriptive titles. During processing, contact sheets were generated in PDF format of image files in digital folders. Physical access copies were printed of the contact sheets and filed in archival folders according to the name and arrangement of the digital folder.

Historical Note

Ed Chappell is a commercial photographer based in Naples, Florida. Chappell first met Robert Rauschenberg in 1992 when on assignment to photograph Rauschenberg for a feature in "Gulfshore Life" magazine. The shoot resulted in one of Rauschenberg's favorite images of himself, and Chappell began regularly photographing the artist and Rauschenberg's artwork in his studio in Captiva, Florida. Chappell and Rauschenberg maintained a productive professional relationship and a close friendship until Rauschenberg's death in 2008. In addition to his involvement with studio activities, Chappell

occasionally traveled with Rauschenberg to document events, such as the "Synopsis Shuffle" (1999) selection event in advance of the exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

Scope and Content

The Ed Chappell photographs of Robert Rauschenberg comprise analog and digital photographs taken by commercial photographer Ed Chappell of Robert Rauschenberg and his activities between 1992 and 2008. Images of Rauschenberg in the collection are primarily posed portraits and documentation of the artist at work in his studio on Captiva Island, Florida. Images from portrait sessions were often shot in quick sequence, with bracketed exposures, resulting in many similar images.

Other imagery includes documentation of events, such as the Merce Cunningham Dance Company performances of "Summerspace" and "Interscape" (2000), for which Rauschenberg designed the costumes and décor, and documentation of the "Synopsis Shuffle" (1999) selection event in New York. In addition, the collection contains installation images of the "Rauschenberg's A Quake in Paradise (Labyrinth)" exhibition at Bob Rauschenberg Gallery, Edison Community College in 2005; interior and exterior shots of Rauschenberg's property and around Captiva Island; Rauschenberg working with his staff at his studio during the last year of his life; and photographs of prints related to a 2008 lawsuit filed by Rauschenberg against Robert Francis Montgomery.

The collection also contains photographs taken at the memorial held for the artist in Captiva in May 2008, after his death. In July 2008, Chappell photographed Rauschenberg's home and studio once more to document Rauschenberg's art and source materials.

The collection consists of over 5,000 images across analog and digital formats. Analog photographic material includes black-and-white and color negatives and transparencies on 35mm, medium format, 4x5 inch, and 8x10 inch film, and a small number of contact sheets and high-quality portrait test prints. The digital portion of the collection consists of images primarily in various RAW formats such as CR2, NEF, and DCR files, PSD files, and some TIFF and JPEG files. There is also a small number of .xmp and .html files.

Arrangement

Organized into 4 series: 1. General; 2. Artworks; 3. Legal; 4. Sessions.

Subjects

Art, Modern.
Artists' studios.
Photographs.
Portraits.
Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925-2008

Collection Inventory

Series 1: General

Dates: 1990s-2000s

Scope and Contents: The General series consists of four original binders and duplicate digital files, and a digital folder of assorted portraits in TIFF, PSD, and JPEG file formats. The binders, labeled "Robert Rauschenberg Photo Archive [start date] thru [end date]," contain black-and-white and color negatives and transparencies, or roughly 152 "rolls," shot on 35mm, medium format and 4x5 inch film between 1992 and 2000. Many images are duplicated in the Sessions series as individual prints, contact sheets, or digital image files.

Arrangement: The materials in the "Photo Archive" binders are grouped by date ranges and binders are arranged in rough chronological order. There is no particular order to digital image files in the "Portraits" digital folder.

Existence and Location of Copies: Proof books created from the "Photo Archive" binders are located in the Photograph Collection (RRFA 09): Studios: Captiva, 1992-2000 (Box 71).

Box	Title	Date
1, Digital	Photo Archive	1992-2000
2, Digital	Portraits	1992-2007

Series 2: Artworks

Dates: approximately 1995–1999

Scope and Contents: This series contains black-and-white and color transparencies and prints of completed artworks photographed in Rauschenberg's Captiva studio.

Arrangement: This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box	Title	Date
2	"Bicycloids"	November 1996
2	"Doubleluck" and Unidentified	1990s
2	"Down Wound Up"	October 1998
2	"Echo [Anagram (A Pun)]"	August 1998
2	"A Quake in Paradise (Labyrinth)"	February 1995

Box	Title	Date
2 Digital	"Scenarios" (for Catalog)	2005
2	"Sketch for Monogram"	January 1997
2	"State Line (Reef)"	circa 1995
2	"Synopsis Shuffle"	1999

Series 3: Legal (restricted)

Dates: 2008

Series 4: Sessions

Dates: 1992-2008

Scope and Contents: This series contains digital and analog photographs documenting Robert Rauschenberg and his activities, as well the memorial party and interior shots of his home and studio after his death in May 2008. The majority of the photographs were taken at his studio in Captiva, Florida. Events photographed in other locations include Merce Cunningham Dance Company performances at the Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C., and the "Rauschenberg's A Quake in Paradise (Labyrinth)" exhibition at Bob Rauschenberg Gallery, Edison Community College (today Florida SouthWestern State College), Fort Myers, Florida.

Arrangement: Files in this series are grouped according to location of the photo shoot: Captiva, Florida; and Other Locations. The materials in each section are arranged in chronological order by photographic session or project.

Box	Title	Date
	Captiva, Florida	
2 4	Portraits with "The 1/4 Mile or 2 Furlong Piece"	May 1992
2	Portraits (2 folders)	April 1994
2	Working on "Immerse" and Portraits with "A Quake in Paradise (Labyrinth)"	1994
3	Portraits with "A Quake in Paradise (Labyrinth)"	circa 1995
2 3	Portraits	circa March 1996
2	Working on "Anagrams"	December 1996
2	Working on "Short Stories"	August 2000
2 Digital	Fish House Exterior	2003

Box	Title	Date
2 Digital	Gulfshore Life Magazine	November 2003
2 4	Portraits	2004
Digital	Portraits with "Party Line (Scenario)" (2 folders)	February 2004
Digital	Studio Exterior	April 2004
Digital	Captiva After Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan (2 folders, 1 restricted)	October 2004
Digital	Working on "Scenarios" and "Runts" (2 folders)	April 2007
Digital	Studio Art Supplies	October 2007
Digital	Memorial Party (3 folders)	May 2008
Digital	Home and Studio Interior (2 folders)	May 20-22, 2008
2 Digital	Last Shoot (3 folders, 2 digital)	July 2008
	Other Locations	
2 3	Kennedy Center, Merce Cunningham Dance Company, "Interscape" and "Summerspace"	April 2000
Digital	Edison Community College, "Rauschenberg's A Quake in Paradise (Labyrinth)"	February 2005