



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the John Outterbridge Papers, 1953-1997, in the Archives of American Art

Rihoko Ueno

2016 October 7

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	John Outterbridge papers
Date:	1953-1997
Identifier:	AAA.outtjohn
Creator:	Outterbridge, John, 1933-2020 (Creator)
Extent:	4.8 Linear Feet
Language:	Collection is in English.
Summary:	The papers of Los Angeles African American painter, sculptor, and arts administrator John Outterbridge measure 4.8 linear feet and date from 1953 to 1997. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, writings, professional and project files, Watts Towers Arts Center files, exhibition files, printed material, photographs, a scrapbook, and one motion picture film reel.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The John Outterbridge papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by John Outterbridge in 1997.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also has an oral history interview with John Outterbridge conducted by Allen Bassing in 1973.

A copy of the film *John Outterbridge: Black Artist* is available in the Samella Lewis papers, in the Rose Library at Emory University.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid created by Rihoko Ueno in 2016. A motion picture film reel was inspected and re-housed in 2016 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Institution Collections Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

John Outterbridge papers, 1953-1997. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

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Biographical / Historical

John Outterbridge is an African American painter, sculptor and arts administrator in Los Angeles, California.

John Wilfred Outterbridge was born in Greenville, North Carolina in 1933. He attended Agricultural and Technical University in Greensboro, North Carolina and studied engineering for one year before joining the U.S. Army in 1953. He served two years in Europe where he started painting street scenes in his spare time. His paintings were liked and his Captain found a studio space for him, where he painted murals and artwork in offices, clubs, and American schools.

Outterbridge decided that he needed a formal education in art and after his discharge from the Army in 1955, he relocated to Chicago and enrolled first in the Chicago Academy of Art, and later in the American Academy of Art. He became active in the Chicago art scene and opened a gallery with artists John Pinkney, Elliot Hunter, and Jose Williams. While attending school, he also worked for a graphic arts firm running errands and as a Chicago Transit Authority bus driver.

Outterbridge married his wife Beverly in 1960 and they moved to Los Angeles in 1963. He worked at a production studio for a while and got an offer from another studio to become its art director. After a few years, Outterbridge took two years off and began experimenting with with other medium, such as found objects and sculpture.

Outterbridge then took a job in the art installation department of the Pasadena Art Museum where he met artists such as Peter Alexander, Richard Serra, Robert Rauschenberg, and Andy Warhol while helping with their exhibits. In addition to working on installations, Outterbridge taught sculpture classes at the museum and at several colleges such as Pasadena City College, Claremont College, Cal State Dominguez Hills, and University of California at Irvine.

From 1969-1975, Outterbridge was the director of the Compton Communicative Arts Academy. From 1975-1993, Outterbridge was the director of the Watts Towers Arts Center, a focal point in Los Angeles for African American visual and theatrical arts and the sponsor of the Watts Towers Jazz Festival and Day of the Drum Festival. He retired in 1993 to dedicate more time to his art.

Outterbridge's art can be found at the California African American Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He has received awards throughout his career including fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation, Getty Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. He received an honorary doctorate from Otis College of Art and Design in 1994.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Los Angeles African American painter, sculptor, and arts administrator John Outterbridge measure 4.8 linear feet and date from 1953 to 1997. The papers include biographical material, correspondence, writings, professional and project files, Watts Towers Arts Center files, exhibition files, printed material, photographs, a scrapbook, and one motion picture film reel.

Biographical material includes life documents, awards, interview transcripts, a few sketches, teaching certificates, and a motion picture film reel entitled *John Outterbridge: Black Artist*.

The bulk of the correspondence consists of letters to John Outterbridge from family, artists, colleagues, museums, and universities. Notable correspondents include Maya Angelou, Johnny Otis, and Charles White.

Writings include teaching notes, an artist statement, nine typescript essays by Outterbridge, as well as papers written by students, and poems by various artists.

Professional and project files document Outterbridge's involvement in conferences, symposiums, membership records, and fellowships. There are grant and job applications, contracts, correspondence, project plans, and administrative records. There is documentation of the Metro Art for Rail Transit project and of his work as director of the Communicative Arts Academy. Outterbridge's directorship of the Watts Towers Arts Center (WTAC) are arranged in a separate series; files document administration, annual programs and events, and special projects.

Exhibition files are found for several exhibitions in which Outterbridge participated in the mid-1990s. Printed material includes clippings about John Outterbridge and the Watts Towers Arts Center, exhibition catalogs, announcements, books, and magazines.

There is one scrapbook that contains clippings, award certificates, and photographs of the Watts Towers Arts Center events. There are photographs of Johnny Otis, Nina Simone, and L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley.

Photographs are of John Outterbridge and his artwork, studio, family, friends, and events. Among those depicted in the photographs are Bob Marley and Gregory Hines.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 9 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1953-1997 (0.7 linear feet; Box 1, OV 6, FC 9)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1970-1997 (1.1 linear feet; Boxes 1-2, OV 7)
- Series 3: Writings, circa 1980-1996 (0.2 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 4: Professional and Project Files, circa 1970-1997 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 2-3, OV 8)
- Series 5: Watts Towers Arts Center, 1976-1997 (0.4 linear feet; Box 3)
- Series 6: Exhibition Files, 1992-1996 (0.2 linear feet; Box 3)
- Series 7: Printed Materials, 1968-1997 (1.1 linear feet; Boxes 3-4)
- Series 8: Scrapbook, 1968-1997 (0.5 linear feet; Box 5)
- Series 9: Photographs, 1953-1995 (0.2 linear feet; Box 4-5)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

African American artists
Artists' studios -- Photographs
Sculptors -- California -- Los Angeles
Towers -- California -- Los Angeles

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Motion pictures (visual works)
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sketches

Transcripts
Video recordings

Names:

Angelou, Maya
Bradley, Tom, 1917-
Hines, Gregory
Marley, Bob
Otis, Johnny, 1921-
Simone, Nina, 1933-2003
Watts Towers Art Center
White, Charles (1918-1979)

Occupations:

Arts administrators -- California -- Los Angeles
Painters -- California

Places:

Watts (Los Angeles, Calif.) -- Buildings, structures, etc

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1953-1997

0.7 Linear Feet (Box 1, OV 6, FC 9)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes life documents, numerous award and honors, business cards, interview transcripts, retirement information, a few drawings, one motion picture film reel about John Outterbridge, and other miscellaneous materials.

Box 1	Award Certificates and Honors
Box 1, Folder 1	Bennett College Award, 1993
Box 1, Folder 2	City of Los Angeles Certificates of Appreciation, 1980-1995 Notes: Oversized certificates housed in OV 6.
Box 1, Folder 3	Malcolm X Freedom Awards Banquet, 1990
Box 1, Folder 4	Museum of African American Art Benefit, 1988
Box 1, Folder 5	Otis College Honorary Doctorate, 1994 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 6.
Box 1, Folder 6	United Negro College Fund Award, 1986
Box 1, Folder 7	"Universal Declaration of Human Rights" Certificate of Recognition, 1994
Box 1, Folder 8	Watts Branch NAACP Certificate of Appreciation, 1992
Box 1, Folder 9	Watts Cultural Crescent Advisory Committee Certificates, 1991-1992
Box 1, Folder 10	Western Region NAACP 14th Annual ACT-SO Luncheon Honoree, 1993
Box 1, Folder 11	Miscellaneous Certificates of Appreciation, 1981-1993 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 6.
Box 1, Folder 12	Birth Certificate Photocopy, 1953
Box 1, Folder 13-14	Business Cards, circa 1970-1997
Box 1, Folder 15	Contract for Archives of American Art Oral History Program, 1994
Box 1	Interview Transcripts
Box 1, Folder 16	Group Interview of Dale Davis, Cecil Ferguson, and John Outterbridge, 1994

Box 1, Folder 17-22	UCLA Oral History Program Interview of John Outterbridge, 1989
Box 1, Folder 23	<i>John Outterbridge: Black Artist</i> , circa 1985 Notes: Motion picture film stored separately in film can numbered FC 9.
Box 1, Folder 24	Marriage and Divorce Certificates, 1960-1990
Box 1, Folder 25	Military Service Records, 1953-1961
Box 1, Folder 26	Memorial Service for Curtis E. Tann, 1992
Box 1, Folder 27	Miscellaneous Receipts, 1979-1992
Box 1, Folder 28	Original Drawings and Reproductions, 1978-1980
Box 1, Folder 29	Passport and Visa Applications, 1986-1994
Box 1, Folder 30	Retirement Letter and Commendation from LA County, 1992
Box 1, Folder 31	Shipping Receipts for Art Loans, 1993-1997
Box 1, Folder 32	Teaching Certificates, 1970-1991
Oversize OV 6	Oversized City of Los Angeles Certificates from Box 1, Folder 2, 1980-1995
Oversize OV 6	Oversized Otis College Degree from Box 1, Folder 5, 1994
Oversize OV 6	Oversized Miscellaneous Certificates from Box 1, Folder 11, 1981-1993
Item FC 9	<i>John Outterbridge: Black Artist</i> , 1970 1 Motion picture film (16mm) (00:20:34; color; sound; 700 feet) Notes: Short documentary film about artist John Outterbridge. Production of Contemporary Crafts Inc. Title screen reads: "John Outterbridge [sic]/Black Artist" Music by Wayne Long; film by David S. Wong. Film is narrated by John Outterbridge. He discusses his art, life, process, philosophy, and Black art. He is shown walking outdoors on sand, with mountains in the background. He is shown working on a sculpture in the mountain landscape and in his yard, using found materials and hand tools. The sculpture he creates throughout the film is called "Song for my Father," and depicts a dump truck. Soundtrack is guitar music. Note on film can: II 4, Ann Nonega, UCSB to Outterbridge. 462722 462768. A 1970 newspaper article on the exhibition "Black Artists on Art". Color is faded (magenta fade).

This item has been digitized. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1970-1997

1.1 Linear Feet (Boxes 1-2, OV 7)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is from family, artists, friends, colleagues, museums, galleries, and universities. The topics covered include exhibition arrangements, travel, teaching, and programs and activities related to arts administration. Notable correspondents include Maya Angelou, Johnny Otis, Jere Van Syoc, and Charles White. Many named folders only include one or two letters.

Box 1, Folder 33	Family and Personal Correspondence, 1970-1987
Box 1, Folder 34	Family and Personal Correspondence, 1990-1997
Box 1, Folder 35	29 Art, 1997
Box 1, Folder 36	African Market Place and Cultural Faire, 1993
Box 1, Folder 37	Alkebu-Lan Cultural Center, 1992
Box 1, Folder 38	Angelou, Maya, 1994
Box 1, Folder 39	Arizona State University, 1988
Box 1, Folder 40	Armory Center for the Arts, 1994-1995
Box 1, Folder 41	The Arts Company, 1993-1994
Box 1, Folder 42	Barkin, Ben, 1984
Box 1, Folder 43	Barkin, Coleman, 1996
Box 1, Folder 44	Beverly Hills (City of), 1992-1993
Box 1, Folder 45	Bhalla, Hans, 1971
Box 1, Folder 46	Bowman, Judith, 1983
Box 1, Folder 47	Brockman Gallery, 1976
Box 1, Folder 48	Brookes, Mona, 1982
Box 1, Folder 49	Brown, David Beck, 1992-1993
Box 1, Folder 50	Brown, David G., 1993-1995
Box 1, Folder 51	Build Crenshaw Arts, 1993
Box 1, Folder 52	California Afro-American Museum, 1988-1996

Box 1, Folder 53	California Institute of the Arts, 1993
Box 1, Folder 54	California International Arts Foundation, 1993-1994
Box 1, Folder 55	California State University - Dominguez Hills, 1988
Box 1, Folder 56	California State University - Northridge, 1991
Box 1, Folder 57	Center for the Study of Political Graphics, 1991
Box 1, Folder 58	Chambers, Eddie, 1989
Box 1, Folder 59	Community Arts Resources, Inc., 1994
Box 1, Folder 60	Community Redevelopment Agency, 1991-1995
Box 1, Folder 61	Craft and Folk Art Museum, 1991-1995
Box 1, Folder 62	Crystal Stairs, Inc., 1994
Box 1, Folder 63	Dawson, Robert G., 1991
Box 1, Folder 64	El Camino College, 1995-1997
Box 1, Folder 65	Ehrlich, Susan, 1994-1996
Box 1, Folder 66	ES 96 Tijuana, 1995
Box 1, Folder 67	Exhibitionists Inc., 1984
Box 1, Folder 68	Fellows of Contemporary Art, 1991-1995
Box 1, Folder 69	Foundation for Cultural Arts and the Media, 1988
Box 1, Folder 70	Freeman, Verla J., 1992
Box 1, Folder 71	Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities, 1992-1996
Box 1, Folder 72	Goldman, Shifra, 1991
Box 1, Folder 73	Goldstone, N. J., 1993
Box 1, Folder 74	The Great Circus Parade, Inc., 1996
Box 1, Folder 75	Griffin, Alicia, 1993
Box 1, Folder 76	Hartman and Company, 1994

Box 1, Folder 77	Hebrew Union College, 1993
Box 1, Folder 78	Herbert Ryman Living Masters Program, 1991
Box 1, Folder 79	Homowa Foundation for African Arts and Cultures, 1992
Box 1, Folder 80	Hopkins, Henry, 1991
Box 1, Folder 81	Jacques, Truman, 1984
Box 1, Folder 82	Karlstrom, Paul, circa 1996 Notes: Includes 2 photographs of John Outterbridge and Diane Hall
Box 1, Folder 83	KCET "Life and Times" Program, 1993
Box 1, Folder 84	KLCS TV station, 1991
Box 1, Folder 85	KM Machine Fabricating, Inc., 1981
Box 1, Folder 86	KPAS <i>Artbeats</i> Show, 1991
Box 1, Folder 87	Lila Wallace Reader's Digest, 1993
Box 1, Folder 88	LeFalle-Collins, Lizzetta, 1993-1995
Box 1, Folder 89	Le Gendre, Conchita, 1995
Box 1, Folder 90	Letters of Appreciation from Children at 96th Street School, 1993
Box 1, Folder 91	Letters of Appreciation from Children at Hancock Park School, 1995
Box 1, Folder 92	Letters of Appreciation from Children of Unidentified School, 1996
Box 1, Folder 93	Letters of Appreciation from Children of Unidentified School, circa 1996
Box 2, Folder 1	Lew Allen Gallery, 1993
Box 2, Folder 2	Lincoln Center for the Performance Arts, 1995-1996
Box 2, Folder 3	Lindsey, Kay, 1990-1991
Box 2, Folder 4	Locke High School Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, 1997
Box 2, Folder 5	Los Angeles (City of), 1978-1997
Box 2, Folder 6	Los Angeles Artcore Center, 1995

Box 2, Folder 7	Los Angeles City Council, circa 1978 Notes: Oversized "visual letter" to Los Angeles City Council protesting art funding cuts housed in OV 7.
Box 2, Folder 8	Los Angeles Consortium on African and African-American Art, 1995
Box 2, Folder 9	Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1993-1996
Box 2, Folder 10	Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, circa 1990-1997
Box 2, Folder 11	Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, 1991-1992
Box 2, Folder 12	<i>Los Angeles Times</i> , 1992
Box 2, Folder 13	Majority People's Fund for the 21st Century, 1992-1994
Box 2, Folder 14	Marquette University, 1992-1993
Box 2, Folder 15	Marshall, Howard, Jr., 1992
Box 2, Folder 16	Matshidiso, Daniel, 1987
Box 2, Folder 17	McDonald, Cat, 1991
Box 2, Folder 18	Media Associates, 1979
Box 2, Folder 19	Memphis College of Art, 1994
Box 2, Folder 20	Merging One Gallery, 1996
Box 2, Folder 21	Museum of Contemporary Art, 1991-1997
Box 2, Folder 22	National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, 1991-1993
Box 2, Folder 23	National Civil Rights Museum, 1996
Box 2, Folder 24	National Endowment for the Arts, 1994-1996
Box 2, Folder 25	<i>New Art Examiner</i> , 1991
Box 2, Folder 26	Odie, 1997
Box 2, Folder 27	Ohland, Gloria, 1991
Box 2, Folder 28	Otis, Johnny, 1994
Box 2, Folder 29	Otis School of Art and Design, 1993-1997

Box 2, Folder 30	Pasadena (City of), 1992
Box 2, Folder 31	Pasadena Robinson Memorial, 1996
Box 2, Folder 32	Pittsburgh Children's Museum, 1992
Box 2, Folder 33	Plaza Dela Raza Cultural Center for Arts Education, 1984
Box 2, Folder 34	Porter Troupe Gallery, circa 1995
Box 2, Folder 35	President's Committee on Arts and Humanities, 1984
Box 2, Folder 36	Project Row Houses, 1996
Box 2, Folder 37	Public Art: Realities, Theories, and Issues (PARTI), 1993
Box 2, Folder 38	Reaves, Sandi Rodia, 1992
Box 2, Folder 39	Ross, Kenneth, 1996
Box 2, Folder 40	San Antonio Art Institute, 1990
Box 2, Folder 41	Santa Monica Museum of Art, 1992-1995
Box 2, Folder 42	Side Street Projects, 1993-1996
Box 2, Folder 43	Skirball Museum, 1995-1997
Box 2, Folder 44	Social and Public Art Resource Center, 1991-1996
Box 2, Folder 45	Southern California Women's Caucus for Art, 1996
Box 2, Folder 46	Spirit Square Center for Arts Education, 1996-1997
Box 2, Folder 47	Star News, 1986
Box 2, Folder 48	St. James Press, 1996
Box 2, Folder 49	Studio Museum in Harlem, 1995
Box 2, Folder 50	Taft College, 1993-1994
Box 2, Folder 51	Teasley, Lisa, 1992-1995
Box 2, Folder 52	United Negro College Fund, 1991
Box 2, Folder 53	University of California Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Art Gallery, 1988

Box 2, Folder 54	University of California Los Angeles Oral History, 1990-1994
Box 2, Folder 55	University of Southern California Fisher Gallery, 1986
Box 2, Folder 56	University of Southern California School of Fine Arts, 1994
Box 2, Folder 57	Urban Innovations Group, 1993
Box 2, Folder 58	Van Syoc, Jere, 1986
Box 2, Folder 59	Venue Marketing, 1988
Box 2, Folder 60	Vernacular Magazine, 1992-1993
Box 2, Folder 61	Volunteer Center for Los Angeles, 1991
Box 2, Folder 62	Waddy, Ruth G., 1980
Box 2, Folder 63	Walker, Dana E., 1990
Box 2, Folder 64	Waste Management of North America, 1992
Box 2, Folder 65	Watts-Century Latino Organization, 1993-1996
Box 2, Folder 66	Watts Health Foundation, Inc., 1991
Box 2, Folder 67	Watts Labor Community Action Committee, 1996
Box 2, Folder 68	Western Carolina University Art Department, 1993-1995
Box 2, Folder 69	White, Charles, circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 70	Zorthian, Jirayr, circa 1983
Box 2, Folder 71	Chronological Letters, 1971-1979
Box 2, Folder 72-76	Chronological Letters, 1990-1997
Box 2, Folder 77	Miscellaneous Undated Letters, circa 1980-circa 1996
Oversize OV 7	Oversized Los Angeles City Council letter from Box 2, Folder 7, circa 1978

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Series 3: Writings, circa 1980-1996

0.2 Linear Feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: There are teaching notes and an artist statement by John Outterbridge, as well as typescript drafts of articles. There are also a few student papers and poems written by others.

Box 2, Folder 78	John Outterbridge's African-American Art History Notes, circa 1980
Box 2, Folder 79	John Outterbridge's Artist Statement, circa 1990
Box 2	Essays and Articles
Box 2, Folder 80	"Artist as Alien: The End of Censorship in the Visual Arts in Los Angeles, 1951-1966" by Richard Candida Smith, 1990
Box 2, Folder 81	"Catfish and Coltrane: A Conversation on Making a Homesite" by Peter Tolkin and Mabel Wilson, circa 1995
Box 2, Folder 82	"Double Voiced Assemblage: The Art and Architecture of John Outterbridge" by Mabel O. Wilson, 1996
Box 2, Folder 83	"From the Rose Parade's Queen to Marilyn Monroe's Curves" by Nora Halpern Brougher, circa 1990
Box 2, Folder 84	"John Outterbridge: Poetic Gestures" by Lizzetta LeFalle-Collins, 1993
Box 2, Folder 85	"John Outterbridge: A Retrospective Keeper of Traditions" by anonymous, circa 1993
Box 2, Folder 86	"Lamentations: Visual Analysis for an Ethical Approach to Contemporary Issues" by Noreen Dean Dresser, 1994
Box 2, Folder 87	"The Poetics of Politics, Iconography and Spirituality" by Lizzetta LeFalle-Collins, 1994
Box 2, Folder 88	"The Sankota Diary of a Cultural Worker" by Greg Angaza Pitts, circa 1993
Box 2	Student Papers
Box 2, Folder 89	"The City of Watts: 1907-1926" by MaryEllen James Ray, 1985
Box 2, Folder 90	"John Outterbridge" by Lori Hitselberger, 1996
Box 2, Folder 91	"John W. Outterbridge" by Brian McDougal, 1995

Box 2, Folder 92

Poems by Various Writers, 1991-1996

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Series 4: Professional and Project Files, circa 1970-1997

0.5 Linear Feet (Boxes 2-3, OV 8)

Scope and Contents: Professional and project files document conferences, symposiums, programs, memberships in organizations, grant and job applications, and fellowships. There is also documentation of the Metro Art for Rail Transit project and Outterbridge's directorship of the Communicative Arts Academy.

Box 2, Folder 93	"Aesthetics of Community-Based Art Making" Symposium, 1993-1995
Box 2, Folder 94	Art in Embassies Program, 1996
Box 2, Folder 95	Bodacious Buggerrilla Expansion Arts Program Application, circa 1980
Box 2, Folder 96	Book Proposal for John Outterbridge Monograph, circa 1993
Box 2, Folder 97	California Arts Council Photocopy of Expenses, 1980
Box 2, Folder 98	California Community Foundation Getty Fellowships, 1993-1994
Box 2, Folder 99	CHCG Building Sculpture Contract, 1991-1992
Box 2, Folder 100	Communicative Arts Academy By-Laws, circa 1972-1975
Box 2, Folder 101	Communicative Arts Academy Press Release, circa 1975
Box 2, Folder 102	Communicative Arts Academy Prospectus, circa 1970
Box 2, Folder 103	CSADP Conference, 1997
Box 2, Folder 104	Dashin Galleries Project Proposal, 1992
Box 2, Folder 105	Job Applications and Appointments, 1992-1997
Box 2, Folder 106	Los Angeles County Museum of Art "Hold It!" Auction, 1996
Box 2	Metro Art for Rail Transit Project
Box 2, Folder 107	Correspondence, 1991-1995
Box 2, Folder 108	Contracts and Invoices, 1991-1996
Box 2, Folder 109	Avalon Transit Station Plan and Blueprints, 1991-1992 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 8.
Box 2, Folder 110	Avalon Station Pyramid Sculpture Redesign and Photographs, 1992-1993
Box 2, Folder 104	Road Cloud Art Company Loan Agreement, 1994

Box 2, Folder 111	Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) Art Program Contract, 1980
Box 2, Folder 112	New Zealand Maori Artists and Writers Festival-Conference, 1985-1986
Box 2, Folder 113	Road Cloud Art Company Loan Agreement, 1994
Box 3, Folder 1	University of Kentucky Lecture Program, 1993
Box 3, Folder 2	Urban Visual Artists Symposium, circa 1975
Box 3, Folder 3	Washington Irving Branch Library Adaptive Reuse Plans, 1991
Box OV 8	Oversized Avalon Station Plans from Box 2, Folder 109, 1991-1992

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Series 5: Watts Towers Arts Center Files, 1976-1997

0.4 Linear Feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: The Watts Towers Arts Center (WTAC) files consist of materials from John Outterbridge's time as a director. There are files on arts programs and events run by the WTAC, by-laws, budgets, fundraising, reports, correspondence, program proposals, printed materials, and information on the jazz, art, and drum festivals. There are also files on various organizations that worked in tandem with WTAC in order to provide services and art programming to the Watts area of Los Angeles.

Box 3	Watts Towers Arts Center
Box 3, Folder 4	10th Annual Watts Towers Music Festival, circa 1986
Box 3, Folder 5	Advisory Board, 1976
Box 3, Folder 6	Arts and Heritage Program, circa 1977
Box 3, Folder 7	Arts, Jazz and Music Festivals, 1987-1994
Box 3, Folder 8	Augmented Budget Expenditure Plan, 1992-1993
Box 3, Folder 9	By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, circa 1976
Box 3, Folder 10	California Arts Council Grant Application, 1980
Box 3, Folder 11	Day of the Drum Festival, 1984-1987
Box 3, Folder 12	Day of the Drum Festival, 1992
Box 3, Folder 13	Financial Records, 1990
Box 3, Folder 14	"Fundraising Planning Study: Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts", 1984
Box 3, Folder 15	Jazz Project with CalArts, 1990-1992
Box 3, Folder 16	Musicians for Festivals - Obo Addy, circa 1992
Box 3, Folder 17	Musicians for Festivals - Odadaa, 1992
Box 3, Folder 18-19	Printed Material, 1976-1997
Box 3, Folder 20	Proposal to Rename Gallery After John Outterbridge, 1996
Box 3, Folder 21	Watts Artists Tutor Team System Proposal, 1977
Box 3, Folder 22	Miscellaneous, 1991-1992

Box 3, Folder 23	"Build Watts Towers: History of Watts Towers" Festival Event, 1996
Box 3, Folder 24	Watts Cinema and Education Center, 1997
Box 3, Folder 25	Watts Redevelopment Project Biennial Report, 1991
Box 3, Folder 26	Watts Towers Exploratorium Proposal for Showcase L.A., 1992
Box 3, Folder 27	Watts Towers Community Action Council, 1991-1992
Box 3, Folder 28	Watts Towers Community and Conservation Trust, Inc., 1984-1985
Box 3, Folder 29	Watts Towers Cultural Crescent Master Plan, 1992-1994

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Series 6: Exhibition Files, 1992-1996

0.2 Linear Feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Exhibition files consists of correspondence, exhibition lists, receipts, travel itineraries, catalogs, and reports mostly related to several biennial exhibitions Outterbridge participated in, such as the *Sao Paulo Biennial* and the *Africus Johannesburg Biennial*. There are a few exhibition proposals and miscellaneous materials.

Box 3, Folder 30 Exhibition Proposal for Show about Presidential Candidates, 1992

Box 3 *22nd Sao Paulo Biennial* (1994)

Box 3, Folder 31 Travel Records and Itinerary, 1994

Box 3, Folder 32 Expenses and Receipts, 1994

Box 3, Folder 33 *Art of Betye Saar and John Outterbridge* (1994), 1994

Box 3, Folder 34-35 *inSITE94* (1994), 1993-1995

Box 3, Folder 36 *Africus Johannesburg Biennale* (1995), 1994-1995

Box 3, Folder 38 *African Influences - Contemporary Art* (1996), 1996

Box 3, Folder 39 Assorted Exhibition Labels, 1993-1995

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Series 7: Printed Material, 1968-1997

1.1 Linear Feet (Boxes 3-4)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes clippings about John Outterbridge and Watts Towers, exhibition catalogs, announcements, books, and magazines.

Box 3, Folder 40-44	Clippings about John Outterbridge, 1970-1997
Box 3, Folder 45	Clippings about Watts Towers, 1980-1985
Box 4, Folder 1	Clippings about Watts Towers, 1980-1985
Box 4, Folder 2	Clippings about <i>Other Gods: Containers of Belief</i> Exhibition, 1987
Box 4	Exhibition Catalogs
Box 4, Folder 3	<i>Sixth Annual Southern California Art Exhibition</i> (1968), 1968
Box 4, Folder 4	<i>5: Benny, Bernie, Betye, Noah and John</i> (1971), 1971
Box 4, Folder 5	<i>An Exhibition of Street Art by Black Americans</i> (1973), 1973
Box 4, Folder 6	<i>The Black Image</i> (1974), 1974
Box 4, Folder 7	<i>A Tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.</i> (1976), 1976
Box 4, Folder 8	<i>Afro-American Artists: North Carolina, USA</i> (1980), 1980
Box 4, Folder 9	<i>East/West: Contemporary American Art</i> (1984-1985), 1984-1985
Box 4, Folder 10	<i>Artists Select: Contemporary Perspectives by Afro-American Artists</i> (1986), 1986
Box 4, Folder 11	<i>Artists of the Black Community/USA</i> (1988), 1988
Box 4, Folder 12	<i>Assemblage: Poetry and Narration</i> (1988), 1988
Box 4, Folder 13	<i>19 Sixties: A Cultural Awakening Reevaluated, 1965-1975</i> (1989), 1989
Box 4, Folder 14	<i>Pasadena Armory Show</i> (1989-1990), 1989-1990
Box 4, Folder 15	<i>Artists' Artists</i> (1990), 1990
Box 4, Folder 16	<i>Carrie Mae Weems: And 22 Million</i> (1992), 1992
Box 4, Folder 17	<i>John Outterbridge: Sculptor of Oppositions</i> (1992), 1992

Box 4, Folder 18	<i>John Outterbridge: A Retrospective</i> (1993-1994), 1993-1994
Box 4, Folder 19	<i>LAX/94</i> (1994), 1994
Box 4, Folder 20	<i>Quinta Bienal de la Habana</i> (1994), 1994
Box 4, Folder 21	<i>Altars</i> (1995), 1995
Box 4, Folder 22	<i>Ethnic Instrument Collection of Dr. Joseph and Bootsie Howard</i> (1995), 1995
Box 4, Folder 23	<i>Open House</i> (1996), 1996
Box 4, Folder 24	<i>Spirit Landscape: Urban and Rural Forms</i> (1996), 1996
Box 4, Folder 25	Photocopies of Exhibition Catalogs, 1974-1986
Box 4	Books
Box 4, Folder 26	<i>Black Artists on Art</i> , 1969
Box 4, Folder 27	<i>Black Dimensions in Contemporary American Art</i> , 1971
Box 4, Folder 28	<i>City of Watts, 1907-1926</i> , 1985
Box 4, Folder 29	<i>Colors and Chords: The Art of Johnny Otis</i> , 1995
Box 4, Folder 30	<i>Life is a Patchwork Quilt</i> , 1979
Box 4, Folder 31	<i>Mid-Cities Telephone Directory</i> , 1980 Notes: Cover has an image of a mural featuring a portrait of John Outterbridge
Box 4, Folder 32	<i>The Watts Towers of Los Angeles</i> , 1989
Box 4	Magazines
Box 4, Folder 33	<i>Art in America</i> , 1995
Box 4, Folder 34	<i>Art Issues</i> , 1993
Box 4, Folder 35	<i>Visions</i> , 1995
Box 4, Folder 36	<i>Compton Herald American Newsletter Cover</i> , 1972

Box 4, Folder 37

Exhibition Announcements, 1969-1992

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Series 8: Scrapbook, 1968-1997

0.5 Linear Feet (Box 5)

Scope and Contents: There is one disbound scrapbook that contains clippings, award certificates, and photographs pasted on boards. The photographs depict events at Watts Towers Arts Center and many have detailed annotations identifying individuals in photographs. The photos include images of Johnny Otis, Nina Simone, and L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley.

Box 4, Folder 38	Scrapbook (Disbound), 1968-1997 Notes: Oversized scrapbook housed in Box 5.
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Box 5	Oversized Scrapbook (Disbound) from Box 4, Folder 38, 1968-1997
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Series 9: Photographs, 1953-1995

0.2 Linear Feet (Boxes 4-5)

Scope and Contents: Photographs are of John Outterbridge and his artwork, studio, family, friends, gatherings and events, such as workshops and the annual Jazz Festival at Watts Towers Arts Center. Among those depicted in the photographs are Bob Marley and Gregory Hines.

Box 4, Folder 39	John Outterbridge in Germany During Military Service, 1953
Box 4, Folder 40	John Outterbridge Portraits, circa 1985 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 5.
Box 4, Folder 41	John Outterbridge Photographs By Thomas Meyer, 1983-1985 Notes: Photographs mounted on board and used as postcards with messages written on verso.
Box 4, Folder 42	John Outterbridge and Bob Marley at Watts Towers Arts Center, 1981
Box 4, Folder 43	John Outterbridge and Gregory Hines at Watts Towers Jazz Festival, 1984
Box 4, Folder 44	John Outterbridge Teaching at Workshops, 1973-1994
Box 4, Folder 45	Outterbridge Family, 1953
Box 4, Folder 46	Artwork, circa 1995
Box 4, Folder 47	Studio, 1993-1994
Box 4, Folder 48	Otis College Honorary Doctorate Ceremony, 1992
Box 4, Folder 49	Retirement Celebration, 1992
Box 4, Folder 50	Assorted Events and Gatherings, 1958-1995
Box 5	Oversized Portrait of John Outterbridge from Box 4, Folder 40, circa 1985

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