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# Guide to the Robert Olsen Papers

WA MSS S-3230



by Rosemary K. J. Davis

April 2017

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-3230

**CREATOR:** Olsen, Robert, 1969-2014

**TITLE:** Robert Olsen papers

**DATES:** circa 1995-2014

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 12.75 linear feet (10 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Robert Olsen Papers contain sketchbooks, notebooks, ephemera, and artwork documenting Olsen's artistic practice.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.olsen>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.olsen>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

January 2017 acquisition: Gift of Robert Olsen, Sr., 2017.

January 2017 acquisition: Gift of Robert Olsen, Sr. and Katie Michel, 2017.

2018 acquisition: Purchased from PH Gallery Holdings, LLC on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana Fund, 2018.

## **Custodial History**

The Robert Olsen Papers contains material donated by Olsen's parents, Sandy Olsen and Robert Olsen, Sr.

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## **Conditions Governing Access**

The materials are open for research.

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## **Conditions Governing Use**

The Robert Olsen Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## **Preferred Citation**

Robert Olsen Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## **Processing Information**

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## **Robert Olsen**

Robert Olsen, an artist known for his paintings and drawings of Los Angeles, was born in Turlock, California in 1969. After receiving a BFA from California College of Arts and Craft and an MFA from University of California, Los Angeles, Olsen settled in Los Angeles, California. From 2000 until his death in 2014, Olsen exhibited his artwork in galleries in the United States and internationally.

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## **Scope and Contents**

The Robert Olsen Papers, which span from 1995 to 2014, contain sketchbooks, notebooks, ephemera, and artwork documenting Olsen's artistic practice.

## **Arrangement**

Organized into three groupings: I. January 2017 acquisition, 1995-2014. II. January 2017 acquisition, 2009, undated. III. September 2018 acquisition, 2013-2014.

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## Collection Contents

### 1: January 2017 acquisition, 1995–2014

#### Series I: Sketchbooks

1995-2012

Sketchbooks contain drawings and notes created during Robert Olsen's artistic practice. Some sketchbooks include loose pages, photographs, artist statements, and laid-in ephemera.

Sketchbooks are arranged chronologically. Undated sketchbooks are filed after dated materials.

b.1	Sketchbook	1995
b.1	Sketchbook	1995
b.1	Sketchbook	1996
b.1	Sketchbook	1996-1997
b.1	Sketchbook	1996-1997
b.1	Sketchbook	1997
b.1	Sketchbook	1997
b.1	Sketchbook	1997
b.1	Sketchbook	1997-1998
b.1	Sketchbook	1998
b.1	Sketchbook	1998
b.1	Sketchbook	1998
b.1	Sketchbook	1998
b.1	Sketchbook	1998-1999
b.1	Sketchbook	1999
b.1	Sketchbook	1999
b.1	Sketchbook	1999
b.1	Sketchbook	1999-2000
b.1	Sketchbooks (2 volumes)	2000
b.1	Sketchbook	2000
b.1	Sketchbook	2001
b.1	Sketchbook	2002
b.1	Sketchbook	2007



## Series I: Sketchbooks (continued)

b. 3	Sketchbook	2012
b. 3	Sketchbook	2012
b. 3	Sketchbooks (22 volumes)	undated
b. 4	Sketchbooks (22 volumes)	undated
b. 5	Sketchbooks (13 volumes)	undated
Series II: Notebooks		1999-2013
<p>Notebooks contain writings by Robert Olsen, largely generated during Olsen's artistic practice. Some notebooks include loose pages, photographs, sketches, and laid-in ephemera.</p> <p>Notesbooks are arranged chronologically. Undated notebooks are filed after dated materials.</p>		
b. 5	Notebook with three loose photographs	1999-2000
b. 5	Notebook	2000
b. 5	Notebook	2000
b. 5	Notebook	2000
b. 5	Notebook	2001
b. 5	Notebook	2003
b. 5	Notebooks	2005
b. 5	Notebook	2006
b. 5	Notebook	2007
b. 5	Notebook	2010
b. 5	Notebook	2013
b. 5	Notebook with loose sketch	undated
b. 5	Notebook with loose art booklets	undated
b. 5	Notebooks (10 volumes)	undated
b. 6	Notebooks (35 volumes)	undated
Series III: Artwork 2.25 linear feet (1 box)		2014
<p>This item is an in-progress version of a Robert Olsen painting entitled "Overpass #2".</p>		
b. 7 (Oversize)	Overpass #2	2014



**2: January 2017 acquisition, 2009, undated**

*3.5 linear feet (2 boxes)*

b. 9 (Oversize)	Untitled artwork (notebooks) Artwork is oil on panel and is signed by the artist.	2009
b. 10	Untitled artwork (overpass) Artwork is gouache and watercolor on paper.	undated

**3: September 2018 acquisition, 2013–2014**

*0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

b. 8	Correspondence	2013–2014
b. 8	Acetates related to "Overpass"	undated
b. 8	Wall text for "Overpass"	undated

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Art, American -- 20th Century  
Art, American -- 21st century  
Art, Modern -- 20th Century  
Art, Modern -- 21st century  
Artists -- United States -- 21st century  
Artists -- United States -- Archives

### **Genres / Formats**

Drawings (visual works)  
Paintings (visual works)  
Sketchbooks

### **Occupations**

Artists -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Names**

Olsen, Robert, 1969-2014