

Jyl Bonaguro Papers

2001-2024

Preliminary Finding Aid

Creator: Jyl Bonaguro

Extent: 1.5 linear feet

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact WLArchives@luc.edu regarding use.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright is retained by the creator.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date of item, Box #, Folder #, Jyl Bonaguro Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: Materials were donated to the WLA by Jyl Bonaguro in 2024 (WLA2024.54).

Processor: Chanelle Davis, 2026.

Separations: None.

Biographical History

Jyl Bonaguro is a Chicago-based, self-taught sculptor and playwright who specializes in hand carving Italian marble. Bonaguro earned a BA in creative writing from Loyola University Chicago in 1998. She also studied figure drawing at the Art Institute of Chicago, human anatomy and physiology at Oakton Community College, and outdoor sculpture and mural study in China and Tibet at Northeastern Illinois University and Northeastern University (China).

Bonaguro finds similarities between sculpting and playwriting as interactive, narrative forms that tell stories, and require audience participation and interaction. Some of her seminal sculptures include works in the Wings series and figure marble sculptures in the Remnants series. The works in the Remnants series led up to the creation of the 4-foot, 2,000 lb. Modern Athena marble sculpture in 2022. Her sculptures have been featured in publications like the *NewCity Art*, *Chicago Reader*, and *CS Modern Luxury*, and in private collections. Her work is also featured in the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, and in public art installations at the Lincoln Park Zoo and Metzger Court at Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber of Commerce, among others.

In 2023, Bonaguro published the book *Hammer & Stone* which uses original photography and poetry to demonstrate hand carving marble techniques. She served as the president of Chicago

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Sculpture International, a 501(c)(3) membership organization with a mission of supporting member artists and bringing art to the public, in 2024.

Bonaguro's plays focus on history and women, featuring female characters that explore the nuances of male and female relationships. Readings of the two-act, full length plays: *Swan Soong* and *Urania, The Life of Emilie Du Châtelet* have been sponsored by Loyola University Chicago, Hinsdale Public Library, and the Chinese American Museum of Chicago. She has also written three one-act, shorter length plays: *Fashionably Armed*, *The Pink Necklace*, and *A Grand Tour*.

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<i>Jyl Bonaguro Papers</i> <i>2001-2024</i>	
1	1	[loose publications: articles about Bonaguro]	2017
1	2	Exhibitions [1 of 3]	2001-2009
1	3	Exhibitions [2 of 3]	2001-2009
1	4	Exhibitions [3 of 3]	2001-2009
1	5	Exhibitions [1 of 2]	2010-2013
1	6	Exhibitions [2 of 2]	2010-2013
1	7	Exhibitions [1 of 2]	2014-2018
1	8	Exhibitions [2 of 2]	2014-2018
1	9	Exhibitions [1 of 2]	2019-2023
1	10	Exhibitions [2 of 2]	2019-2023
1	11	Modern Athena	2016-2023
1	12	Plays: Swan Soong [1 of 3]	2018-2019
1	13	Plays: Swan Soong [2 of 3]	2018-2019
1	14	Plays: Swan Soong [3 of 3]	2018-2019
1	15	Plays: Urania Volume I [1 of 3]	2009-2011
1	16	Plays: Urania Volume I [2 of 3]	2009-2011
1	17	Plays: Urania Volume I [3 of 3]	2009-2011
1	18	Plays: Urania Volume II [1 of 3]	2012-2016
1	19	Plays: Urania Volume II [2 of 3]	2012-2016
1	20	Plays: Urania Volume II [3 of 3]	2012-2016
1	21	[Artist Portfolio] [includes CD/DVDs]	undated
2	1	[Bibliography and loose publications: articles about Bonaguro]	2016-2024
2	2	[loose publications: articles about Bonaguro]	2010, 2016
2	3	[loose publications: articles about Bonaguro]	2014