

Margot McMahon Papers 1983-2004

Creator: Margot McMahon (1957[?]-)

Extent: 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

Language: English

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

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright is retained by the respective creators.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Margot McMahon Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: The material was donated to the Women and Leadership Archives by Margot McMahon on July 28, 2004 (WLA2004.46).

Processor: Emma Bonanomi, March 2008.

Processing Information: Finding aid updated January 2025.

Separations: 0.25 linear feet of extraneous and duplicate materials removed.

See Also: Margaret (Peggy) Roach Papers at the Women and Leadership Archives (see note below).

Biographical History

Margot McMahon was born in 1957[?] to painter and civil rights advocate Franklin McMahon and writer Irene McMahon, the seventh of nine children. Several children in the large Irish Catholic family grew up to be recognized artists, including brothers William Franklin McMahon, a photographer and children's book author; Michael McMahon, a screenwriter and actor; and Mark McMahon, an illustrator.

Growing up in Lake Forest, Illinois, McMahon attended St. Mary's Grade School. She received her BA from Hamlin University in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1979 with a double major in pre-med and sculpture, and her Master of Fine Arts from Yale University in 1984.

McMahon's sculpture reflects themes of multiculturalism, social justice, Chicago history, and Catholic heritage. Her career demonstrates a commitment to public art and community involvement, with many of her pieces emerging from public commissions in the Chicago metropolitan area. McMahon served on the faculty at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, DePaul University, and Yale University's Norfolk Summer School. She also served

on the board of the Oak Park Area Arts Council and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and on a committee of the Ragdale Foundation.

McMahon married community organizer Daniel Burke, founding partner of the Chicago Community Development Corporation, and had three children: Mary Irene, Brendan, and Aubrey Burke. The family resides in Oak Park, Illinois.

Note: See also the Margaret (Peggy) Roach Papers, Addendum 3, Box 29: Video Cassette of “Just Plain Hardworking” from WTTW. The video is inspired by McMahon’s exhibit of the same name that highlighted 10 influential Chicagoans. The film introduces the exhibit before featuring interviews with each of the ten individuals and shows clips of McMahon and others working on the exhibit throughout. One of the individuals featured is Monsignor John Egan, the longtime employer of Peggy Roach.

Scope and Content

The Margot McMahon papers span from 1983 to 2004 with some undated material. The collection is a combination of biographical and professional information. The bulk of the collection documents McMahon’s sculpture projects between 1987 and 2004.

Series 1: Biographical, 1983-2003, undated, Box 1

Contains materials related to McMahon’s undergraduate and graduate education, personal correspondence, newspaper clippings related to the Burke and McMahon families, and McMahon’s personal planner and address book. Organized alphabetically by subject matter.

Series 2: Professional, 1987-2004, undated, Boxes 1-2

Contains material related to McMahon’s professional work, including curricula vitae, exhibit catalogues, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and papers documenting the construction and installation of various works between 1989 and 2004. Arranged alphabetically by subject matter.

Subseries 2.1: General, 1983-2004

Includes awards, news clippings, sculpture materials, White House correspondence, and other materials related to her career.

Subseries 2.2: Community Work, 1998-2004

Concerns McMahon’s community involvement as a sculptor, including papers related to her volunteer work at the Beye School and the Oak Park Area Arts Council.

Series 3: Audiovisual, 1986-2004, undated, Box 2

Contains approximately 65 photographs of McMahon’s professional work, floppy disks, and one slide. Organized by format, then alphabetically by subject matter.

Subjects:

Margot McMahon (1957[?]-)
Beye School
Oak Park Area Arts Council
Oak Park, Illinois

Sculpture
Women – Art

Box	Folder	Title	Date
		<i>Margot McMahon Papers 1983-2004</i>	
		Series 1: Biographical, 1983-2003, undated	
1	1	Education: Hamline University, Yale School of Art	1983-1984
1	2	Family: Burke Family Clippings and Documents	1989-2003
1	3	Family: McMahon Family Newspaper Clippings	1989-2001, undated
1	4	Personal Correspondence	1998-2002
1	5	Telephone and Address Book	undated
1	6	Weekly Planner	1988
		Series 2: Professional, 1987-2004, undated	
		Subseries 2.1: General, 1983-2004	
1	7	Awards	2000-2004
1	8	Curricula Vitae and General Installation Information	undated
1	9	Exhibit Catalogues	1991-2004, undated
1	10	“From a Ball of Clay” Project	2000-2003, undated
1	11	“Inside and Out” Transcripts (printed from floppy disk)	undated
1	12	National Sculpture Society	1989-1991
1	13	Newspaper Clippings	1983-1989
1	14	Newspaper Clippings	1990-1995
1	15	Newspaper Clippings	1997-1999
1	16	Newspaper Clippings	2000-2004
1	17	Promotional Materials	1989-1999, undated
1	18	Sculpture: “Holy Family”	1998
1	19	Sculpture: “Just Plain Hardworking”	1989
1	20	Sculpture: “Sustaining the Land”	1995-1996
2	1	Sculpture: “The Reader” (Nina Ball Memorial)	undated
2	2	Sculpture: John Egan	2004
2	3	Sculpture: National Portrait Gallery	1990-1992
2	4	Sculpture: St. Patrick’s Church Bulletins	1997-1999
2	5	Sculpture: St. Patrick’s Correspondence	1997-1999
2	6	Sculpture: St. Patrick’s Dedication	1998
2	7	Sculpture: St. Patrick’s Research	1998, undated
2	8	Sculpture: St. Patrick’s Sketches and Notes	1997-1998, undated
2	9	White House Correspondence	1993-1997
		Subseries 2.2: Community Work, 1998-2004	
2	10	Beye School	1998-2004, undated

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2	11	Oak Park Area Arts Council and Public Art Advisory Commission	1999-2003
2	12	Ragdale Foundation	2000-2003
2	13	Theology South	2002
		Series 3: Audiovisual Materials, 1986-2004, undated	
2	14	Floppy Disks (2)	undated
2	15	“Boy Gardener” Sculpture Photograph	undated
2	16	Dragon Sculpture Press Proof	1986
2	17	John Egan Sculpture Photograph	2004
2	18	John Egan Sculpture Scale Photographs	2004
2	19	National Museum of Women in the Arts Photographs	undated
2	20	“The Reader” Photographs	undated
2	21	“The Reader” Photographs	undated
2	22	“The Reader” Proof	undated
2	23	St. Patrick’s Photographs	undated
2	24	St. Patrick’s Photographs	undated
2	25	St. Patrick’s Photographs	undated
2	26	St. Patrick’s Photographs	undated
2	27	St. Patrick’s Photographs	undated
2	28	St. Patrick’s Photographs	undated
2	29	Slide (removed from Address Book)	undated