

MS 50
Papers of Neil Roberts

- [Summary](#)
 - Administrative Information
 - [Biographical Note](#)
 - Scope and Associated Content
 - Box and Folder Description
-

Summary

Creator:	Roberts, Neil 1954-2002
Title:	Papers of Neil Roberts
Date Range:	1977-2002
Reference Number:	MS 2
Extent:	15 boxes + 6 binders

Overview

This collection of papers document Neil Roberts's career as a sculpture and glass artist and his significant contribution to the artistic life of the Canberra and ACT region. His works are represented in the collection of the National Gallery of Australia and include the sculptures *Half ether, half dew mixed with sweat* (2000) and *A Volume of Air/The Palm of a Hand* (1990)

The papers comprise correspondence, design briefs, sculpture plans/floor plans, press releases, curriculum vitae, photographs, newspaper cuttings, brochures, sketches, concept designs, project proposals, budgets, administrative material (invoices, financial records, minutes, agendas), lectures, papers, notes, research material and reports.

The collection has been organised by project, described to folder level and follows original order.

Administrative Information

Access

Contact the National Gallery of Australia Research Library reference service.

Phone +61 2 6240 6530

Email rlr@nga.gov.au

Provenance

The papers were donated to the National Gallery of Australia under the Cultural Gifts Program in 2003. Further additions to the collection are pending.

Preferred Citation Note

MS 2 Papers of Neil Roberts [Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], National Gallery of Australia Research Library Archives, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.

Biographical Note

Neil Martin Roberts was born in Melbourne in 1954. He lived in Queanbeyan and was active both locally and around Australia. He was a successful artist and in his lifetime was defined as a printmaker, sculptor, community artist, glass artist and as a decorative/design artist. His work is well represented in the National Gallery of Australia, [Canberra Museum and Art Gallery](#), Queensland Art Gallery, National Gallery of Victoria, [Artbank](#) and the [ANU Art Collection](#) as well as other national and international collections; he also completed commissions for a number of public art projects.

Other resource portals include the [Neil Roberts](#) website and the [Prints and Printmaking Asia, Australia and the Pacific](#) website.

Associated Content

Subject

Sculpture and Printmaking.

Relationship to the National Gallery of Australia Collection and the Research Library

The Research Library has ephemera relating to Neil Roberts as part of the Art & Artist Files (Australia & New Zealand). Neil Roberts exhibited at the Helen Maxwell Gallery and papers from this gallery are also held in the Research Library.

His works are represented in the collection of the National Gallery of Australia and can be found by performing a [collection search](#) through the NGA site.

Acronyms used

ANU – Australian National University

ACTEW – Australian Capital Territory Electricity and Water

CADENCE – Community Art Design Environment Network for Canberra and Environs

ACT – Australian Capital Territory

ART-LAB – an artist-run alternative gallery in Manila

Box/Folder Description

Box 1

Folder 1

Design brief and correspondence relating to *The Legibility Window*, an artwork for the Winston Court Building, ANU, Canberra, 2000

Folder 2

Design brief and correspondence relating to *Trace*, a project for 20 Martin Place, Sydney, 1999

Folder 3

Correspondence, plans, design brief and proposal notes for;

- *Art and Soul* – City Walk Sculpture Program, City Walk and Binara Street, ACT Public Art Program Chief Ministers Department, Canberra, 2000
- *Melting Pot* (a menu for Civic) Coranderrk Street Pedestrian Bridge, Canberra, 2000
- *Flood Plane*, sculpture installation for Floriade, Canberra 1999

Folder 4

Design brief, correspondence, press releases relating to;

- *Muster*, an artwork for the Melbourne Cricket Ground, 2000
- *Muster*, a project for the Docklands Stadium Urban Art Program, 1999

Folder 5

Slide list, design brief, correspondence, copy of Neil Roberts's curriculum vitae relating to a public art commission for the Airport Express Railway of the Mass, Hong Kong, 1998

Folder 6

Design brief, proposal, correspondence, photographs for *Skew* a sculpture for the York Street Priority Design Project, City of Sydney, 1998

Folder 7

Press clippings about public sculpture, newspaper cuttings, editorial opinions on the role of public sculpture, 1982-88 and Art School project, 1988

Folder 8

Correspondence, press clippings and photographs relating to Roberts's design proposal for the Canberra Cultural Centre Public Art Program, 1997

Folder 9

Includes press clippings, booking guide, brochures/handouts and correspondence relating to;

- Roberts's work in the Floriade Sculpture Competition 1990-1992. In 1990 he made a floating neoprene and water spray installation *Flood Plane* on Lake Burley-Griffin commissioned by ACTEW for the Floriade Festival
- Adelaide Festival 1991-1992

Box 2

Folder 1-2

Includes design brief, correspondence, newspaper clippings, sketches and photographs relating to design consultation for the Terang Gateway Project, Victorian Arts Council, 1994. Includes 'Wall Stories' by Vanessa Walker and 'The Shire of Hamden 1863-1963'

Folder 3-4

Brochure, correspondence (emails), newspaper articles, concept design, design brief, sketches and photographs regarding art consultant role for the Arid Display Garden Preliminary Concept Design, Australian National Botanic Gardens, 2002

Folder 5-6

Correspondence, concept design, plans, published material, design brief, photographs and negatives for commissions of a work for *A Five Goal Breeze*, a sculpture for the Docklands Stadium Urban Art Program, Melbourne, 1999

Folder 7 (including outsized item in separate folder)

Photographs, sketches, correspondence, plans, concept brief and design brief for an installation art project *Pigeon House Harp*, University of Wollongong, 2002. Project not completed due to Neil Robert's death

Folder 8

Southern Cross, irrigation and water supply division, 1990. Includes correspondence relating to Roberts's participation in the *Flood Plane* sculpture proposal for Floriade, 1990

Folder 9-10

Business cards, correspondence, notes, contractual agreement, financial records/budget related, press clippings and proposal for the Floriade sculpture *Flood Plane*, 1990

Box 3

Folder 1-2

Material advertising Barton neon pumping systems regarding neon manufacture for Floriade commission, 1990. Includes correspondence, notes, draft budget and sketches relating to *Flood Plane* sculpture for Floriade, 1990

Folder 3

News cuttings, correspondence, photographs, sketches, Christmas card from David Wright and plans for *Ruach* a collaborative project with David Wright at the Cabrini Hospital Palliative Care Unit, Prahran, Victoria, 1999

Folder 4-9

Background and general information relating to *House Proud*, a neon sculpture at the Playhouse, Canberra, a Public Art project, 1996-2001. Includes press clippings, brochure for CADENCE, correspondence (including letter regarding subsequent deterioration of neon sculpture over time), invoices, proposal, design, plans, sketches, concept and commission agreement between Roberts and the ACT government to install *House Proud*, 1997

Box 4

Folder 1

Structural drawings and plans, includes floor plans with handwritten notes for a sculpture commission for the Atrium at the ACT Magistrates Court

Folder 2

Commission agreement between the ACT government and Neil Roberts for the Atrium sculpture, ACT Magistrates Court, 1997

Folder 3

Notes, sketches and correspondence regarding the ACT Magistrates Court commission 1996-97

Folder 4

Budgets, finances and contracts regarding the sculpture for the Atrium at the ACT Magistrates Court, 1996-1997

Folder 5

Submission and acceptance for Atrium sculpture *Fourth Pillar*, ACT Magistrates Court, 1996

Folder 6

Correspondence and notes regarding ACT Magistrates Court sculpture commission, 1996

Folder 7

Draft media release, correspondence, photograph, newspaper clipping, description, invitation for the Atrium sculpture *Fourth Pillar*, ACT Magistrates Court, 1996-1997

Folder 8

Includes design descriptions for the projects *Elektron* for the Tamworth City Gallery, 1997 and a design brief for the sculpture *The Fourth Pillar* for the Atrium of the ACT Magistrates Court, 1996

Folder 9

Copies of various lectures and papers presented by Neil Roberts at various events 1990

Box 5

Folder 1

Talks, lecture, conference notes for Australian Glass: an overview; Flood Plane an interview with Neil Roberts; notes for AusGlass magazine article, January 1990; 'Trine' opening August 1987; 'Addressing the Society of Maleness' May 1988; 'Education: A Personal View' Sydney Ausglass 4th National Conference, 1985; 'The Plait, the Tatt and the Baudelaire's Rope' forum lecture by Neil Roberts, June 1993

Folder 2

Glass technical notes, price lists and course notes, 1989

Folder 3

Correspondence, notes and mementos for *Addressing the wounds*, installation at ART-LAB, Manila, the Philippines, 1991

Folder 4

Notes of lectures given by Neil Roberts on conception and realisation for Sydney College workshops, 1986

Folder 5

Workshop notes for various colleges, 1992

Folder 6

Research material for a lecture on photojournalist George Silk (1916-2004), includes a list of power-point slides, 2000?

Folder 7

Notes, exhibition proposal, research material, loan agreements and price lists for *Vessage* (devised and coordinated with eX de Medici), First Draft Gallery, Sydney, 1986

Folder 8

Public Art in Architecture: a collaborative design alternative for Sydney Park prepared for the Crafts Council of NSW, May 1988; Crafts Council of NSW newsletter 1988; program for the design symposium December 1987, Crafts Council of NSW. Correspondence, notes, for the Crafts in Architecture (CIA) Design Symposium, 1987

Folder 9

Handwritten and typed notes regarding installation-based residencies at Noosa Regional Gallery in 1998. File note states C.A.I. 1998

Box 6

Folder 1

Handwritten and typed lectures given by Neil Roberts at print symposiums and universities, 1995-98

Folder 2

Lectures, men's politics for the South Australian School of Art, 1993. Includes research material.

Folder 3

Handwritten and typed lecture notes for the Canberra School of Art and the National Gallery of Australia, 2000-01

Folder 4

Asia File – Includes research, correspondence, list of speakers and press clippings relating to the Research Institute for Asia and the Pacific seminar, Australian Institute for Asia and the Pacific, 1992

Folder 5

Correspondence and newspaper articles for a Neil Roberts exhibition *Addressing the Wounds* in Australian embassy Manila and ART-LAB, Manila, 1991

Folder 6

Correspondence and published material relating to post-graduate study, including an assessment by Roberts of a Doctorate of Philosophy candidate, University of Wollongong, 1993-94

Folder 7-8

Correspondence, itinerary, schedule relating to Philippines Tour by Roberts to ART-LAB in Manila, September 1989

Folder 9

Correspondence relating to an artist-in-residence program at ART-LAB, Manila, 1991

Box 7

Folder 1

Philippines – newspaper cuttings, photocopies articles for background research, ART-LAB, 1991

Folder 2

Correspondence, newspaper cuttings and program relating to *Still Life* curated by Neil Roberts, Craft ACT, August 1997.

Folder 3

Correspondence, articles, notes, press clippings, exhibition invitations relating to Neil Roberts exhibition *Tiny Idols Heaped in Piles*, Gorman House Canberra, 1996.

Folder 4

Correspondence, newspaper articles, gallery brochures, proposal by Roberts for a project installation for the Noosa Regional Gallery Residency Program, 1998.

Folder 5

Holland tunnel, an exhibition in honor of the greater New York Centennial Celebration with 100 artists, 1998. Exhibition invitation and copy of the catalogue for the Holland Tunnel Art Project

Folder 6

Correspondence, photographs and some ephemera for *Sculpture by the sea*, a public arts event, Noosa, 1998

Folder 7

Research material, concept brief for *How do we survive*; notes, correspondence and plans for 200 Gertrude Street, 1991-96. File note states 3D exhibitions

Folder 8

Correspondence, exhibition invitations, reports, relating to the group show *Symmetry*, a national touring exhibition, 1994-1995

Outsized material

Outsized material relating to folder contents

Box 8

Folder 1

Correspondence, newspaper articles, design principles report and report on Community Cultural Values in Garema Place for the Revitalisation of Garema Place, Canberra, 1996

Folder 2

Newspaper clippings, correspondence and ephemera relating to a Gregory Taylor sculpture, *Down by the lake with Liz and Phil*, 1995

Folder 3

Correspondence, notes, newspaper cuttings relating to the exhibition *Breaching the divide: nine artists exploring Goulburn*, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, 1996

Folder 4

Correspondence, receipts and associated material relating to *The 6th International Shoebox Sculpture Exhibition*, University of Hawaii at Monoa Art Gallery, 1997

Folder 5

Rio Tinto *Cabinet of Curiosities* programme, group exhibition/project created to journey to Britain aboard the replica ship *Endeavour* 1997 for the Australian Science Archives Project. Includes correspondence, notes and exhibition proposal.

Folder 6

Entry form and correspondence relating to the Osaka Triennale Sculpture 6th International Contemporary Art Competition, 1995. Includes correspondence from 1999

Folder 7

Newspaper articles, notes and correspondence regarding the Contemporary Art Spaces Project, ACT, proposal co-ordinator Neil Roberts, 1987-1988

Folder 8

Correspondence, reports, press clippings and notes on Roberts's artist-in-residence appointment at the South Australian School of Art, 1993.

Loose in box, acquittal reports and notebooks.

Box 9

Folder 1

Photographs, proposal 'From a Distance', correspondence and notes regarding Artists Regional Exchange Symposium ARX3, 1992

Folder 2

Artist selection list, correspondence and newspaper articles regarding Artists Regional Exchange Symposium ARX, Metro Mania, Perth, 1989

Folder 3

Loan agreement, correspondence, newspaper articles, associated ephemera and information regarding 4th Australian Sculpture Triennial, 1990

Folder 4

Pamphlet, programme, catalogue, correspondence, admission forms, notes and sketches regarding Sculpture '85 World Trade Centre City Square Batman Park, Melbourne, 1994-1985

Folder 5

Photographs some dating to 1929, photo packet date 1978, file note Perth residency 2002, slides *Sea of Clouds* 'Once in a Blue Moon exhibition' Galerie Constantinople, Queanbeyan, 1990

Folder 6

Correspondence (including condolence letter), submission and samples regarding Megalo residency, Canberra, 2001-2002

Folder 7

Speech (Rhana Devenport) and correspondence regarding Queensland Art Gallery Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art and correspondence regarding copyright for *Transparent Things* exhibition, file note states Connect show projects, 2001

Folder 8

Notes for floor talk, entry form, media release, transcript for interview discussing *Ramp* - artwork amongst other finalists in the inaugural National Sculpture Prize and Exhibition at the NGA, 2001

Folder 9

Photographs, notes, correspondence, copy of article and agreement regarding *Still Light*, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, 2001

Folder 10

Photographs, correspondence, application, media release and associated material regarding ANZART Auckland '85, 1985

Folder 11

Articles on artists' multiples, 2000

Box 10

Folder 1

Slides, loan agreement forms, lists, notes regarding *Clone: the multiple object in art*, 1995-97, group exhibition at Monash University Gallery, Melbourne and Multiple Constantinoples, Galerie Constantinople 1995-1997

Folder 2

Exhibition mock-ups various artists from Viv Binns to Micah Lexien (from file note), 1999

Folder 3-4

Catalogues and drawings related to Steven Holland's *Sinews in spirit*, a 1997 exhibition at the Canberra Contemporary Art Space

Folder 5

Slides, photographs, stencils relating to artist Christine Tarkwoski, 2000

Folder 6

Stencils

Folder 7

Correspondence with artist Clare Barclay, 1997

Folder 8

Notes and associated ephemera regarding Glue exhibition at Galerie Constantinople, Queanbeyan, December, 1999

Folder 9

Galerie Constantinople exhibition Tick-tock, two-part response from artists in Australia and overseas to the passing moment between December 31, 1999 and January 1, Queanbeyan, 2000

Folder 10

Various stamps, labels and inscriptions

Box 11**Folder 1**

Funding program for Tick Tock (see Box 10 Folder 9 description) artist book. Includes correspondence, grant proposal and photographs, 2000.

Folder 2-4

Distribution of Tick Tock Artist's book, misprints and over runs 2001

Folder 5

Stencilling and spirit duplication machine, 2003

Loose in box, folders of exhibition invitations

Box 12**Folder 1**

Correspondence relating to George Popperwell, 1995-1997

Folder 2

Correspondence with Fiona Hall, 1995

Folder 3

Finances, 1995-96

Folder 4

Finances, 1996-97

Folder 5

Receipts, 1990-95

Folder 6-8

Finances, 1995-97

Box 13**Folder 1**

Notebooks, financial records, travel diary

Folder 2

Cheque stubs, cash receipts, financial records, c1983

Folder 3

Canberra School of Art, 2001

Folder 4

Australia and Regions Artists' Exchange, Western Australia, Sept. 6-20, 1987

Folder 5

Copies of articles, course outlines, lecture programs, taught by Roberts, c1988-92

Folder 6-7

Photocopies and cuttings of articles on art

Box 14**Folder 1**

Articles on art and the representation of images

Folder 2

Correspondence, notes, reports, expressions of interest relating to Canberra City Walk West, 2000

Folder 3

Correspondence, photographs, reports, programs relating to Canberra Civic West Pedestrian Links (a planning and urban design study for west Civic), c2000

Folder 4-5

Correspondence, reports, application forms relating to the Festival of Contemporary Arts, 2000-01

Folder 6

Correspondence, reports, costing, financial statements relating to Canberra's Civic Lighting and Pedestrian Signage Strategy Plan, 1997

Box 15

Folder 1

Correspondence, reports, notes, relating to the East Row, Mort Street, Alinga Street Redevelopment, Canberra, 1997

Folder 2

Minutes, agendas, reports, financial reports and correspondence 2000-2001

Folder 3

Correspondence and proposal for the Ainslie Arts Centre, Canberra 2000

Binder 1

Slides of works and projects by Neil Roberts, information taken from slide labels.

FireTowers/Sources

Street Neons

Buildings/Lights/Doves

Light Source

Buildings

Lights/Buildings/Glass

Abstracts/ lights/Water

Education Dept Slides

Binder 2

Slides of works and projects, information taken from slide labels.

Ayers Rock, Sydney,

Haga, Sweden

Sunsets/Hotrod show

Noosa 1998

Terang Centenary

NY shop displays black and white 1998

Terang: dry wall workshop

Toronto 1989

Leslie81 spit/Ontario College of Art workshop

New York building

New York America

New York 1989 tower/bell/fences

New York 1989 George Street/SPEC

Binder 3

Slides of works and projects, information taken from slide labels.

Slides for lectures #2

New York: Graffiti streets and religious

New York 1989 – fire escapes/band w polaroids

24 hours in plaza retail

Graffiti 1989

Rome by night

Lecture slides #3
Royal show and window display
Museum of coloured light and glass NY 1989
Canberra suburbs
Other 'artworks'

Binder 4

Slides of works and projects, information taken from slide labels.
Artworks in glass (various sources)
Circus slides
Education department black and whites #3
Glass/reflections
Glass works
Masonic lodges
Found works 1
TV images 1989
Masculinity
Canal street
Warehouse (Canal rd)
Pin-ups porn #1
Pin-ups porn #2

Binder 5

Slides of works and projects, information taken from slide labels.
Pin-ups/Porn #3
Pin-ups/Porn #4
Bodybuilding #1
Bullfights
Ropes/Braids
TV images 1989 #1
Man theory/consumer goods
Enquirer/Best mates
War Memorial objects
Red Riding Hood/Pinocchio
Shell House, etc
Shell House, Phillip Island #1
Inscription

Binder 6

Slides of works and projects, information taken from slide labels.
Graffiti/stencils 1989
Photo matter 1989
Photo matter 90/91
Abstracts
Photo matter 89
Canal Street/fire/lights
Photo matter 93 #1
Photo matter 89