

**Margot McMahon, Papers**  
**1983 – 2004**

**Creator:** Margot McMahon (1957[?]- )

**Extent:** 1 linear ft.

**Location:**

**Processor:** Emma Bonanomi, March 2008

**Administration Information**

**Access Restrictions:** None.

**Usage Restrictions:** Copyright to the materials is retained by the respective creators.

**Preferred Citation:** Loyola University Chicago. Women & Leadership Archives. Margot McMahon Papers. Box #, Folder #.

**Provenance:** The material was donated to the WLA by Margot McMahon on July 28, 2004 (WLA2004.46).

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

**See Also:** Peggy Roach Papers at the WLA. Addendum 3. Box 29. Video Cassette of “Just Plain Hardworking” 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 brother 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 B.A. 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 10 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, n.d.**

Contains materials related to McMahon's undergraduate and graduate education, personal correspondence, newspaper clipping 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, n.d.**

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 2A, Community Work, 1998 – 2004, n.d.**, 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: Audio-Visual, 1986 – 2004, n.d.**

Contains approximately 65 photographs of McMahon's professional work, floppy disks, and one slide. Organized by medium and, within each medium, alphabetically by subject matter.

### **Subjects**

Beye School  
McMahon, Margot  
Oak Park Area Arts Council  
Oak Park, Illinois  
Sculpture  
Women – Art

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

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**Series 3: Audio-Visual Materials, 1986 - 2004, n.d.**

14	Floppy Disks (2)	n.d.
15	“Boy Gardener” Sculpture Photograph	n.d.
16	Dragon Sculpture Press Proof	1986
17	John Egan Sculpture Photograph	2004
18	John Egan Sculpture Scale Photographs	2004
19	National Museum of Women in the Arts Photographs	n.d.
20	“The Reader” Photographs	n.d.
21	“The Reader” Photographs	n.d.
22	“The Reader” Proof	n.d.
23	St. Patrick’s Photographs	n.d.
24	St. Patrick’s Photographs	n.d.
25	St. Patrick’s Photographs	n.d.
26	St. Patrick’s Photographs	n.d.
27	St. Patrick’s Photographs	n.d.
28	St. Patrick’s Photographs	n.d.
29	Slide (removed from Address Book)	n.d.