



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Bernadine Oliver papers**

1968-1993

Sc MG 540

## Summary

**Creator:** Oliver, Bernadine, 1950-1993

**Title:** Bernadine Oliver papers

**Date:** 1968-1993

**Size:** .6 linear feet (1 archival box, 1/2 archival box)

**Source:** Gift, Sally Chaffee, Oct. 26, 1995

**Abstract:** Bernadine Oliver wrote poetry of which a sampling and some essays were published in two volumes "It Begins Softly" (1980) and "Seeds of Ourselves" (1984) by Women for Racial and Economic Equality. Oliver was a founding member of the New York chapter of this organization. She was also published in an anthology, "Leaving the Bough: 50 American Poets of the 80s" (1982). Oliver studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York City in 1979 after she was stricken with multiple sclerosis in 1974 at the age of 24. The Bernadine Oliver Papers consist of handwritten, typed and published poems, prose, and sketches and drawings. Oliver's poems speak of life and its trials of personal and social injustices for working people, the unemployed and the young, as well as growth and change, and hope for the future. There are also a few letters, information regarding her memorial service, some biographical material, and notes.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. To request access to materials in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, please visit: [http://archives.nypl.org/scm/request\\_access](http://archives.nypl.org/scm/request_access)

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## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American authors -- New York (State) -- New York  
African American poets -- New York (State) -- New York  
African American women poets -- New York (State) -- New York  
American poetry -- African American authors  
Black author  
Poets -- New York (State) -- New York

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Sketchbooks

### **Names**

Oliver, Bernadine, 1950-1993