



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

Home to Harlem Project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Summary

Creator: Oliver, Bernadine, 1950-1993

Title: Bernadine Oliver papers

Date: 1968-1993

Size: 0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)

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

Revision History: This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

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 twenty-four. 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.

Preferred citation: [Item], Bernadine Oliver papers, Sc MG 540, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

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Scope and Content Note

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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 authors
African American women poets -- 20th century
African American women poets -- New York (State) -- New York
American poetry -- African American authors

Occupations

Poets -- New York (State) -- New York

Names

Oliver, Bernadine, 1950-1993

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- b. 1 f. 3 Bernadine Oliver Memorial
- b. 1 f. 4 Programs
- b. 1 f. 5 Notes
- b. 1 f. 6 Letters 1968-1993
- b. 1 f. 7 Writings—Published 1968-1984
- b. 1 f. 8 Poems (Typed) 1970s
- b. 1 f. 9 Poems (Handwritten) 1970-1973
- b. 1 f. 10 Poems (Handwritten) 1970s
- b. 1 f. 11 Poems 1980s
- b. 1 f. 12 Poems 1991
- b. 1 f. 13 Poems undated
- b. 1 f. 14 Writings—"Almost Everything"
- b. 1 f. 15-17 Writings
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 - b. 2 f. 2 Writings (From Folder Marked "Minday's Work")
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 - b. 2 f. 6 Artwork
 - b. 2 f. 7 Sketches