

The logo for Simon Fraser University (SFU), consisting of the letters "SFU" in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

# Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

## Finding Aid - Larissa Lai fonds (MsC-96)

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Generated by Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books on December 20, 2023  
Language of description: English

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# Larissa Lai fonds

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books
<b>Title:</b>	Larissa Lai fonds
<b>Reference code:</b>	MsC-96
<b>Date:</b>	1976-2006 (date of creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	2.68 m of textual records and other material
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	Created Summer 2009 by Jennifer Steveson-Zerkee Revised December 22, 2015. SS Revised January 5, 2018. MH
<b>Note [generalNote]:</b>	The archivist was Jennifer Stevenson-Zerkee

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Larissa Lai is the author of two novels, *When Fox Is a Thousand* and *Salt Fish Girl*; two books of poetry, *sybil unrest* (with Rita Wong) and *Automaton Biographies*; a chapbook, *Eggs in the Basement*; and a critical book, *Slanting I, Imagining We: Asian Canadian Literary Production in the 1980s and 1990s*. A recipient of the Astraea Foundation Emerging Writers' Award, she has been shortlisted for the Books in Canada First Novel Award, the Tiptree Award, the Sunburst Award, the City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Award, the bpNichol Chapbook Award and the Dorothy Livesay Prize. She holds a Canada Research Chair in Creative Writing at the University of Calgary and directs The Insurgent Architects' House for Creative Writing there.

### Custodial history

The material was collected and maintained by Lai until its acquisition by the Simon Fraser University Library's Special Collections and Rare Books department in 2007.

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## Scope and content

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The fonds consists mainly of textual materials, including notes and drafts of Lai's works, numerous calendars and datebooks, school materials, and material related to her activism and arts involvement. There are also a large number of photocopied reference materials on such subjects as the arts, gay and lesbian issues, racism and feminism, and Chinese culture. There are a small number of photographs and

negatives, and a wide variety of audio-visual media such as cassette tapes, Hi8 cassettes, broadcast video cassettes, and various computer media.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on contents of fonds.

### Arrangement

The original order that the items were received in by SFU Special Collections and Rare Books has been maintained, which was mainly rough chronological groupings or media-based groupings. The various types of audio-visual media were rearranged for storage reasons, but these changes have been noted in the finding aid. Some items were removed and photocopied or removed entirely for conservation reasons – these mainly consist of newsprint material, and have been noted in the finding aid. A small number of items were also removed for privacy reasons and returned to Lai – these mainly consist of school or employment records that contained Lai's Social Insurance Number. This was done because she is still living and because the number of items was so small. The fonds has been intellectually arranged into 8 series, most containing subseries.

### Restrictions on access

Access to some correspondence is restricted until Lai's 100th birthday or ten years after her death, whichever is later.

### Conditions governing use

Works in this fonds are under copyright. Researchers are required to secure permission from the copyright holders for usage of this material, except for those covered by fair dealing.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Status description:** Published
- **Physical description:** The fonds consists of 2.68 m of textual material, 48 publications, 3 sketchbooks, 19 notebooks, 2 calendars, 8 datebooks, 29 photographs : col. , 59 photographs : b&w, 2 photographs : sepia, 3 contact sheets, 7 sets of 35 mm colour negatives, 3 sets of 35 mm b&w negatives, 5 VHS cassettes, 12 digital video cassettes, 12 KCA30BRS video cassettes, 1 KCA 60XBR video cassette, 1 UCA 60 video cassette, 4 Hi8 cassettes, 14 audiocassettes, 13 floppy disks, 1 CD-ROM.

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## Access points

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- Lai, Larissa (subject)
- Multi-media (documentary form)
- Textual records (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)

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## Series descriptions

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### Series MsC-96-0-1: Personal and biographical

Date: [198-]-2002 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of material related to Lai

Physical description: 39.7 cm of textual material, 16 notebooks, 3 sketchbooks, 5 colour photographs, 4 VHS cassettes, 12 digital video cassettes, 8 audio cassettes.

Publication status:

draft

### Series MsC-96-0-2: Correspondence

Date: [ca. 1991-1998] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of correspondence, predominantly personal. Subseries are 2.1 Open and 2.2 Sealed, due to Lai

Physical description: 18.4 cm of textual material.

Publication status:

draft

### Series MsC-96-0-3: Writing

Date: [198-]-2006 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of material related to Lai

Physical description: 86.8 cm of textual material, 31 publications, 19 notebooks, 13 floppy disks,

Publication status:

draft

#### **Series MsC-96-0-4: Professional activities**

Date: [198-]-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of material related to Lai

Physical description: 53.5 cm of textual material, 9 publications, 1 colour photograph, 41 b&w photographs, 12 KCA30BRS video cassettes, 3 Hi8 cassettes, 5 audio cassettes.

Publication status:

draft

#### **Series MsC-96-0-5: Promotion**

Date: [199-]-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of material related to the promotion of Lai

Physical description: 14.3 cm of textual material, 8 publications, 21 colour photographs, 16 b&w photographs, 2 sepia photographs, 3 contact sheets, 7 sets of 35 mm colour negatives, 3 sets of 35 mm b&w negatives.

Publication status:

draft

#### **Series MsC-96-0-6: Resource materials and exhibitions Attended**

Date: [ca. 1976]-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of material related to research for Lai

Physical description: 55.8 cm of textual material, 2 colour photographs, 2 b&w photographs, 1 UCA 60 video cassette.

Publication status:

draft

**Series MsC-96-0-7: Calendars and databooks**Date: 1984-1998 (date of creation)Scope and content:

Series consists of calendars and datebooks used by Lai.

Physical description: 2 calendars, 8 datebooks.Publication status:

draft

**Series MsC-96-0-8: Media - Miscellaneous**Date: [199-]-[200-] (date of creation)Scope and content:

Series consists of media which are unlabelled, unidentifiable, or possibly blank.

Physical description: 1 VHS cassette, 1 KCA60XBR video cassette, 1 Hi8 cassette, 1 audio cassette.Publication status:

draft