



# ArchivesSpace

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## Rochelle Owens papers 4079902

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on February 24, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027  
Business Number: (212) 854-5153  
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365  
[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)  
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Owens, Rochelle
<b>Title:</b>	Rochelle Owens papers
<b>ID:</b>	4079902
<b>ID:</b>	MS#0964
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1900-2022
<b>Physical Description:</b>	10.5 linear feet 24 boxes and 1 folder
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Rochelle Owens papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Playwright, poet, and translator. She was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1936 and is married to the poet, George Economou.

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## Summary

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Correspondence, manuscripts, notes, documents, photographs, audio tapes, and printed materials of Rochelle Owens. Included are: correspondence with other writers, publishers, and friends; scripts and production files of her plays; and, manuscripts and drafts of her books and other poems, along with other related materials. Boxes 1-3: Cataloged correspondence;

Boxes 4-12: Owens' writings by title (Manuscripts, notes, photographs& printed materials); Box 13-14: General file (Audio tape cassettes, Biographical materials, Misc., Photographs& Misc. printed materials); Oversize folder: Record album & Photographs.

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## Arrangement

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Selected materials cataloged; remainder arranged.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

### Revision Description

xml file created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. Added link to archived website 2010-03-24 2019-05-20 2021-10-21

### Restrictions on Access

Boxes 2-19 are located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

### Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

## Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

Papers: Source of acquisition--6192B. Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--04/23/1997. Accession number--M-97-04-23.

## Processing Information

Papers Processed HR 08/05/1997.

## Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

[George Economou Papers](#). Columbia University Libraries.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Bohemianism -- United States
- Poets, American -- 20th century
- American literature -- 20th century
- Advertisements
- Announcements
- Audiocassettes
- Book jackets
- Certificates

- Contracts
- Copyright certificates
- Drafts (documents)
- Drawings (visual works)
- Essays
- Financial records
- First drafts
- Floppy disks
- Illustrations
- Interviews
- Lists (document genres)
- Manuscripts for publication
- Notebooks
- Notes (documents)
- Novels
- Outlines (documents)
- Phonograph records
- Photographs
- Plays (performing arts compositions)
- Poems
- Posters
- Prefaces
- Printouts
- Programs (documents)
- Proofs (printed matter)
- Radio scripts
- Reviews (documents)
- Screenplays
- Scripts (documents)
- Songs
- Storyboards
- Syllabi
- Translations
- Authors, American
- College teachers
- Dramatists
- Poets
- Translators
- Women authors, American
- Women college teachers
- Women dramatists
- Women poets, American
- Women translators
- Alexander, Jane
- Antin, David
- Ashbery, John, 1927-2017
- Bentley, Eric, 1916-

- Brustein, Robert Sanford, 1927-
- Bukowski, Charles
- Codrescu, Andrei, 1946-
- Congdon, Kirby
- Cummings, E. E (Edward Estlin), 1894-1962
- Dorn, Edward
- Economou, George
- Elmslie, Kenward
- Eshleman, Clayton
- Fitzgerald, Geraldine, 1913-2005
- Ford, Charles Henri
- Giorno, John
- Hornick, Lita R., 1927-
- Kostelanetz, Richard
- Levin, Harry, 1912-1994
- Meltzer, David
- Randall, Margaret, 1936-
- Rexroth, Kenneth, 1905-1982
- Sanders, Ed

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## Collection Inventory

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Series I: Cataloged correspondence	
Title/Description	Instances
Jane Alexander	box 1
David Antin	box 1
John Ashbery	box 1
Eric Bentley	box 1
Robert Brustein	box 1
Charles Bukowski	box 1
Andrei Codrescu	box 1
Kirby Congdon	box 1
E. E. Cummings	box 1
Edward Dorn	box 1
Kenward Elmslie	box 1
Clayton Eshleman	box 1
Geraldine Fitzgerald	box 1
Charles Henri Ford	

	box 1
John Giorno	box 1
Lita Hornick	box 1
Richard Kostelanetz	box 1
Harry Levin	box 1
David Meltzer	box 1
Margaret Randall	box 1
Kenneth Rexroth	box 1
Ed Sanders	box 1

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### Series II: Arranged correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
A - D	box 1	
E - N	box 2	
O - Z and unidentified	box 3	
Correspondence (scholars, critics, editors, etc.), 2014-2016	box 15	
Correspondence (mostly emails), 2015-2017	box 16	folder 1
Birthday cards (2) from Vita Paladino	box 16	folder 2
Letter re. "How Much Paint Does the Painting Need"	box 16	folder 3
Postcards (2)	box 16	folder 4

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### Series III: Writings and Drawings by Rochelle Owens

#### Scope and Contents

(Manuscripts, documents, photographs, & printed materials)

Title/Description	Instances	
A:		
Atelier. See: Discourse on Life & Death. [poems]; & See: Mesh Recto. [poems]	box 4	
B:		
Beclch. [play]	box 4	



List of Owen's writings and some French translations of her poems	box 16	folder 6
Black Chalk	box 4	
____. See also: Audio tape cassettes	box 4	
C:		
Chucky's Hunch. [play]	box 4	
____. See also: The Graphic-Porno Man; a Novel.	box 4	
The Cocoanut Folk-Singer. [radio play]	box 4	
Constructs. [poems]	box 4	
D:		
Dear Anyone. [musical play]	box 4	
Discourse on Life & Death. [poems]	box 4	
Diverse Poems	box 4	
E:		
Earplay. (radio script)[Sweet Potatoes] See: Who Do You Want, Peire Vidal?	box 5	
Elga's Incantation and Early Works 1955-1965. [poems]	box 5	
Emma Instigated Me. [play]	box 5	
F:		
Francesca. [musical play] See: O. K. Certaldo	box 6	
French Light. [poems]	box 6	
French translations of her poems	box 16	folder 6
French translations of her poems	box 16	folder 7
Futz. [play]	box 6	
____. See also: Oversize. Photographs	box 6	
G:		
Giggling Sushi. [play]	box 7	
The Girl on the Garage Wall. [story] See: Elga's Incantation	box 7	
The Graphic-Porno Man; a Novel.	box 7	
Guerre ^ Trois. [play] See: Three Front. [play]	box 7	
H:		
He Wants Shih. [play]	box 7	

"Hermaphropeotics" Drifting Geometries. [long poem], February 2016	box 15	
"Hermaphropeotics" Drifting Geometries. [long poem]. Notes, workings, drafts, May 2015	box 15	
Homo; a play in Two Acts	box 7	
How Much Paint Does the Painting Need. [video]	box 7	
____. See also: Audio tape cassettes	box 7	
I:		
I Am Deebler Woman. [play]	box 8	
____. See also: I Am the Babe	box 8	
I Am the Babe of Joseph Stalin's Daughter. [poems]	box 8	
Innovators in the American Theatre. [essay]	box 8	
Istanboul. [play]	box 8	
____. See also: Audio tape cassettes	box 8	
Italian translations of her poems (on-line)	box 16	folder 8
J:		
The Japanese Tourist. [play] See: Who Do You Want, Peire Vidal? [play]	box 8	
The Joe Cronicles: Part 2. [poems]	box 8	
The Joe Chronicles: Part 4: Sacre Coeur. [poems]	box 8	
The Joe 82 Creation Poems.	box 8	
K:		
The Karl Marx Play.	box 9	
____. See also: Oversize. Record album	box 9	
Keep the Wigwam Small. [novel] See: The Graphic-Porno Man; a Novel	box 9	
Kontraption. [play]	box 9	
L:		
Le Cerveau Primaire	box 16	folder 9
Lost tending to Icchen Yicchen. {poem}	box 9	
Luca. [poems]	box 9	
____. See also: Discourse on Life & Death. [poems] & Mesh Recto	box 9	
M:		

Melted Bridges. [novel] See: The Graphic-Porno Man; a Novel.	box 10	
Mesh Recto. [poems]	box 10	
____. See also: Luca. [poems]	box 10	
Mountain Rites. (A Radio drama).	box 10	
N:		
Not Be Essence That Cannot Be. [poem] See: Elga's Incantations	box 10	
Notes on Poems Read at Penns Village, 20 May 2013	box 16	folder 5
O:		
The Obscenities of Reva Cigarnik. [story] See: Elga's Incantations	box 10	
O. K. Certaldo [musical play]	box 10	
Oklahoma Too; Rabbits and Nuggets. [video]	box 10	
Out of Ur. Introduction	box 16	folder 10
P:		
The Passersby. [novel] by Liliane Atlan, trans. from the French by R. Owens	box 10	
Paysanne. See: Discourse on Life & Death. [poems]; & See: Mesh Recto. [poems]	box 10	
The Pink as a Melon Poet (a Radio Play). See: The Cocoanut Folk-Singer.	box 10	
Playwrighting ... [Workshops for writing a one-act play]	box 10	
Poems Diverse.	box 10	
Printed poems on cards	box 16	folder 12
Q:		
The Queen of Greece. [play]	box 11	
____. See also: I Am the Babe	box 11	
R:		
[Reviews of other authors by Rochelle Owens]	box 11	
S:		
Sacre Coeur Invention Poems. See: The Joe Chronicles: Part 4	box 11	
____. See: Audio tape cassettes	box 11	
Selected Poems.	box 11	

Sex-y Money. [novel] See: The Graphic-Porno Man; a Novel.	box 11	
Shemuel. [poems]	box 11	
Owens, Rochelle Manuscript Poem "Solitary Workwoman"	box 67	
Statement on her poems for arts festival	box 16	folder 11
The String Game. [play]	box 11	
Sweet Potatoes. A Comedy. [play]	box 11	
____. See also: Who Do You Want, Peire Vidal? [play]	box 11	
T:		
The Tale of the Cocoanut Girl. See: The Cocoanut Folk Singer. [radio play]	box 12	
Three Front. [play]	box 12	
____. See also: Audio tape cassettes	box 12	
W:		
W.C. Fields in French Light. [poems]	box 12	
Who Do You Want, Peire Vidal? [play]	box 12	
____. See also: Futz. [play]	box 12	
The Widow and the Colonel. (A Radio Play)	box 12	
Miscellaneous manuscripts	box 12	
Small notebook of notes and workings, 2014-2016	box 15	
Ads and publicity	box 16	folder 13
Drawings:		
Drawings by Rochelle Owens	box 14	
Drawings by Rochelle Owens, Summer/Fall 2015, Winter 2016 (In an ornate Oberon slipcase)	box 15	

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### Series IV: General File

Title/Description	Instances
Audio Tape Cassettes:	box 13
Black Chalk - ca., 1992	box 13
How Much Paint Does the Painting Need, 8/86	box 13
Istanboul [play] - 9/87 Omaha Magic Theatre, 9/87	box 13

O.K. Certaldo [musical play] - ca., 1976	box 13	
14e Festival Franco-Anglais de Požsie	box 13	
Poetry reading	box 13	
Poetry reading - 2/86 Oklahoma State University, 2/86	box 13	
Sacre Cœur Poems - ca., 1976	box 13	
Three Front [play] - 11/88 Omaha Magic Theatre (4 cassettes), 11/88	box 13	
____. Nouveau Repertoire Dramatique Guerre ^ Trois -, 7/91	box 13	
The Writers Mind [radio program] - 9/84 John Brandenburg/George Economou, 9/84	box 13	
____ - 2/85 John Brandenburg, 2/85	box 13	
____ - 9/85 Poems only, 9/85	box 13	
Biographical materials	box 14	
Miscellany	box 14	
Photographs	box 14	
____. See also: Oversize. Photographs	box 14	
Photographs (5)	box 16	folder 14
Royalty statements, 2016	box 16	folder 15
Printed miscellany	box 14	
<i>The Café Review</i> , Winter 2016	box 15	
<i>Great Writers Occupy Golden Handcuffs Review</i> , 2015	box 15	
<i>Milk: A poetry magazine</i> , Nos. 3 & 4, Spring 2015	box 15	

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### Series V: Oversize materials

Title/Description	Instances
Futz. [play] Photograph	box 273
The Karl Marx Play. Record album	box 273
Rochelle Owens Photographs	box 273

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### Series VI: Printed materials

Title/Description	Instances
<i>Hermaphroetics: Drifting Geometries</i> . By Rochelle Owens, 2017	box 16
<i>The Café Review</i> ., 2014	box 16
<i>Bless thee, Bottom, bless thee!</i> . Translations and Transformations edited by Lou Rowan, 2017	box 16
<i>Journal of Beat Studies</i> .. Edited by Ronna C. Johnson and Nancy M. Grace, 2016	box 16

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### Additions to the Papers, 2018-2024

Title/Description	Instances	
2018:		
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Accession: 2018.2019.M018		
Notes; Workings; Drafts; Poems; Correspondence; Critics and Scholars, 2017-2018	box 17	folder 1
"Solarpoetics". Mss, 2017	box 17	folder 2
"How Much Paint Does The Painting Need". CD, 1992	box 17	folder 3
"Black Chalk". CD, 28 minutes, color, 1994	box 17	folder 4
"Oklahoma Too". CD, 1987	box 17	folder 5
<i>Hermaphroetics: Drifting Geometries</i> , 2017	box 17	
TSQ, Volume 5 No. 1, February 2018	box 17	
<i>Golden Handcuffs Review</i> , No. 25	box 17	
2019:		
<i>Hermaphroetics: Drifting Geometries</i> , 2015-2016	box 18	folder 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Published by Singing House Press, 2017)		
<i>Elgh's Incantation</i> , 1960	box 18	folder 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(sections published in Journals and Magazines and "New and Selected Poems, 1961-1996")		
Correspondence (some drawings included with email) , 2017-2019	box 18	folder 3

<i>Lucs: Discourse On Life And Death</i> Six poems	box 18	folder 4
"Discourse on Life and Death - began in 1988" Ms.	box 18	folder 5
Notebook of notes, ideas, poetic workings	box 18	folder 6
Poem Cards	box 18	folder 7
Land Art (2 postcards)	box 18	folder 8
Letter to chere femme (in French), 13 June 2019	box 18	folder 9
Letters to Rochelle Owens, 2019	box 18	folder 10
Drawings:		
Drawing: "When I cancelled - I looked sad and frustrated"	box 18	folder 11
Drawing: "Crying Woman", (14 May 2019)	box 18	folder 12
Drawing "The Feminisation of France?"	box 18	folder 13
Poetry Event Announcement (The Kelly Writers House, 17 October 2013)	box 18	folder 14
Calendar Sheet for May 2019 (heavily annotated)	box 18	folder 15
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(George Economou died on 3 May 2019)		
Miscellaneous: "Splendid Examples" by Rochelle Owens; "He Wants Shih!" program for play; Philadelphia Museum of Art. Bulletin for members (annotated by Rochelle Owens in May of 2019)	box 18	folder 16
Photographs	box 18	folder 17
Printed:		
<i>Golden Handcuffs Review</i> . Numbers 25 and 26	box 18	
<i>The Cafe Review</i> . Volume 25, Summer 2014	box 18	
2020:		
"Woman of Light" by George Economou. Signed watercolor , 1988	box 19	folder 1
"Self Portrait" by Rochelle Owens. Signed oil painting, 1973	box 19	folder 2
Rochelle Owens: "Everlasting Duration," in memory of George (From the magazine <i>Ergon - Greek/American Arts and Letters</i> , 28 October 2020)	box 19	folder 3
"Patterns of Animus: A New Poem by Rochelle Owens" in <i>Poems and Poetics</i> , 2020	box 20	folder 1
Copies of new poems included in "The Aardvark Venus" and "Patterns of Animus", 2020	box 20	folder 2

Poetry reading events, notes, workings & correspondence, October 2019-2020	box 20	folder 3
Events, Correspondence, and Miscellaneous Items, January 2020 - January 2021	box 20	folder 4
Poems, Drafts, Notes, etc., 2019-2020	box 20	folder 5
Agreements, 1994-2005	box 20	folder 6
Royalty statements, 2005-2015	box 20	folder 7
"Rochelle Owens at home" Norman, OK 1984 (card, with photograph)	box 21	
Self portraits (2) of Rochelle Owens: "The Optimist and Tornado Lover: and "The Swimmer", 1983	box 21	
Printed Material:		
<i>The Aardvark Venus: New and Selected Poems 1961-2020</i> by Rochelle Owens. Texture Press: Norman, OK, 2020	box 21	
<i>Golden Handcuffs Review</i> . Volume 1, Number 8, Winter-Spring 2007	box 21	
<i>Golden Handcuffs Review</i> . Volume 1, Number 19, Fall-Winter 2014-15	box 21	
<i>Golden Handcuffs Review</i> . Volume II, Number 28	box 21	
<i>Golden Handcuffs Review</i> . Volume II, Number 29	box 21	
<i>Great Writers Occupy. Golden Handcuffs Review</i> , 2015	box 21	
2022:		
<i>Patterns of Animus:</i>		
<i>Patterns of Animus</i> by Rochelle Owens. Norman, OK: Texture Press, 2022	box 24	folder 1
<u>Physical Description:</u> 151 pages		
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Inscribed by the author to The Rare Book and Manuscript Library.		
The author's copy.		
<b>Immediate Source of Acquisition</b>		
Gift of Rochelle Owens, August 2022		
Poem: "Patterns of Animus Part 4 Carnal/Spiritual" (published on-line)	box 23	folder 1
"Patterns of Animus" drafts, 2021-2022	box 22	folder 4



"Patterns of Animus" Print out <u>Physical Description</u> : 64 pages	box 24	folder 4
"Patterns of Animus" Print out, annotated <u>Physical Description</u> : 34 pages	box 24	folder 5
"Patterns of Animus" Latest Proof corrections, 27 June 2022 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 pages	box 24	folder 2
"Patterns of Animus" Final version, June/July 2022 <u>Physical Description</u> : 30 pages	box 24	folder 3
Correspondence:		
Correspondence with the RBML, 1998	box 22	folder 1
Correspondence, 2021-April 2022	box 22	folder 3
Three emails (from Robert Heide, Susan, Margaret Harrington Tamulonis), May 2022	box 24	folder 6
Essays, Reviews, Scholarly Research on Rochelle Owens, 1970s-1984	box 22	folder 2
Poem drafts, etc.; notes on "Solar Poetics"; Lyrics: The Karl Marx Play (Steno Book), 2012	box 22	folder 5
R. Owens Wikipedia entry; Program for French Heritage Society; Reviews; Penn's Village Panel, 2013	box 22	folder 6
Poem cards, Photographs, Souvenir, Notes, Image of Rochelle's mother (Molly Adler Bass)	box 22	folder 7
Copyright Certificates, 1973-1999	box 23	folder 1
Reviews by Rochelle Owens on Maria Sabina; Toby Olson; Muriel Rukeyser; Susan Smith Nash	box 23	folder 2
Backwoods BroadSides "Luca-Discourse on Life and Death"	box 23	folder 2
Margins Symposium on Rochelle Owens, 1975	box 23	folder 2
Miscellaneous articles	box 23	folder 2
Three poem cards and one photograph card	box 24	folder 7

### Scope and Contents

Photograph by George Economou of Land Art created by Rochelle Owens; "Oklahoma Too" by Rochelle Owens, 1985; "How Much Paint Does The Painting Need" by Rochelle Owens, 1985; "How Much Paint Does The Painting Need" by Rochelle Owens, 1988

2024:

Susan Smith Nash, includes photos and analysis of "Black Chalk", 2023	box 24	folder 8
Correspondence , 2021	box 24	folder 9
Chucky's Hunch materials related to 2023 video project , 2023	box 24	folder 10
<p>Chucky's Hunch (video), 2024</p> <p>Digital Object: <a href="#">Chucky's Hunch</a></p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>Digital video file of a series of monologues in the form of letters, from the stage play "Chucky's Hunch" by Rochelle Owens. Performed by Charles Berliner.</p>		
Dans la Lumiere Violette , 2010	box 24	folder 11
Horishi , 2010	box 24	folder 12
La Femme de Jesus , 2010	box 24	folder 13
Notebook: notes, ideas, poetry drafts , 2021	box 24	folder 14
Biographical statement , 2010	box 24	folder 15
Notebook: notes, ideas, poetry drafts , 2019	box 24	folder 16
Photograph of Rochelle Owens in front of Futz! poster (printed from web), 1968	box 24	folder 17
Royalty statements , 2023	box 24	folder 18
Amazon lisitng for Patterns of Animus , 2022	box 24	folder 19

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## Archived website

### Scope and Contents

Owens's archived website is here:<https://rochelleowens.net/>

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