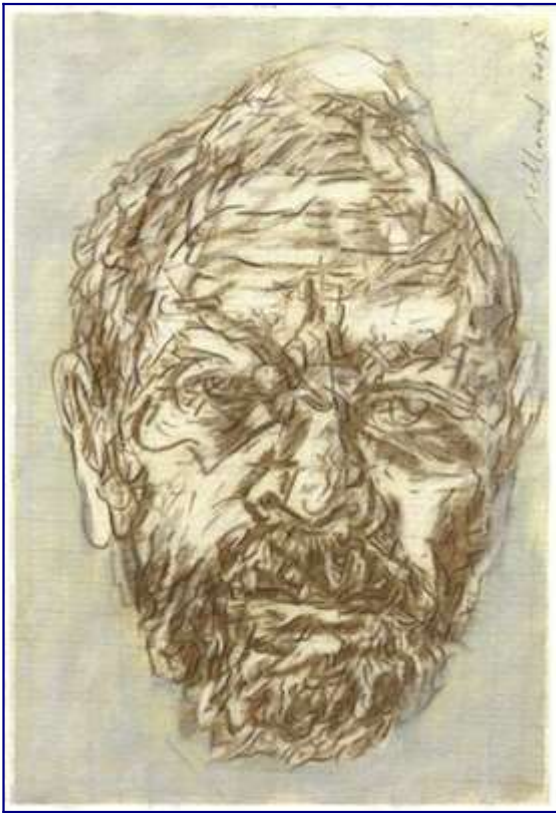


# Jan Herman

<http://www.artsjournal.com/herman/jan-herman>



Portrait of JH by Gerard Bellaart [2017]

My correspondence with writers and poets of the Beat, post-Beat and Fluxus periods, along with other literary artifacts, was acquired by Northwestern University Library. In case you're interested, the collection is described in the library's cleverly named **Jan Herman Archive**. [<https://findingaids.library.northwestern.edu/repositories/7/resources/983>]

My literary taste in fiction writers has run to Joseph Conrad, William Burroughs, Nelson Algren, Graham Greene, and John Le Carre. I have also loved reading Frank Harris, whose word portraits of artists and writers are too little known. But their books are not necessarily what I've been reading lately. As a former theater reviewer, I've lost my taste for theater. As a *biographer of William Wyler*, a great Hollywood director, I've been spoiled by his best movies. As a former film reviewer, I don't know why most of today's film critics bother. But if I had to pick a daily movie reviewer to read, it would be *David Elliott* — not because I agree with him, although he is immensely knowledgeable, but because he is the best wordsmith of the lot. Favorite literary critic? Clive James, though I don't agree with his political views. Favorite television critic once upon a time? Same guy. Favorite music critic? Martin Bernheimer (now retired).