



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Gertrude Abercrombie papers, circa 1880-1986, bulk 1935-1977, in the Archives of American Art

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July 31, 2007

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Gertrude Abercrombie papers
Date:	circa 1880-1986 (bulk 1935-1977)
Identifier:	AAA.abergert
Creator:	Abercrombie, Gertrude, 1909-1977
Extent:	5.9 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of surrealist artist Gertrude Abercrombie date from circa 1880-1986, with the bulk of the material dated 1935-1977, and measure 5.9 linear feet. Found within are biographical material; correspondence (mostly incoming letters) with friends, museums, and galleries; files for artists that interested her; writings and notes, including five journal-type notebooks; scattered personal business records; two sketchbooks by Abercrombie and additional sketches and drawings, some by others; printed material, audio recordings, one scrapbook, photographs, and estate records.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donald Baum, executor of both the estate and trust of Gertrude Abercrombie, donated the papers to the Archives of American Art in 1978 and 1986.

Related Material

A photograph of Gertrude Abercrombie at home with her painting "Slaughter House", was donated by Donald Baum to the National Collection of Fine Arts in 1979 and transferred to the Archives of American Art that same year.

Alternative Forms Available

Portions of the collection are available on 35 mm microfilm reels 1429-1435 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was minimally arranged and microfilmed on reels 1429-1435, and processed and arranged in 2007 according to archival standards.

Preferred Citation

The Gertrude Abercrombie papers, circa 1880-1986, bulk 1935-1977. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

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Biographical Note

Surrealist painter Gertrude Abercrombie (1909-1977) lived and worked in Chicago and was a prominent member of Chicago's Hyde Park arts community.

Abercrombie was known for surrealist oil paintings featuring dreamlike landscapes and fantasies. Her wide circle of friends included locally and nationally known artists, writers, and jazz musicians who made her home a popular avant-garde salon. She was the inspiration for Richie Powell's "Gertrude's Bounce" and, appeared as a fictional character in *Malcolm*, *Eustace Chisholm*, and as herself in *Gertrude of Stony Island Avenue* all by James Purdy.

The only child of Tom and Lula Janes [Jane] Abercrombie, Gertrude was born in Austin, Texas in 1909, while her opera singer parents were in town with a traveling company. In 1913, the family relocated to Berlin to further Jane's career, but the outbreak of World War I forced their return to the United States. They lived with Tom Abercrombie's family in Alledo, Illinois, before permanently settling in Chicago.

Gertrude Abercrombie had a facility with language and possessed musical and artistic talents. After graduation from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana with a degree in romance languages in 1929, she studied figure drawing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago for a short time. She then enrolled at the American Academy of Art, also in Chicago, for a year long course in commercial art. Her first job was drawing gloves for Mesirov Department Store ads, followed by a stint working as an artist for Sears.

By 1932, Gertrude Abercrombie began painting seriously. The following summer, she participated in an outdoor art fair in downtown Chicago where she made her first sale and received favorable mention in a newspaper review of the event. Abercrombie's work that featured self-portraits and recurring images of personal symbols - trees, horses, owls, keys, shells, doors, stairways, ladders - began to attract attention. Beginning in 1934, Gertrude Abercrombie was employed as a painter in the WPA Federal Art Project in 1934, enabling her to feel validated as an artist and move from the home of her conservative, Christian Scientist parents to her own apartment. The Chicago Society of Artists presented a solo exhibition of Abercrombie's work in 1934, and in 1936 she showed at the Katharine Kuh Gallery (along with Rita Stein and Nicola Ziroli). In 1936 and 1938 Gertrude Abercrombie won prizes at the Art Institute of Chicago's Annual Exhibition of Works by Artists of Chicago and Vicinity.

She left the WPA in 1940 and married lawyer Robert Livingston. Their daughter, Dinah, was born in 1942, and they soon moved to a large Victorian house on South Dorchester St. where Gertrude lived for the remainder of her life. The couple divorced in 1948. That same year she married Frank Sandiford, a music critic whose pen name was Paul Warren. An accomplished improvisational pianist, Gertrude Abercrombie became friends with many prominent jazz artists whom she met through Sandiford; in fact, Dizzy Gillespie performed at their wedding. Abercrombie and Sandiford separated in 1964.

The 1940s through 1950s were Gertrude Abercrombie's most productive and prolific period. Although she no longer painted many portraits, her work remained focused on the same themes and symbols. She believed that art was about ideas rather than technique and insisted that "It is always myself that I paint." During this period, Abercrombie

exhibited widely in group shows and had solo exhibitions at the Art Institute of Chicago, Associated American Artists (New York), and Leonard Linn, Inc. (Winnetka, Ill.)

By the late 1950s, Gertrude Abercrombie began a long decline. Alcoholism started to take a toll. She suffered serious financial reverses, and in 1964 separated from Frank Sandiford. Debilitating arthritis eventually landed her in a wheel chair, and she became reclusive. In 1977, very near the end of her life, Gertrude Abercrombie was honored with a well-received retrospective exhibition at the Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago. She was able to attend the reception and enjoy seeing the many old friends who were at the event.

Gertrude Abercrombie died in Chicago in 1977. Her will established The Gertrude Abercrombie Trust that cared for and distributed to various institutions her own paintings and a personal collection of works by other artists to selected institutions, mainly in the Midwest.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of surrealist artist Gertrude Abercrombie date from circa 1880-1986, with the bulk of the material dated 1935-1977, and measure 5.9 linear feet. Found within the papers are biographical material; correspondence (mostly incoming letters) with friends, museums, and galleries; artists files; writings and notes, including five journal-type notebooks; scattered personal business records; two sketchbooks by Abercrombie and additional sketches and drawings, some by others; printed material, audio recordings, one scrapbook, photographs, and estate records.

Biographical material consists of biographical notes, Gertrude Abercrombie's will, address books, and a file titled "memorabilia." Personal and professional correspondence consists mainly of incoming letters and some drafts of Gertrude Abercrombie's outgoing letters. Letters from museums and galleries concern loans of paintings and exhibitions. A large amount of the personal correspondence consists of post cards including many antique ones, as well as cards containing original art work by Julio de Diego, Jerry [Jerome] Karidis, Karl Priebe.

Artist files consist of correspondence, printed material, and photographs concerning painters, writers, a jazz musician, and a photographer. The individuals represented are: Dudley Huppler, Jerome Karidis, Karl Priebe, James Purdy, Sonny Rollins, Carl Van Vechten, Wendell Wilcox, John Wilde, and Thornton Wilder.

Writings and notes include reminiscences, miscellaneous writings and notes, and a girlhood diary with brief entries. Five notebooks contain a variety of writings dating from 1953 through 1975, and undated. One volume concerns only her second husband Frank Sandiford.

Business records include a painting catalog on file cards, mailing and guest lists, and miscellaneous sales records. In addition, six notebooks record expenses, sales, inventories, mailing lists, a register of paintings, and a guest book.

There are two sketchbooks, Christmas card designs, sketches and drawings done by Gertrude Abercrombie. There are also prints, drawings, and a painting by Emil Arman, B. Evans, de Diego, and unknown artists.

Printed material consists of articles and clippings about Gertrude Abercrombie, exhibition catalogs, and reproductions. Also included are books by friends inscribed by the authors, among them: Nelson Algren, Richard Armour, Dudley Huppler, James Purdy, Ned Rorem, Paul Warren [pen name of Abercrombie's second husband, Frank Sandiford], Studs Terkel, and Thornton Wilder.

Audio recordings (33-1/3 rpm phonograph albums) are inscribed to Gertrude Abercrombie by the artists. Orlando's album cover, designed by Abercrombie, incorporates one of her paintings.

Records of the Estate of Gertrude Abercrombie and the Gertrude Abercrombie Trust, Donald Baum, Executor, consist mainly of correspondence with the institutions that were offered works of art by Gertrude Abercrombie and from her personal collection. Also included are general correspondence, financial and tax records, and legal documents.

There is one scrapbook dated 1943 containing photographs and printed material.

Photographs are of art work, people, places, and miscellaneous subjects; negatives, slides, and transparencies are included in this series, too. Photographs of art include the work of Gertrude Abercrombie, Karl Priebe, and Charles

Sebree. People pictured are Gertrude Abercrombie and family, including her parents, Richard I. Livingston, Dinah Livingston, and Frank Sandiford. There are also 19th and early 20th century photographs of ancestors. Among the images of friends are: Ivan le Lorraine Albright, Arnold Blanch, Dudley Huppler, Doris Lee, Karl Priebe, and Richard Purdy. Photographs of jazz artists include: Louis Armstrong, George Davis, Erroll Garner, Dizzy Gillespie, Earl Hines, Orlando, Charlie Parker, Sonny Rollins, Sarah Vaughn, and the Modern Jazz Quartet. Of particular note are the portraits of Gertrude Abercrombie and Dizzy Gillespie by Carl Van Vechten. Among the photographs of places are interior views of Gertrude Abercrombie's home and studio, unidentified landscapes, travel pictures of San Francisco and commercially produced stereopticon slides of other locations. Miscellaneous subjects are automobiles, cats, exhibition installations, and a still life setup.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 11 series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1902-1976 (Box 1, OV9; 0.1 linear ft.)
 - Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1935-1977 (Boxes 1-2; 1.65 linear ft.)
 - Series 3: Artist files, circa 1935-1977 (Box 2; 0.25 linear ft.)
 - Series 4: Writings and Notes, circa 1919-1977 (Box 3; 0.1 linear ft.)
 - Series 5: Business Records, circa 1944-1977 (Box 3; 0.2 linear ft.)
 - Series 6: Art Work, circa 1939-1975 (Boxes 3, 7; 0.2 linear ft.)
 - Series 7: Printed Material, circa 1906-1977 (Boxes 3-4; 1.6 linear ft.)
 - Series 8: Audio Recordings, circa 1970-1974 (Box 7; 0.1 linear ft.)
 - Series 9: Estate Records, circa 1976-1986 (Box 5; 0.5 linear ft.)
 - Series 10: Scrapbook, circa 1943 (Box 5; 1 folder)
 - Series 11: Photographs, circa 1880-1978 (Boxes 5-7; OV8, 1.0 linear ft.)
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Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Surrealism
Women artists
Women painters

Types of Materials:

Diaries
Drawings
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks
Sketches
Sound recordings
Writings

Names:

Algren, Nelson, 1909-1981
Armin, Emil, 1883-

Armour, Richard Willard, 1906-
De Diego, Julio, 1900-
Evans, B.
Huppler, Dudley, 1917-1988
Karidis, Jerome
Priebe, Karl J., 1914-1976
Purdy, Carl
Purdy, James
Rollins, Sonny
Rorem, Ned, 1923-
Terkel, Studs, 1912-2008
Van Vechten, Carl, 1880-1964
Warren, Paul, 1916-
Wilcox, Wendell
Wilde, John, 1919-2006
Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975

Occupations:

Painters -- Illinois -- Chicago

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1902-1976

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 9)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material consists of biographical notes, Gertrude Abercrombie's will, address books, and a file titled "memorabilia." Among the memorabilia are: the wedding announcement of Gertrude Abercrombie and Robert I. Livingston; daughter Dinah Livingston's childhood letters and greeting cards to her mother, along with school records; miscellaneous printed material includes a newspaper clipping about the Aledo championship football team of 1900, of which Gertrude's father, Tom Abercrombie, was a member.

Box 1, Folder 1 Addresses, undated
(3 vols. and loose slips)

Box 1, Folder 2 [Biographical Notes, undated](#)

Box 1, Folder 3 Chicago City Council Tribute to Gertrude Abercrombie, 1977

Box 1, Folder 4 Memorabilia, 1902-1967, undated

Box 1, Folder 5 Stock Certificate, 1932

Box 1, Folder 6 [Will, 1976](#)

Box OV 9 Certificate and Diplomas, 1921-1929

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Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1935-1977

1.65 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Personal and professional correspondence consists mainly of incoming letters and some drafts of Gertrude Abercrombie's outgoing letters. Letters from museums and galleries concern loans of paintings and exhibitions. A large amount of the personal correspondence consists of post cards including many antique ones, and cards containing original art work by Julio de Diego, Jerry [Jerome] Karidis, Karl Priebe.

Box 1, Folder 7-8 Correspondence (Anderson-Williams; unidentified, Alice-Reg), undated

Box 1, Folder 9-28 Correspondence, 1935-1965, undated

Box 2, Folder 1-16 Correspondence, 1966-1977

Box 2, Folder 17 Greeting Cards, 1950-1977

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Series 3: Artist files, circa 1935-1977

0.25 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Artist files consist of correspondence, printed material, and photographs concerning painters, writers, a jazz musician, and a photographer. The individuals represented are: Dudley Huppler, Jerome Karidis, Karl Priebe, James Purdy, Sonny Rollins, Carl Van Vechten, Wendell Wilcox, John Wilde, and Thornton Wilder. Additional letters from many of these people are included with correspondence (Series 1).

Box 2, Folder 18	Huppler, Dudley, 1950-1971, undated
Box 2, Folder 19-20	Karidis, Jerome, 1951-1977, undated
Box 2, Folder 21	Priebe, Karl, 1940-1976, undated
Box 2, Folder 22	Purdy, James, 1953-1977, undated
Box 2, Folder 23	Rollins, Sonny, 1962-1975
Box 2, Folder 24	Van Vechten, Carl, 1950-1956
Box 2, Folder 25-26	Wilcox, Wendell, 1947-1975, undated
Box 2, Folder 27	Wilde, John, 1951-1968, undated
Box 2, Folder 28	Wilder, Thornton, 1935-1975, undated

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Series 4: Writings and Notes, circa 1919-1977

0.1 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Among the writings and notes are a girlhood diary with brief entries, reminiscences, miscellaneous writings and notes. Notebooks contain a variety of writings: Vol. 1: 1953-1959, includes income and expenses, quips, reminiscences, miscellaneous notes; Vol. 2: 1959 is a brief journal; Vol. 3: 1971-1975 includes reminiscences; Vol. 4: undated, features lists of cats, roomers, names and addresses; and Vol. 5: undated, is about Frank Sandiford, her second husband.

Box 3, Folder 1	Diary, 1919, 1924 (1 vol.)
Box 3, Folder 2	Writings and Notes, 1963, 1975, undated
Box 3, Folder 3	Notebooks, 1953-1959, 1971-1977, undated (5 vols.)

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Series 5: Business Records, circa 1944-1977

0.2 Linear feet (Box 3)

Box 3, Folder 4, Item 1	Business Records, Notebook, 1940s-1950s Notes: Expenses, sales, inventory, profit and loss, mailing lists
Box 3, Folder 4, Item 2	Business Records, Notebook, "Paintings", 1950-1960
Box 3, Folder 4, Item 3	Business Records, Notebook, "Sales", 1950-1960
Box 3, Folder 5, Item 1	Business Records, Notebook, "Exhibitions", 1952-1957
Box 3, Folder 5, Item 2	Business Records, Notebook, circa 1955-1957 Notes: Includes "Fall Opening" guest register for September 28, 1957
Box 3, Folder 5, Item 3	Business Records, Notebook, 1969
Box 3	Catalog File of Paintings
Box 3, Folder 6	Out; In Studio, undated
Box 3, Folder 7	Disposed Of (includes sales), undated
Box 3, Folder 8	Sales [folded sheets in Catalog File], undated
Box 3, Folder 9	Gilman Galleries, 1964, undated
Box 3, Folder 10	Mailing Lists and Guest Lists, 1977, undated

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Series 6: Art Work, circa 1939-1975

0.2 Linear feet (Boxes 3, 7)

Scope and Contents: Art work by Gertrude Abercrombie consists of two sketchbooks, Christmas card designs, sketches and drawings. There are also prints, drawings, and a painting by Emil Arman, B. Evans, de Diego, and unknown.

Box 3 By Gertrude Abercrombie

Box 3, Folder 11 Christmas Card Designs, 1939, undated

Box 3, Folder 12 [Sketchbook, undated](#)
(1 vol.; *see also*: Box 7)

Box 3, Folder 13 Sketches and Drawings, 1940-1957, undated

Box 3, Folder 14 By Other Artists - Prints, Drawings, and Painting (Emil arman, B. Evans, Naomi Kherson, and unknown), 1975, undated
(*see also*: Box 7)

Box 7, Folder 1 By Gertrude Abercrombie - Sketchbook; By Other Artists - Print (de Diego), undated
(disbound volume, original collation)

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Series 7: Printed Material, circa 1906-1977

1.6 Linear feet (Boxes 3-4)

Scope and Contents: Printed material consists of articles and clippings about Gertrude Abercrombie, exhibition catalogs, and reproductions. Also included are books by friends inscribed by the authors, among them: Nelson Algren, Richard Armour, Dudley Huppler, James Purdy, Ned Rorem, Paul Warren [pen name of Abercrombie's second husband, Frank Sandiford], Studs Terkel, and Thornton Wilder

Box 3, Folder 15-16	Articles about/mentioning Gertrude Abercrombie, 1946-1976
Box 3, Folder 17	Books - Inscribed by Authors, 1939-1974 (26 vols.) Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algren, Nelson. <i>The Neon Wilderness</i> (2 photographs enclosed), 1968 • Armour, Richard. <i>Drugstore Days</i>, 1959 • Armour, Richard. <i>Going Like Sixty</i>, 1974 • Blake, James. <i>The Joint</i> (clipping enclosed), 1971 • Campbell, Gladys. <i>The Momentary Beach</i>, 1972 • Cocreau, Jean. <i>The Difficulty of Being</i> (introduction by Ned Rorem; post card enclosed), 1957 • Huppler, Dudley. <i>The Lesson Book</i>, 1946 • Huppler, Dudley. <i>The New Joker</i>, 1961 • Mezzrow, Milton "Mezz" and Bernard Wolfe. <i>Really the Blues</i>, 1946 • Purdy, James. <i>Cabot Wright Begins</i>, 1964 • Purdy, James. <i>Eustace Chisholm and the Works</i>, 1968 • Purdy, James. <i>The House of the Solitary Maggot</i>, 1974 • Purdy, James. <i>Jeremy's Version</i>, 1970 • Purdy, James. <i>Malcolm</i>, 1959 • Purdy, James. <i>Malcolm</i> [French edition], 1971 • Purdy, James. <i>The Nephew</i>, 1960 • Purdy, James. <i>The Running Sun</i>, 1971 • Purdy, James. <i>63: Dream Palace</i>, 1956 • Rorem, Ned. <i>The Paris Diary of Ned Rorem</i> (post card enclosed), 1966 (see also: Cocteau, Jean)
Box 4, Folder 1	Books - Inscribed by Authors, 1939-1974 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russell, Ross. <i>Bird Lives!</i>, 1973 • Sandiford, Frank (see: Warren, Paul [pen name]) • Tarcov, Oscar. <i>Bravo My Monster</i>, 1953 • Terkel, Studs. <i>Giants of Jazz</i>, 1957 • Turbyfill, Mark. <i>A Marriage with Space</i> (commentary by Turbyfill enclosed), 1973 • Warren, Paul. <i>The Next Time Is For Life</i>, [1953] • Wilder, Thornton. <i>Heaven's My Destination</i>, 1935, 1960 (2 copies [one paperback])
Box 4, Folder 2	Books - Inscribed by Others, 1930-1939

(26 vols.)

Notes:

:

- Stein, Gertrude. Picasso (inscribed by Warren), 1939
- Works in Progress, Number 1 (includes contributions by Algren and Purdy; inscribed by Helen), 1970

Box 4, Folder 3	Books - Not Inscribed (History of the Hyde Park Art Center 1939-1976), 1976
Box 4	Clippings
Box 4, Folder 4-5	Gertrude Abercrombie, undated
Box 4, Folder 6	Gertrude Abercrombie, 1954-1979
Box 4, Folder 7	Artists, 1933-1974, undated
Box 4, Folder 8	Jazz, 1948-1975, undated
Box 4, Folder 9	Miscellaneous Art Topics, 1968-1977, undated
Box 4, Folder 10	Miscellaneous Subjects (not art related), 1938-1973, undated
Box 4, Folder 11-18	Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, 1932-1977, undated
Box 4, Folder 19	Exhibition Catalogs (not Gertrude Abercrombie), 1936-1976, undated
Box 4, Folder 20	Miscellaneous Printed Items, 1906-1951, undated
Box 4	Periodicals
Box 4, Folder 21	Arsenal: Surrealist Subversion (no. 3), 1976
Box 4, Folder 22	The Living Museum, 1985
Box 4, Folder 23-25	Manuscript (April 1935 and April 1936 issues contain pieces by Wendell Wilcox), 1935-1936
Box 4, Folder 26	Postcards (blank), undated
Box 4, Folder 27-28	Reproductions [from magazines and lecture programs], 1937-1973, undated

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Series 8: Audio Recordings, circa 1970-1974

0.1 Linear feet (Box 7)

Scope and Contents: All recordings are 33-1/3 rpm phonograph alums inscribed to Gertrude Abercrombie by the artists. Orlando's album cover, designed by Abercrombie, incorporates one of her paintings.

Box 7, Folder 2	Cain, Jackie and Roy Kral. "Time and Love" and "A Wilder Alias", 1972, circa 1974
Box 7, Folder 3	Gillespie, Dizzy. "Dizzy on the French Rivera", undated
Box 7, Folder 4	Orlando. "Orlando!...", 1970

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Series 9: Estate Records, circa 1976-1986

0.5 Linear feet (Box 5)

Scope and Contents: Records of the Estate of Gertrude Abercrombie and the Gertrude Abercrombie Trust, Donald Baum, Executor, consist mainly of correspondence with institutions being offered works of art by Gertrude Abercrombie and from her personal art collection. In addition, general correspondence, financial and tax records, and legal documents are included.

Box 5, Folder 1-3	Correspondence, General
Box 5, Folder 4	Correspondence with Auction House (Henzel Galleries, Inc.), 1977-1980
Box 5, Folder 5	Correspondence with Conservator Barry R. Bauman, 1979-1980
Box 5, Folder 6-28	Correspondence with Institutions, 1875-1885 Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auckland Memorial Art Center, 1980 • Art Institute of Chicago, Prints and Drawings Department, 1978-1979 • Art Institute of Chicago, Twentieth Century Painting and Sculpture Department, 1978 • Beinecke Library, Yale University, 1980 • Detroit Institute of Arts, 1979 • Elmhurst College, 1979-1980 • Essley Noble Memorial Museum, 1979 • Illinois State Museum, 1979 • Illinois State University, Center for Visual Arts Gallery, 1979 • Indianapolis Museum of Art, 1978 • Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois, 1978-1979 • Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences, 1978 • Madison Art Center, Inc., 1978-1979 • Milwaukee Art Center, 1978-1979 • Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago), 1978-1979 • National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, 1979 • National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution, 1978 • National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, 1978-1980 • Smart Gallery, University of Chicago, 1978-1979 • Southern Illinois University Museum and Art Gallery, 1979 • University of Michigan Art Museum, 1979 • Western Illinois University Art Gallery, 1978-1979 • Whitney Museum of American Art, 1978-1979
Box 5, Folder 29	Financial Records, 1977-1984, undated
Box 5, Folder 30	Inventories, 1977-1980, undated
Box 5, Folder 31	Legal Documents, 1976-1980
Box 5, Folder 32	Notes, undated

Box 5, Folder 33

Tax Returns, 1977-1984

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Series 10: Scrapbook, circa 1943

0.2 Linear feet (Box 5)

Scope and Contents: The scrapbook contains photographs of works by Gertrude Abercrombie and a small amount of printed material consisting of reviews and pages from exhibition catalogs.

Box 5, Folder 34	Scrapbook (1 vol. disbound), 1943, undated
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Series 11: Photographs, circa 1880-1978

1 Linear foot (Boxes 5-7; OV 8)

Scope and Contents: Photographs are of art work, people, places, and miscellaneous subjects; negatives, slides, and transparencies are included in this series, too.

Photographs of art include the work of Gertrude Abercrombie, Karl Priebe, and Charles Sebree.

People pictured are Gertrude Abercrombie and family, including her parents, Richard I. Livingston, Dinah Livingston, and Frank Sandiford. There are also 19th and early 20th century photographs of ancestors. Among the images of friends are: Ivan le Lorraine Albright, Arnold Blanch, Dudley Huppler, Doris Lee, Karl Priebe, and Richard Purdy. Photographs of jazz artists include: Louis Armstrong, George Davis, Erroll Garner, Dizzy Gillespie, Earl Hines, Orlando, Charlie Parker, Sonny Rollins, Sarah Vaughn, and the Modern Jazz Quartet. Of particular note the portraits of Gertrude Abercrombie and Dizzy Gillespie by Carl Van Vechten.

Among the photographs of places are interior views of Gertrude Abercrombie's home and studio, unidentified landscapes, travel pictures of San Francisco and commercially produced stereopticon slides of other locations. Miscellaneous subjects are automobiles, cats, exhibition installations, and a still life setup.

Arrangement: Photographs are arranged into 5 subseries:

- Subseries 1: Art Work, 1978, undated
- Subseries 2: People, circa 1880-1976, undated
- Subseries 3: Places, 1958-1971, undated
- Subseries 4: Miscellaneous Subjects, 1931-1961, undated
- Subseries 5: Negatives, Slides, and Transparencies, 1963, undated

Subseries 11.1: Art work, 1978, undated

Box 5, Folder 35-36 By Gertrude Abercrombie, 1935-1978, undated

Box 5, Folder 37 By Other Artists (works by Karl Priebe, Charles Sebree, and unknown, owned by Gertrude Abercrombie), undated

Subseries 11.2: People, circa 1880-1976, undated

Box 5, Folder 38-44 Gertrude Abercrombie (includes portrait by Carl Van Vechten), circa 1909-1970s
(see also: Box 7; OV 8)

Box 5, Folder 45 Gertrude Abercrombie with Groups (including Cameron, Huppler, Sandiford, Priebe, and unidentified), 1953-1960, undated
(see also: Box 7)

Box 5, Folder 46 Gertrude Abercrombie with Groups (unidentified), undated

Box 5, Folder 47 Gertrude Abercrombie with Individuals (Alizier, Benjamin, Cameron), 1939-1954, undated

Box 5, Folder 48 Gertrude Abercrombie with Individuals (unidentified), 1932-1966, undated

	(see also: Box 7)
Box 5, Folder 49-50	Gertrude Abercrombie and Friends, circa 1945 (26 Photomatic pictures in small metal frames)
Box 5	Family
Box 5, Folder 51	Emma Gertrude Stevens Christmas Abercrombie [grandmother], 19th century
Box 5, Folder 52	Joseph Abercrombie [grandfather?], 19th century
Box 5, Folder 53	Tom and Jane Abercrombie [parents] (some views with Gertrude), 19th century-1920s, undated
Box 5, Folder 54	Dinah Livingston [daughter], circa 1942-1960s (see also: Box 7)
Box 5, Folder 55	Robert Livingston [first husband] (some views with Gertrude and Dinah), undated
Box 5, Folder 56	Frank Sandiford [second husband] (some views with Gertrude, unidentified individuals, and groups), 1947-1959, undated
Box 5, Folder 57	Mr. and Mrs. James Stevens (Christmas) [great grandparents], 19th century
Box 5, Folder 58	Unidentified Relatives, 19th century-1931, undated
Box 6, Folder 1	Groups (including Don Baum, Arnold Blanch, Lester Bridaham, Dudley Huppler, Doris Lee, and Karl Priebe), 1936-1970, undated
Box 6, Folder 2	Groups (unidentified), 1942-1969, undated
Box 6, Folder 3	Individuals (Albright-Pearson), 1934-1975, undated Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albright, Ivan le Lorraine • Burroughs, Margaret • Chunning • Gillman, Mack • Hevish, Jack • Hupler, Dudley • Krogh, Whitney • Mann, Helen • Meyer, Kenneth • Meyers, Dick • Pearson, Albert Raphael • Purdy, Richard (see: Box 7)
Box 6, Folder 4	Individuals (Priebe, Karl), 1970, undated

Box 6, Folder 5	<p>Individuals (Ruwolo [?]-Woolf), 1942, undated</p> <p>Notes: :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruwolo [?]. Felix • Tichon, James • Velde, Rosabelle • Wilcox, Wendell • Woolf, Samuel
Box 6, Folder 6	<p>Individuals (Unidentified), 1936-1976, undated (<i>see also</i>: OV 8)</p>
Box 6, Folder 7	<p>Jazz Artists (Armstrong-Garner), undated</p> <p>Notes: :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armstrong, Louis • Bigard, Barney • Catlett, Sidney • Cooper, Nicholas F. • Davis, George (<i>see also</i>: Box 7) • Garner, Erroll
Box 6, Folder 8	<p>Jazz Artists (Gillsepie, Dizzy; includes portraits by Carl Van Vechten), 1947, undated</p>
Box 6, Folder 9	<p>Jazz Artists (Gordon-Washington), 1947, undated</p> <p>Notes: :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordon, Dexter and Melba Liston • Harris, Bill • Hawkins, Coleman • Hines, Earl • Jackson, David • Krissly, Swiss • Liston, Melba (<i>see</i>: Gordon, Dexter and Melba Liston) • McGhee, Howard • Orlando • Parker, Charlie • Phillips, Joe "Flip" • Potter, Tommy • Roach, Max • Rollins, Sonny • Sinatra, Frank • Thompson, Sonny • Vaughn, Sarah • Venturo, Charlie • Washington, Leon
Box 6, Folder 10	<p>Jazz Artists (unidentified), undated</p>
Box 6, Folder 11	<p>Jazz Artists - Groups (Modern Jazz Quartet), undated</p>

Box 6, Folder 12	Jazz Artists - Groups (including Davis, Harris, Roach, Rollins, Vaughn, unidentified, Gertrude Abercrombie and Frank Sandiford), 1959, undated
Box 7, Folder 5	Gertrude Abercrombie, undated (see also: Box 5)
Box 7, Folder 6	Gertrude Abercrombie with Others (school picture; with unidentified man), circa 1923, undated (see also: Box 5)
Box 7, Folder 7	Family and Individuals (Dinah Livingston [daughter]; Richard Purdy), undated (see also: Box 6)
Box 7, Folder 8	Jazz Artists (Davis, George; unidentified), undated (see also: Box 6)
Box OV 8	Gertrude (Raphael McPerhson, photographer); Unidentified Man, 19th century; undated

Subseries 11.3: Places, 1958-1971, undated

Box 6, Folder 13-14	Buildings - Exteriors (home of Gertrude Abercrombie [?]; unidentified), 1958, undated
Box 6, Folder 15	Buildings - Interiors (home and studio of Gertrude Abercrombie), 1971, undated
Box 6, Folder 16	Landscapes (unidentified), undated
Box 6, Folder 17	San Francisco, undated
Box 6, Folder 18	Stereopticon Slides (mainly travel pictures), circa 1880-1900

Subseries 11.4: Miscellaneous Subjects, 1931-1961, undated

Box 6, Folder 19	Automobiles, undated
Box 6, Folder 20	Cats, undated (see also: Box 7)
Box 6, Folder 21	Elephants, undated
Box 6, Folder 22	Exhibitions (unidentified group show with self-portrait; "Shells from the Collections of Gertrude Abercrombie", 1931, undated
Box 6, Folder 23	Sailboat, "Jolly Molly", 1961

Box 6, Folder 24	Still Life Setup, undated, undated
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Box 7, Folder 9	Cats, undated
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Subseries 11.5: Negatives, Slides, and Transparencies, 1963, undated

Box 6	Art Work
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Box 6, Folder 25	Negatives, undated
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Box 6, Folder 26	Slides, 1963, undated
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Box 6, Folder 27	Transparencies, undated
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Box 6	People
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Box 6, Folder 28	Negatives, undated
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Box 6, Folder 29	Slides, undated
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Box 6, Folder 30	Transparencies, undated
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Box 6	Places
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Box 6, Folder 31	Negatives, undated
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Box 6, Folder 32	Slide, undated
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Box 6, Folder 33	Miscellaneous Subjects (negatives), undated
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