



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Miriam Beerman Papers, circa 1930-2006, in the Archives of American Art

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Women's History Initiative and the National Collections Program

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Miriam Beerman papers
Identifier:	AAA.beermiri
Date:	circa 1930-2006
Creator:	Beerman, Miriam
Extent:	2.3 Linear feet 2.34 Gigabytes
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of printmaker and painter Miriam Beerman measure 2.3 linear feet and 2.34 GB and date from circa 1930 to 2006. Found are scattered biographical materials including artwork and a video recording, correspondence, writings including digital video recordings, and printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Miriam Beerman donated her papers in several installments from 2005 to 2009. Additional materials were donated by Beerman's son, William Jaffe in 2015.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds an interview of Miriam Beerman conducted 2009 December 28, by Anne Louise (Bayly) Berman, at Beerman's home, in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Available Formats

The video recording has been digitized for research access and is available at Archives of American Art offices.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2021. Born-digital material was processed by Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner in 2019 with funding provided by Smithsonian Collection Care and Preservation Fund.

Preferred Citation

Miriam Beerman papers, circa 1930-2006. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Miriam Beerman (1923-) is a painter and printmaker in Upper Montclair, New Jersey.

Beerman was born in Providence, Rhode Island and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Rhode Island School of Design. She continued her studies with Yasuo Kuniyoshi at the Art Students League and with Adja Yunkers at the New School for Social Research.

In 1972, Beerman's exhibition *The Enduring Beast*, based on a book of poems that she edited and illustrated, was the first one-woman show ever presented by the Brooklyn Museum. Since that time Beerman has taken part in numerous solo and group exhibitions over the last 50 years and is represented in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Scope and Contents

The papers of printmaker and painter Miriam Beerman measure 2.3 linear feet and 2.34 GB and date from circa 1930 to 2006. Found are scattered biographical materials including artwork and a video recording, correspondence, writings including digital video recordings, and printed material.

Biographical materials include Beerman's artist statements and curriculum vitae, scattered personal business records, artworks, and a video recording titled *Miriam Beerman: Drawings, Prints, Collage*.

Correspondence includes professional and personal letters including Beerman's letters to her parents when she was a student in Paris, France.

Writings by Beerman include two digital video recordings of artist books: *Three Sentences Beginning with the Letter S* [featuring poems by Halvard Johnson and others], 2006, and *Washing the Corpse* [poem by Rainer Maria Rilke], 2006, narrated by Beerman.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 4 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1930-2006 (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 1, 3)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1945-2005 (0.8 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 3: Writings and Notes, 1949-2006 (0.3 linear feet; Box 2, 2.34 GB; ER01-ER02)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1956-2005 (0.5 linear feet; Box 2)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Women artists
- Women painters
- Women printmakers

Types of Materials:

- Video recordings

Occupations:

- Painters -- New Jersey
- Printmakers -- New Jersey

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1930-2006

0.7 Linear feet (Box 1, 3)

Scope and Contents: Beerman's biographical materials include artist statements, CVs, diplomas, school report cards, a wedding invitation, and examples of paper samples. Found within personal business records are agreements, grant proposals, exhibition loans, sales, and teaching records. Photographs depict Beerman, her family, friends, and artwork. Also found are scattered sketches and one linoleum and one plexiglass printing plate. Included is a video recording, *Miriam Beerman: Drawings, Prints, Collage*.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Miriam Beerman Biographical Material, 1936-2005
Box 1, Folder 3	Personal Business Records, 1953-2003
Box 1, Folder 4-5	Photographs, circa 1930-2006
Box 1, Folder 6	Artwork, 1940-circa 1970s
Box 3	Artwork, Oversized, circa 1950-circa 1990
Box 1, Folder 7	Miriam Beerman, Drawings, Prints and Collages, 1983 1 Videocassettes (U-matic)

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1947-2005

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Beerman's letters concern her professional career and personal life. Letters from Beerman are written to her family while she was studying in France in the mid-1950s. Correspondents include Judy Brodsky, John Canady, Nora Crain, and Vera Klement, as well as institutions such as the Brooklyn Museum and the Montclair Art Museum.

Box 1, Folder 8-10	Letters from Miriam Beerman to Family, 1954-1956
Box 1, Folder 11	General, 1947
Box 1, Folder 12	General, 1955-1957
Box 1, Folder 13	General, 1960-1969
Box 1, Folder 14-16	General, 1970-1979
Box 1, Folder 17-19	General, 1980-1989
Box 1, Folder 20-21	General, 1990-1999
Box 2, Folder 1	General, 2000-2005
Box 2, Folder 2	General, Exhibitions, 1970s-2000s
Box 2, Folder 3	Brooklyn Museum, 1969-1972
Box 2, Folder 4	Montclair Art Museum, 1972-2002
Box 2, Folder 5	Virginia Center for Creative Arts, 1983-1987

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Series 3: Writings and Notes, 1949-2006

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2)

2.34 Gigabytes (ER01-ER02)

Scope and Contents: Writings are by, edited, illustrated, and about Miriam Beerman. Notebooks include class notes and notations about dreams, taxes, and plans for projects. Also found are two digital video recordings of artist books: *Three Sentences Beginning with the Letter S* [featuring poems by Halvard Johnson and others], 2006 and *Washing the Corpse* [poem by Rainer Maria Rilke], 2006, both narrated by Beerman.

Box 2, Folder 6	Poems for the Silent Insect, edited by Miriam Beerman, circa 1960s
Box 2, Folder 7	On Primal Ground, by and about Miriam Beerman, circa 1987
Box 2, Folder 8	3 Painters' Paths, curated by Margorie Hamburger, 1989
Folder ER01	Three Sentences Beginning with the Letter S (2006), Digital Video Recording, 2006 1.46 Gigabytes (One computer file)
Folder ER02	Washing the Corpse (2006), Digital Video Recording, 2006 0.883 Gigabytes (One computer file)
Box 2, Folder 10	Poetry, by Miriam Beerman, 1972-1983
Box 2, Folder 11	Lectures and Lecture Notes, 1978-2002
Box 2, Folder 12	Notebooks, 1949
Box 2, Folder 13	Notes, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 14-15	Writings on Miriam Beerman, by Others, 1970s-1990s

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1956-2005

0.5 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Printed materials include clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, newsletters, and a copy of *The Enduring Beast* (1972), edited and illustrated by Miriam Beerman.

Box 2, Folder 16	The Enduring Beast, edited and illustrated by Miriam Beerman, 1972
Box 2, Folder 17	Clippings, 1969-2003
Box 2, Folder 18-24	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1956-2005
Box 2, Folder 25	Newsletters, 1985-2004

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