



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Giovanna (Joanne) Cecchetti papers, circa 1940-1999, in the Archives of American Art

Allessandra Liberati

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

2023 September 20

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Giovanna (Joanne) Cecchetti papers
Date:	circa 1940-1999
Identifier:	AAA.ceccgiov
Creator:	Cecchetti, Giovanna
Extent:	2.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of artist, photographer, and independent curator Giovanna (Joanne) Cecchetti date from circa 1940-1999 and measure 2.2 linear feet. They illustrate Cecchetti's career and life through correspondence, writings, personal business records, printed and photographic material, and artwork.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Papers were donated in 1996 and 1999 by Giovanna (Joanne) Cecchetti.

Processing Information

This collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared, by Alessandra Liberati in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Giovanna (Joanne) Cecchetti papers, circa 1940-1999. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

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Biographical / Historical

Joanne Giovanna Marie Cecchetti (1953-) is an artist, photographer, and independent curator who worked primarily in New York and New Jersey. She was born in Suffron, New York to Gori Joseph and Mary Elizabeth Cecchetti. Prior to 1986 she used the first name Joanne before switching to Giovanna. In 1973 she attended New York State University where she obtained an Associate's Degree of Applied Science. Cecchetti obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Parsons School of Design in 1976 and completed postgraduate work at both the Rutgers Center of Innovative Print in 1997 and at William Patterson University. Cecchetti's career consisted of working as the visual merchandising director at both The Pottery Barn in New York City (1977-1983) and Macy's in New Jersey (1985-1987). She also completed work as an independent curator throughout this time and when between jobs.

Cecchetti was a member of the Paterson (New Jersey) Historic Preservation Commission (1996-), the Silk City AmeriCorps (1995-1996), City Without Walls, and the Aljira Center of Contemporary Art. She was listed as a notable artist by Marquis *Who's Who* and was the recipient of several awards.

Scope and Contents

The Giovanna (Joanne) Cecchetti papers measure 2.2 linear feet and date from circa 1940-1999. Correspondence is to and from notable artists and family members. Also included is correspondence regarding various exhibitions and fellowship and grant applications. Writings consist of diaries written by Cecchetti, an autobiographical account of her career and two drafted artist's books *A Thousand Eyes* and *The Memory of Love Lost: An Erotic Journal*. Personal business records include materials related to *Eclectic Selections: Art in Paterson at the End of the Twentieth Century* (1999) an exhibition by Cecchetti and Juan Ramon Lopez, and materials related to *Absolut Statehood*, a published compilation of artwork from various artists depicting how they each view their home states. Also included are grant application materials and items related to the Poco Gallery including a contract.

Printed material includes exhibition announcements and catalogs, a copy of *Absolut Statehood 51: Painter's Visions of Their Home States* (1993), commentary by Glenn O'Brien and photography by Antonio Alia Guccione and materials related to the exhibition *Drawing from Within* (1993). Photographic material consists of various personal photographs and an album. Also included are photographs of artwork. Artwork includes fabric designs, oil pastel paintings, sketchbooks and sketches, and tracings.

Arrangement

This collection consists of six series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1977-1996 (.5 Linear feet: Box 1)
 - Series 2: Writings, circa 1976-1995 (.3 Linear feet: Box 1)
 - Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1959-1995 (.3 Linear feet: Box 1, Box 4)
 - Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1987-1994 (.3 Linear feet: Box 2)
 - Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1953-1994 (.4 Linear feet: Boxes 2-3, Box 5)
 - Series 6: Artwork, circa 1940-1990 (.4 Linear feet: Boxes 3-5)
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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:

Women artists
Women photographers

Types of Materials:

Diaries
Scrapbooks
Sketchbooks

Occupations:

Artists -- New Jersey -- Paterson
Curators -- New Jersey -- Paterson
Photographers -- New Jersey -- Paterson

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1977-1996

.5 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is to and from notable artists and family members. Also included is correspondence regarding various exhibitions and fellowship and grant applications which include a mix of rejection and acceptance letters.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence (1970s), circa 1977
Box 1, Folder 2-3	Correspondence (1980s), circa 1980-1989
Box 1, Folder 4-7	Correspondence (1990s), circa 1990-1995
Box 1, Folder 8	Archives of American Art, 1995, Apr. 6
Box 1, Folder 9	Exhibitions, circa 1991-1994
Box 1, Folder 10	Fellowship and Grant Applications, circa 1990-1996

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Series 2: Writings, circa 1976-1995

.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Writings consist of various diaries written by Cecchetti, an autobiographical account of her career, and two drafted artist's books *A Thousand Eyes* which includes erotic poems and photographs of Cecchetti's artwork and *The Memory of Love Lost: An Erotic Journal* which includes drawings, letters, and photographs.

Box 1, Folder 11	The Memory of Love Lost: An Erotic Journal, circa 1995
Box 1, Folder 12	"Narrative Account of Career", by Cecchetti, 1992, Sept. 22
Box 1, Folder 13	A Thousand Eyes by Cecchetti, circa 1982
Box 1, Folder 14	Address Book, circa 1995
Box 1, Folder 15	Diary, circa 1976-1978
Box 1, Folder 16	Diary , circa 1983-1990
Box 1, Folder 17	Diary, circa 1985
Box 1, Folder 18	Notebook, circa 1995

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Series 3: Personal Business Records, circa 1959-1995

.3 Linear feet (Box 1, Box 4)

Scope and Contents: Personal business records include materials related to *Eclectic Selections: Art in Paterson at the End of the Twentieth Century* (1999) an exhibition by Cecchetti and Juan Ramon Lopez featuring 35 contemporary artists (including Cecchetti) working in the Paterson, N.J. area at the Paterson Art Museum and materials related to Absolut Statehood. Also included are materials related to various grant applications for the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and Grant Program for Individuals in the Visual Arts, as well as items related to the Poco Gallery including a contract.

Box 1, Folder 19 Absolut Statehood, circa 1991-1992

Box 4, Folder 4 Eclectic Selections: Art in Paterson at the End of the Twentieth Century (1999) by Giovanna Cecchetti and Juan Ramon Lopez, circa 1999

Box 1, Folder 20 Guggenheim Foundation, Applications, circa 1992-1993

Box 1, Folder 21 Grant Program for Individuals in the Visual Arts, Application, circa 1993-1995

Box 1, Folder 22 Nanuet Public Schools, Reports, circa 1959-1960

Box 1, Folder 23 Poco Gallery, circa 1995

Box 1, Folder 24 Mailing Lists for Exhibits, circa 1989

Box 1, Folder 25 Miscellaneous Business Records, circa 1993-1994

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Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1987-1994

.3 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes exhibition announcements and catalogs and a copy of *Absolut Statehood 51: Painter's Visions of Their Home States* (1993), Commentary by Glenn O'Brien and Photography by Antonio Alia Guccione which is a compilation of artwork from various artists depicting how they each view their home states. Also included are materials related to the exhibition *Drawing from Within* (1993).

Box 2, Folder 1	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1987-1994
Box 2, Folder 2	Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1992-1994
Box 2, Folder 3	Absolut New Jersey, Newspaper Advertisement, 1993, Mar. 11
Box 2, Folder 4	Absolut Statehood 51: Painter's Visions of Their Home States (1993), Commentary by Glenn O'Brien and Photography by Antonio Alia Guccione, circa 1993
Box 2, Folder 5	Drawing from Within (1993), circa 1992-1993
Box 2, Folder 6	"Trenton Artists' Workshop Association (TAWA) Monthly Update", Vol. 2 No. 7, circa 1991
Box 2, Folder 7	William Patterson College, Press Release, 1993, Jan. 26
Box 2, Folder 8	News Clippings, circa 1991-1993
Box 2, Folder 9	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1993

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Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1953-1994

.4 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, Box 5)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material consists of various personal photographs and an album, as well as photographs of artwork.

Box 2, Folder 10	Personal Photographs, circa 1953-1972
Box 2, Folder 11	Personal Photographs, Film, circa 1953-1972
Box 5, Folder 4	Photograph Album, circa 1975-1994
Box 2, Folder 12	Photographs of Artwork, circa 1969-1981
Box 2, Folder 13	Photographs of Artwork, Contact Sheets, circa 1969-1981
Box 2, Folder 14	Photographs of Artwork, Film, circa 1969-1981
Box 3, Folder 1	Photographs of Artwork, Slides, circa 1969-1981

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Series 6: Artwork, circa 1940-1990

.4 Linear feet (Boxes 3-5)

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes fabric designs on boards, oil pastel paintings, sketchbooks and sketches, and tracings of designs.

Box 5, Folder 1-2	Fabric Designs, circa 1940-1970
Box 4, Folder 3	Oil Pastel Paintings, circa 1953-1975
Box 4, Folder 1	Sketches, circa 1940-1990
Box 3, Folder 2	Sketchbook, circa 1973-1974
Box 3, Folder 3	Sketchbook, circa 1979-1980
Box 4, Folder 2	Sketchbook, circa 1940-1980
Box 5, Folder 4	Sketchbook, circa 1940-1960
Box 5, Folder 3	Tracings, circa 1940-1980

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