



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Claudia DeMonte
and Ed McGowin Papers, 1960-2018,
in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

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Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National
Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Claudia DeMonte and Ed McGowin papers
Identifier:	AAA.democlau
Date:	1960-2018
Extent:	7.2 Linear feet
Creator:	DeMonte, Claudia, 1947- McGowin, Ed, 1938-
Language:	Most of the material is in English. Some of the printed material is in Spanish, French, German, Croatian, and Japanese.
Summary:	The papers of Claudia DeMonte and Ed McGowin measure 7.2 linear feet and date between 1960 and 2018. The papers primarily document Claudia DeMonte's career as a painter, and to a lesser extent her husband's career, through correspondence with family, friends, colleagues, and art institutions; notebooks, poetry, and other writings; scrapbooks; curriculum vitas, awards and certificates, commissions, and other professional activity; exhibition announcements and catalogs, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and other printed material; sketchbooks and other artwork; personal photographs, portraits, of artwork, and other photographic material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Claudia DeMonte and Ed McGowin papers were donated in 1994 by Claudia DeMonte and in 2020 by Claudia DeMonte and Ed McGowin.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Claudia DeMonte conducted by Liza Kirwin between February 13 and April 24, 1991; and the Ed McGowin papers, 1962-1998.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Claudia DeMonte and Ed McGowin papers, 1960-2018. 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

Claudia DeMonte (1947-) was born and raised in Astoria, New York City. She has more than 100 one-person shows and 600 group exhibitions nationally and internationally, including exhibitions at the Corcoran Museum, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Mississippi Museum, Tucson Museum, Flint Institute of Art, Museum of the Southwest, etc.

Her work is in numerous museum permanent collections, including the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Stamford Museum, Boca Raton Museum, and in major corporate collections such as those of Hyatt Regency Hotels, Exxon, Citibank and Siemens. Her public commissions have come from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Brooklyn Library System, Queens Supreme Court, Prudential Life Insurance, the State of New Mexico, and New York City School Construction Authority.

DeMonte is also the curator of "Women of the World: A Global Collection of Art." This traveling exhibition, with accompanying books, includes works of women from 177 countries dealing with the images of women.

DeMonte's work is heavily influenced by her travels to over 80 countries, her interest in the roles of women in contemporary society and Outsider Art, a collection compiled with her husband, artist Ed McGowin.

For 33 years, DeMonte has served on the faculty of the University of Maryland, where she was named Distinguished Scholar Teacher and Professor Emerita. In 2006, She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the College of Santa Fe.

DeMonte presently lives with her husband in New York City and Kent, Connecticut.

Ed McGowin (1938-) was born in 1938 in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and grew up in Mississippi and Alabama, receiving the M.A. from the University of Alabama. He has had one-person exhibitions at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C.; the Baltimore Museum; and the Museum of Modern Art of the City of Paris, France. Since 1979, McGowin has executed major outdoor commissions for numerous public and private organizations, often collaborating with his wife, Claudia DeMonte.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Claudia DeMonte and Ed McGowin measure 7.2 linear feet and date between 1960 and 2018. The papers primarily document Claudia DeMonte's career as a painter, and to a lesser extent her husband's career, through correspondence with family, friends, colleagues, and art institutions; notebooks, poetry, and other writings; scrapbooks; curriculum vitas, awards and certificates, commissions, and other professional activity; exhibition announcements and catalogs, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and other printed material; sketchbooks and other artwork; personal photographs, portraits, of artwork, and other photographic material.

Correspondence includes letters and postcards to and from family, friends, colleagues, and art institutions.

Writings includes a file of poetry written by DeMonte, manuscripts of books written by DeMonte, and a series of notebooks. Some of the notebooks are a combination of notes and sketches.

Scrapbooks consist of eight scrapbooks consisting of mixed material such as notes, photographs, sketches, and printed material.

Professional material consists of awards and certificates, a large number of calendars, commission work including an art project for the University of Northern Iowa completed by both DeMonte and McGowin, and a number of VHS and Betamax cassettes documenting DeMonte's career and interviews in connection with her Women of the World exhibition.

Printed material consists of newspaper clippings, magazine articles, exhibition announcements and catalogs, exhibition posters, and newsletters.

Artwork consists of a file of drawings and some sketchbooks.

Photographic material consists of photographs and slides of DeMonte, her artwork, and some of her exhibitions. There is also a file of photographs of DeMonte and McGowin at the White House with First Lady Laura Bush, and there are personal photographs of DeMonte and McGowin traveling and with family and friends.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into seven series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1967-2013 (1.7 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 2: Writings, 1975-2013 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 2-3)
- Series 3: Scrapbooks, 1967-2009 (1.0 linear feet; Box 3, 9-10)
- Series 4: Professional Activity Files, 1964-2013 (1.7 linear feet; Boxes 3-5, 9)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1960-2018 (1.9 linear feet; Boxes 5-7)
- Series 6: Artwork, circa 1973 (0.1 linear feet; Box 7)
- Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1977-2010 (0.3 linear feet; Boxes 7-8)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women artists -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Video recordings

Occupations:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1967-2013

1.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Correspondence includes letters and postcards to and from family, friends, colleagues, and art institutions.

Box 1, Folder 1-2	Correspondence, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1967, 1967
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1969, 1969
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1970, 1970
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1971, 1971
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1972, 1972
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1973, 1973
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, 1974, 1974
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1975, 1975
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1976, 1976
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1977, 1977
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1978, 1978
Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence, 1980, 1980
Box 1, Folder 15	Correspondence, 1982, 1982
Box 1, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1983, 1983
Box 1, Folder 17-18	Correspondence, 1987, 1987
Box 1, Folder 19	Correspondence, 1988, 1988
Box 1, Folder 20	Correspondence, 1989, 1989

Box 1, Folder 21	Correspondence, 1990, 1990
Box 1, Folder 22	Correspondence, 1991, 1991
Box 1, Folder 23-24	Correspondence, 1992, 1992
Box 1, Folder 25-26	Correspondence, 1993, 1993
Box 1, Folder 27-28	Correspondence, 1994, 1994
Box 1, Folder 29-31	Correspondence, 1995, 1995
Box 1, Folder 32-34	Correspondence, 1996, 1996
Box 1, Folder 35-38	Correspondence, 1997, 1997
Box 1, Folder 39-41	Correspondence, 1998, 1998
Box 1, Folder 42	Correspondence, 1999, 1999
Box 2, Folder 1-2	Correspondence, 1999, 1999
Box 2, Folder 3-4	Correspondence, 2000, 2000
Box 2, Folder 5-6	Correspondence, 2001, 2001
Box 2, Folder 7-8	Correspondence, 2002, 2002
Box 2, Folder 9-11	Correspondence, 2003, 2003
Box 2, Folder 12	Correspondence, 2004, 2004
Box 2, Folder 13-14	Correspondence, 2005, 2005
Box 2, Folder 15-16	Correspondence, 2006, 2006
Box 2, Folder 17-18	Correspondence, 2007, 2007
Box 2, Folder 19	Correspondence, 2008, 2008
Box 2, Folder 20	Correspondence, 2009, 2009

Box 2, Folder 21-22 Correspondence, 2010, 2010

Box 2, Folder 23 Correspondence, 2011, 2011

Box 2, Folder 24 Correspondence, 2012, 2012

Box 2, Folder 25 Correspondence, 2013, 2013

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Series 2: Writings, 1975-2013

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Writings includes a file of poetry written by DeMonte, manuscripts of books written by DeMonte, and a series of notebooks. Some of the notebooks are a combination of notes and sketches.

Box 2, Folder 26-27	"Never Too Late" Manuscript, undated
Box 2, Folder 28-30	Notebooks, 1975-2013
Box 3, Folder 1-2	Notebooks, 1976-1994
Box 3, Folder 3	Poetry, undated
Box 3, Folder 4	"The Second Wife's Survival Guide", undated

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Series 3: Scrapbooks, 1967-2009

1 Linear foot (Boxes 3, 9-10)

Scrapbooks consist of eight scrapbooks consisting of mixed material such as notes, photographs, sketches, and printed material.

Box 3, Folder 5	Scrapbook 1, 1967-1976
Box 3, Folder 6	Scrapbook 2, 1970-1979
Box 3, Folder 7	Scrapbook 3, 1976-1977
Box 3, Folder 8	Scrapbook 4, 1979-1982
Box 9, Item 2	Scrapbook 5, 1977
Box 9, Item 3	Scrapbook 6, 2003-2007
Box 10, Item 1	Scrapbook 7, undated
Box 10, Item 2	Scrapbook 8, 2007-2009
Box 10, Item 3	Scrapbook 9, 2000-2003

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Series 4: Professional Activity Files, 1964-2013

1.7 Linear feet (Boxes 3-5, 9)

Professional material consists of awards and certificates, a large number of calendars, commission work including an art project for the University of Northern Iowa completed by both DeMonte and McGowin, and a number of VHS and Betamax cassettes documenting DeMonte's career and interviews in connection with her Women of the World exhibition.

Box 3, Folder 9	Address Book, undated
Box 3, Folder 10-11	Address Cards, undated
Box 3, Folder 12	Art Proposals and Consignment Forms, 1992-1993
Box 3, Folder 13-14	Awards and Certificates, 1964-2009
Box 4, Folder 1	Amita Achievement Award, 1971
Box 4, Folder 2-8	Calendars, 1976-2013
Box 9, Folder 1	Calendars, 1974, 1995
Box 4, Folder 9-10	Claudia, undated 2 Videocassettes (Betamax) Film of DeMonte's exhibitions. Unclear whether one is a duplicate.
Box 4, Folder 11	Claudia DeMonte, 1981
Box 4, Folder 12	Claudia DeMonte, Photo Troc-American Cultural Center, 1978 October 12 1 Videocassettes (U-matic)
Box 4, Folder 13, Item 1	Claudia DeMonte and Women of the World, 2005 January 31 1 Videocassettes (VHS) Interview with Claudia DeMonte discussing her Women of the World exhibition.
Box 4, Folder 13, Item 2	Women of the World, undated 1 Videocassettes (VHS) Interview with Claudia DeMonte discussing her Women of the World exhibition.
Box 4, Folder 14	Claudia on Radio, undated 1 Sound cassette An interview with Claudia DeMonte for a radio broadcast.
Box 5, Folder 1	Claudia Stories, undated 1 Videocassettes (U-matic)

Box 5, Folder 2	Curriculum Vita, circa 1992
Box 5, Folder 3	List of Outsider Art Collection, undated
Box 5, Folder 4	New York City Percent for Art Program Commission Project, 1992-1993
Box 5, Folder 5	Schedule of Interviews: "The Height Report", 1983
Box 5, Folder 6-8	University of Northern Iowa, Maucker Union Project, 2001-2004
Box 5, Folder 9	W.O.W. Swedish TV, 2000 <i>1 Videocassettes (VHS)</i> An interview with a Swedish news station on "Women of the World" traveling exhibition coming to Sweden.
Box 5, Folder 10	Miscellaneous, 1975-2013

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1960-2018

1.9 Linear feet (Boxes 5-7)

Printed material consists of newspaper clippings, magazine articles, exhibition announcements and catalogs, exhibition posters, and newsletters.

Box 5, Folder 11-12	Calendars, 1976, 1993
Box 5, Folder 13-23	Clippings, 1976-2016
Box 5, Folder 24-27	Exhibition Announcements, 1975-2011
Box 5, Folder 28-31	Exhibition Catalogs, 1968-2018
Box 6, Folder 1-14	Exhibition Catalogs, 1974-1992
Box 6, Folder 15	"The Height Report", 1983
Box 6, Folder 16-19	Magazine Clippings, 1976-2016
Box 6, Folder 20-21	Newsletters, 1986-2010
Box 7, Folder 1	Posters, circa 1987
Box 7, Folder 2-3	Miscellaneous, 1960-2010

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Series 6: Artwork, circa 1973

0.1 Linear feet (Box 7)

Artwork consists of a file of drawings and some sketchbooks.

Box 7, Folder 4 Drawings, undated

Box 7, Folder 5-6 Sketchbooks, circa 1973

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Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1977-2010

0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 7-8)

Photographic material consists of photographs and slides of DeMonte, her artwork, and some of her exhibitions. There is also a file of photographs of DeMonte and McGowin at the White House with First Lady Laura Bush, and there are personal photographs of DeMonte and McGowin traveling and with family and friends.

Box 7, Folder 7	Claudia DeMonte, circa 1983
Box 7, Folder 8	At the White House, 2002
Box 7, Folder 9-10	Personal, circa 1977-2010
Box 7, Folder 11	Artwork, undated
Box 8, Folder 1-2	Artwork, circa 1978
Box 8, Folder 3	Ashikaga Museum of Art Exhibition, 1998
Box 8, Folder 4	Postcards, 1997 Photographs of DeMonte and McGowin traveling abroad that they had turned into postcards.
Box 8, Folder 5	"Women of the World" Exhibition, circa 2007
Box 8, Folder 6	Negatives, Artwork, undated

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