A Finding Aid to the William J. Eisenlord Photographs, 1953-1976, in the Archives of American Art

Margaret J. Hughes

Funding for the digitization of this collection was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art

August 06, 2010
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art  
Title: William J. Eisenlord photographs  
Identifier: AAA.eisewill  
Date: 1953-1976  
Extent: 0.3 Linear feet  
Creator: Eisenlord, William J., 1926-1997  
Language: English  
Summary: The photographs of San Francisco photographer William J. Eisenlord measure 0.3 linear feet and date from 1953-1976. Photographs depict the City Lights Bookstore of San Francisco, California and the exhibition opening of "Poets of the Cities" at the San Francisco Museum of Art in 1976. Also included are photographs of jazz and beat poetry performances taken by Ed Nyberg in 1957.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The William J. Eisenlord photographs were donated to the Archives of American Art in two installments, in 1976 and 1977, by William J. Eisenlord.

Available Formats

The collection was digitized in 2011 and is available via the Archives of American Art's website.

Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed upon receipt on reel 3957. It was fully processed and described by Margaret J. Hughes in 2010 and digitized in 2011 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation


Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.
Conditions Governing Use

The William J. Eisenlord photographs are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

Biographical Note


Scope and Contents

The photographs of San Francisco photographer William J. Eisenlord measure 0.3 linear feet and date from 1953-1976. Photographs depict the City Lights Bookstore of San Francisco, California and the exhibition opening of "Poets of the Cities" at the San Francisco Museum of Art in 1976. Also included are photographs of jazz and beat poetry performances taken by Ed Nyberg in 1957.

City Lights Bookstore was a popular meeting ground for many people associated with the Beat literary movement in San Francisco. The collection includes one exterior window photograph of the bookstore taken the year of its founding in 1953, and fifteen interior photographs of the store taken circa 1959. The interior shots include images of bookstore founder Lawrence Ferlinghetti, bookstore manager Shigeyoshi Murao, and various customers browsing the stacks.

The photographs taken at the "Poets of the Cities" exhibition opening on January 30, 1976 at the San Francisco Museum of Art include notable figures Jack Micheline, Claes Oldenburg, James Broughton, Phil Linhares, Mark and Sally Green, Michael Larsen, Elizabeth Pomada, Ken deRoux, Peter and Minette LeBlanc, Jack Hirschman, Rolando Castellon, Knute Stiles, Michael and Joanna McClure, Byron Meyer, Peter Selz, Leo Castelli, George Herms, and Shirley and Wallace Berman.

Also included are ten photographs taken in 1957 by Ed Nyberg at The Jazz Cellar, a popular San Francisco beat nightclub. Notable figures include Kenneth Rexroth, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Grover Sales Jr., Sonny Wayne, and Bill Weisjahn.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 2 series:

- Series 1: William J. Eisenlord Photographs, 1953-1976 (Box 1; 15 folders)
- Series 2: Ed Nyberg Photographs, 1957 (Box 1; 1 folder)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Beat generation -- California -- San Francisco
Photographers -- California -- San Francisco
Poets -- Exhibitions -- Photographs

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Berman, Shirley
Berman, Wallace, 1926-1976
Broughton, James
Castelli, Leo
Castellón, Rolando
City Lights Bookstore (San Francisco, Calif.) -- Photographs
DeRoux, Kenneth
Ferlinghetti, Lawrence
Green, Mark L., 1932-2004
Herms, George, 1935-
Hirschman, Jack, 1933-
Larsen, Michael, 1941-
LeBlanc, Peter, 1930-
Linhares, Philip E.
McClure, Michael
Micheline, Jack, 1929-1998
Nyberg, Ed
Oldenburg, Claes, 1929- -- Photographs
Pomada, Elizabeth
Rexroth, Kenneth, 1905-1982
San Francisco Museum of Art
Selz, Peter Howard, 1919-
Stiles, Knute, 1923-

Geographic Names:

San Francisco Calif. -- Photographs
Series 1: William J. Eisenlord Photographs, 1953-1976

15 Folders (Box 1)

The series is arranged as 2 subseries:

- 1.1: City Lights Bookstore, 1953-1959
- 1.2: "Poets of the City" Exhibition Opening, 1976

1.1: City Lights Bookstore, 1954-1959

City Lights Bookstore was a popular meeting ground for many people associated with the Beat literary movement in San Francisco. The collection includes one exterior window photograph of the bookstore taken the year of its founding in 1953, and fifteen interior photographs of the store taken circa 1959. The interior shots include images of bookstore founder Lawrence Ferlinghetti, bookstore manager Shigeyoshi Murao, and various customers browsing the stacks.

The subseries has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1  Photographs of City Lights Bookstore, Exterior, 1954
Image(s)
(Pictured are William Brothers, Cathy Furniss, William J. Eisenlord, and unidentified others)

Box 1, Folder 2  Photographs of City Lights Bookstore, Interior, circa 1959
Image(s)
(Pictured are Lawrence Ferlinghetti and unidentified others)

Box 1, Folder 3  Photographs of City Lights Bookstore, Interior, circa 1959
Image(s)
(Pictured are Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Shigeyoshi Murao and unidentified others)

Box 1, Folder 4  Photographs of City Lights Bookstore, Interior, circa 1959
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 5  Photographs of City Lights Bookstore, Interior, circa 1959
Image(s)

1.2: "Poets of the City" Exhibition Opening, 1976

The photographs taken at the "Poets of the Cities" exhibition opening on January 30, 1976 at the San Francisco Museum of Art include notable figures Jack Micheline, Claes Oldenburg, James Broughton, Phil Linhares, Mark and Sally Green, Michael Larsen, Elizabeth Pomada, Ken deRoux, Peter and Minette LeBlanc, Jack Hirschman, Rolando Castellon, Knute Stiles, Michael and Joanna McClure, Byron Meyer, Peter Selz, Leo Castelli, George Herms, and Shirley and Wallace Berman.

The subseries has been scanned in its entirety.
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Index to "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Photographs, 1976 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976 |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976 |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976 |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976 |
Image(s)
(Pictured are Shigeyoshi Murao, Michael McClure, George Herms, Shirley and Wallace Berman, and unidentified others)

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Series 2: Ed Nyberg Photographs, 1957

This series consists of ten photographs taken in 1957 by Ed Nyberg at The Jazz Cellar, a popular San Francisco beat nightclub. Notable figures include Kenneth Rexroth, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Grover Sales Jr., Sonny Wayne, and Bill Weisjahn.

The series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 16
Photographs of Jazz and Poetry Performances at The Jazz Cellar, 1957

Image(s)
(Pictured are Kenneth Rexroth, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Grover Sales Jr., Sonny Wayne, Bill Weisjahn, and unidentified others)

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