



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

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

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	William J. Eisenlord photographs
Date:	1953-1976
Identifier:	AAA.eisewill
Creator:	Eisenlord, William J., 1926-1997
Extent:	0.3 Linear feet
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

William J. Eisenlord photographs, 1953-1976. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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Biographical Note

William J. Eisenlord (1926-1997) worked as a photographer in San Francisco, California. He was an acquaintance of photographer, poet, and journalist Mark Green. Together with business partner Thayne Riggs, Eisenlord opened the Omnibus Gallery in Sacramento, California in 1980.

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)
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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:

Beat generation
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, 1919-2019
Stiles, Knute, 1923-2009

Places:

San Francisco Calif. -- Photographs

Container Listing

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

15 Folders (Box 1)

Arrangement: The series is arranged as 2 subseries:

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

Subseries 1.1: City Lights Bookstore, 1954-1959

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: The subseries has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1	Photographs of City Lights Bookstore, Exterior, 1954 Notes: (Pictured are William Brothers, Cathy Furniss, William J. Eisenlord, and unidentified others)
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Box 1, Folder 2	Photographs of City Lights Bookstore, Interior, circa 1959 Notes: (Pictured are Lawrence Ferlinghetti and unidentified others)
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Box 1, Folder 3	Photographs of City Lights Bookstore, Interior, circa 1959 Notes: (Pictured are Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Shigeyoshi Murao and unidentified others)
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Box 1, Folder 4	Photographs of City Lights Bookstore, Interior, circa 1959
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Box 1, Folder 5	Photographs of City Lights Bookstore, Interior, circa 1959
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Subseries 1.2: "Poets of the City" Exhibition Opening, 1976

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: The subseries has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 6	Index to "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Photographs, 1976
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Box 1, Folder 7	Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976
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Notes: (Pictured are Jack Micheline, Claes Oldenburg, H. King, Bob Whyte, and unidentified others)

Box 1, Folder 8

[Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976](#)

Notes: (Pictured are James Broughton, Bob White, Dennis O'Leary, Sue Foley, H. King, Phil Linhares, and unidentified others)

Box 1, Folder 9

[Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976](#)

Notes: (Pictured are Barbara Wohl, Phil Linhares, and unidentified others)

Box 1, Folder 10

[Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976](#)

Notes: (Pictured are Mark Green, Michael Larsen, Elizabeth Pomada, Ken deRoux, and unidentified others)

Box 1, Folder 11

[Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976](#)

Notes: (Pictured are John Berguin, Minette and Peter LeBlanc, Kirby Ferlinghetti, Jack Hirschman, Rolando Castellon and his wife, Knute Stiles, Dana and Bob Johnson, and unidentified others)

Box 1, Folder 12

[Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976](#)

Notes: (Pictured are H. King, Joanna McClure, Shigeyoshi Murao, Minette LeBlanc and her mother, and unidentified others)

Box 1, Folder 13

[Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976](#)

Notes: (Pictured are Mrs. Nicholas Boyd, Mary Miles Ryan, Byron Meyer, H. King, Peter Selz, Leo Castelli, and unidentified others)

Box 1, Folder 14

[Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976](#)

Notes: (Pictured are H. King, Peter Selz, Minette LeBlanc, E. Kaufman, Sally and Mark Green, and unidentified others)

Box 1, Folder 15

[Photographs of the "Poets of the Cities" Exhibition Opening, 1976](#)

Notes: (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

Scope and Contents: 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.

Arrangement: The series has been scanned in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 16

[Photographs of Jazz and Poetry Performances at The Jazz Cellar, 1957](#)

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

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