



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Lawrence Ferlinghetti Papers, 1980-2020, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

2022 May 26

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Collection Overview | |
| Administrative Information | 1 |
| Biographical / Historical | 2 |
| Scope and Contents | 2 |
| Arrangement | 2 |
| Names and Subjects | |
| Container Listing | |
| Series 1: Professional Files, 1988-2020 | 4 |
| Series 2: Printed Material, 1982-2019 | 6 |
| Series 3: Artwork, 1980-2005 | 7 |
| Series 4: Photographic Material, 1990-2009 | 9 |
| Series 5: Unprocessed Addition, 2007-2019 | 10 |

Collection Overview

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Lawrence Ferlinghetti papers |
| Date: | 1980-2020 |
| Identifier: | AAA.ferllawr |
| Creator: | Ferlinghetti, Lawrence |
| Extent: | 3.3 Linear feet |
| Language: | Some of the professional material and printed material are in Italian. |
| Summary: | The Lawrence Ferlinghetti papers measure 3.3 linear feet and date from 1980 to 2020. The papers document Ferlinghetti's career as a poet and artist through exhibition files, inventories, correspondence and other professional files; clippings, exhibition announcements, exhibition catalogs, and other printed material; sketches, sketchbooks, lithographs, and other artwork; and photographs and slides of Ferlinghetti and his artwork. There is a 0.3 linear foot unprocessed addition to this collection donated in 2023 that includes copy prints of images taken by Ferlinghetti during World War II made for an exhibition on Ferlinghetti at the Harvey Milk Photo Center in 2019. Also included are three reproductions from the photo book <i>Splinter Fleet</i> , 2018, used in the exhibition. Additional material includes a letter from Nancy Tucker to Lawrence Ferlinghetti, 2007; and six photographs of Ferlinghetti's Underwear series, circa 2000. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated in 2022 and 2023 by the Lawrence Ferlinghetti Artworks Trust via Joseph Sasser, Trustee.

Location of Originals

Original contact prints taken by Ferlinghetti are located at the Bancroft Library, Berkeley.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2022.

Preferred Citation

Lawrence Ferlinghetti papers, 1980-2020. 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 in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

Terms of Use

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the Smithsonian's Terms of Use for additional information.

Conditions Governing Use

The donor has retained all intellectual property rights, including copyright, that they may own in the following material: artwork created by Lawrence Ferlinghetti.

Biographical / Historical

Lawrence Ferlinghetti (1919-2021) was a painter, poet, and activist in San Francisco, California. Ferlinghetti was born in Yonkers, New York. He studied journalism at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and completed a Ph.D. in comparative literature at the University of Paris. In the 1950s, Ferlinghetti established City Lights, a publishing house in San Francisco. Ferlinghetti was also a poet writing in the vein of T. S. Eliot. Ferlinghetti painted throughout his lifetime and exhibited works throughout the United States. Ferlinghetti died in 2021.

Scope and Contents

The Lawrence Ferlinghetti papers measure 3.3 linear feet and date from 1980 to 2020. The papers document Ferlinghetti's career as a poet and artist through exhibition files, inventories, correspondence and other professional files; clippings, exhibition announcements, exhibition catalogs, and other printed material; sketches, sketchbooks, lithographs, and other artwork; and photographs and slides of Ferlinghetti and his artwork.

There is a 0.3 linear foot unprocessed addition to this collection donated in 2023 that includes copy prints of images taken by Ferlinghetti during World War II made for an exhibition on Ferlinghetti at the Harvey Milk Photo Center in 2019. Also included are three reproductions from the photo book *Splinter Fleet*, 2018, used in the exhibition. Additional material includes a letter from Nancy Tucker to Lawrence Ferlinghetti, 2007; and six photographs of Ferlinghetti's Underwear series, circa 2000.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into five series.

- Series 1: Professional Files, 1988-2020 (0.9 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Printed Material, 1982-2019 (0.7 linear feet; Boxes 1-3, 5)
- Series 3: Artwork, 1980-2005 (1.2 linear feet; Boxes 2-5)
- Series 4: Photographic Material, 1990-2009 (0.3 linear feet; Box 2)
- Series 5: Unprocessed Addition, 2007-2019 (0.3 linear feet; Box 6, OV 7)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Sketchbooks

Occupations:

Painters -- California -- San Francisco
Poets -- California -- San Francisco

Container Listing

Series 1: Professional Files, 1988-2020

0.9 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Professional files include one folder of correspondence, sales records, donations and gift records, inventories and price lists, exhibition files, and consignments. Also included are two CDs of artwork.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Apice, Milan Italy Inventory and Receipts, 2016-2017 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Art Storage Notebook, 2010 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Comments on Ferlinghetti Paintings, undated |
| Box 1, Folder 4-5 | Consignments, 2012-2016 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Correspondence, 1998-2013 |
| Box 1, Folder 7-8 | Donations, 2015-2018 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Exhibition, University of California Santa Cruz, 1990, 1993 |
| Box 1, Folder 10-11 | Exhibition, "Lawrence Ferlinghetti: 60 Years of Painting", 2010 |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Exhibition, "Cross-Pollination: The Art of Lawrence Ferlinghetti", 2012 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Exhibition, "Fluxare: Paintings by Lawrence Ferlinghetti", 2015 |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Exhibition, "Legends of the Bay Area: Lawrence Ferlinghetti", 2015 |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | Exhibition, Centre Pompidou, 2016 |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Exhibition, "Mustard Road", 2016 |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | Exhibition, "Lawrence D'Italia", 2019 |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | Exhibitions, Miscellaneous, 1994-2010 |
| Box 1, Folder 19 | Exhibition Labels, undated |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | George Krevsky Gallery, Inventories and Contracts, 1997-2013 |
| Box 1, Folder 21 | Gifts, 2005 1 Electronic discs (CD) Notes: Disc is labeled, "Sasser Collection LF Paintings 2005" |

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 22-25 | Inventories, 1988-2012 |
| Box 1, Folder 26 | New Release Gallery Consignment, 2020 |
| Box 1, Folder 27-28 | Rena Bransten Gallery Consignments and Contracts, 2016-2019 |
| Box 1, Folder 29 | Rita Bottoms Consignments, 1995-2000 |
| Box 1, Folder 30-31 | Sales Records, 1988-2010 |
| Box 1, Folder 32-33 | Miscellaneous, 1983-2018 1 Electronic discs (CD) Notes: Disc is labeled, "Drawings done in Milan 9/05 Gift to Luigi Majno, Galleria M'arte Milan" |

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Printed Material, 1982-2019

0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3, 5)

Scope and Contents: Printed material consists of clippings, exhibition announcements, exhibition catalogs, and large exhibition posters.

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 34-35 | Exhibition Announcements, 1982-2009 |
| Box 1, Folder 36 | Art & Literary Photos & Text, circa 1990 |
| Box 1, Folder 37-39 | Clippings, 1990-2019 |
| Box 3, Folder 2 | Article, "Lawrence Ferlinghetti: Poet, Painter and Publisher" by Jacob L. Chernofsky, 1992 |
| Box 3, Folder 1 | Article, "La Storia Dell Arte Raccontata de Leonardo DaVinci", 1998 |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Article, "Lawrence Ferlinghetti Il Lume Non Spento", 2006 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Butler Institute of American Art, 1993 |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Exhibition Catalogs, 1993-2010 |
| Box 5, Folder 1 | "Paris Transformed" Lithograph, 1993 |
| Box 5, Folder 2 | Posters, 1994, 2002 |
| Box 3, Folder 4 | Posters, 1996 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Shipyards Artists Studios, 1997, 2017 |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | "Zoetrope" Magazine, 2002 |
| Box 3, Folder 3 | Excerpts from Catalogs and Lithographs, undated |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | Miscellaneous, 1990-2019 |
| Box 3, Folder 5 | Miscellaneous, 1997-2010 |

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Artwork, 1980-2005

1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 2-5)

Scope and Artwork consists of some small paintings, sketches, and numerous sketchbooks.
Contents:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Box 3, Folder 7 | Drawings, "Series 6", 1982 |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Painting, Freneuse-Su-Risle Piece, 1985 |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | Paintings on Archival Cardboard, 1991-1992 |
| Box 3, Folder 10 | Painting, 1995 |
| Box 3, Folder 8 | Lithograph, "Those Who Turn Away", 1984 |
| Box 3, Folder 9 | Lithographs, 1994-1995 |
| Box 4, Folder 1 | Lithograph, "Ferlinghetti Scene From the Human Comedy", 1996 |
| Box 3, Folder 6 | Artist Proof, "What Islands", 1997 |
| Box 5, Folder 4 | Sketch, "Free Speech Podium", 1990 |
| Box 5, Folder 5 | Sketch, "Boat Series", 1995 |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Sketch, de Stijl, 1994, 2000 |
| Box 5, Folder 6 | Sketches, circa 1984 |
| Box 5, Folder 7 | Sketches, circa 1984 |
| Box 4, Folder 2 | Sketches, 1991 |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Sketches, circa 2002 |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Trial Proof, "This Is Not a Man", 1996 |
| Box 4, Folder 4, Item 1 | Portfolio, New Smyrna Beach, 1984 |
| Box 4, Folder 5 | Sketchbook/Scrapbook, 1980-2005 |
| Box 4, Folder 4, Item 2 | Sketchbook, Late Winter, 1981 |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Sketchbook, 1982 |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Sketchbooks, 1982, 1996 |
| Box 4, Folder 3, Item 1 | Sketchbook, "Winter & Spring 1983", 1983 |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | Sketchbook, "Leaves of Life" Volume 2, 1983 |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | Sketchbook, "Leaves of Life" Volume 3, 1984 |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | Sketchbook, "Le Baiser Freudien", 1985 |
| Box 5, Folder 3 | Sketchbook, "Ferlinghetti XIII", 1985 |
| Box 4, Folder 3, Item 2 | Sketchbook, "Ferlinghetti 2003", 2003 |

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Photographic Material, 1990-2009

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material consists of photographs of Ferlinghetti, photographs from exhibition receptions, and photographs and slides of artwork.

Box 2, Folder 18 Ferlinghetti, circa 1995

Box 2, Folder 19 "Fluxare" Exhibition, 2001

Box 2, Folder 20 "Life Studies-Life Stories" Exhibition Reception, 2004

Box 2, Folder 21-22 Artwork, circa 1990-2000

Box 2, Folder 23-24 Slides, Artwork, circa 1993-1998

Box 2, Folder 25 Miscellaneous, 1994-2009

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Unprocessed Addition, 2007-2019

0.3 Linear feet

| | |
|------------|--------------------|
| Box 6 | Unprocessed Papers |
| Oversize 7 | Unprocessed Papers |

[Return to Table of Contents](#)