



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Mark Green Papers, 1954-1991, bulk 1954-1978, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna Hanson

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

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Mark Green papers
Date:	1954-1991 (bulk 1954-1978)
Identifier:	AAA.greemark
Creator:	Green, Mark L., 1932-2004
Extent:	1.1 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	<p>The papers of San Francisco Beat era photographer, journalist, and poet Mark Green consist of correspondence, biographical information, photographs, Nanny Goat Hill Gallery exhibition announcements, printed materials, and exhibition files for "Rolling Renaissance" (1968) and "A Kind of Beatness: Photographs of a North Beach Era, 1950-1965" (1975) exhibitions that Green helped to organize. Photographs by Mark Green are of notable figures and places in the Beat movement, including Allen Ginsberg, Robert Rauschenberg, and Clyfford Still, as well as photographs by others of Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Mark Green, and Jack Kerouac among others.</p>

Administrative Information

Provenance

Mark Green donated his papers in 1974, 1976, 1979, and 1991.

Related Material

The Archives of American Art holds an oral history interview with Robert Emory Johnson by Paul Karlstrom on March 14, 1975 that details the history of the Rolling Renaissance exhibition organized in part by Mark Green.

Alternative Forms Available

This site provides access to the papers of **Mark Green** in the Archives of American Art that were digitized in 2010, and total 805 images.

Processing Information

A portion of the Mark Green papers was microfilmed upon receipt in 1974 on reels 981-982. The remaining accessions were merged and processed by Jayna Hanson in 2008. The papers were digitized in 2010 with funding provided the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

Mark Green papers, 1954-1991, bulk 1954-1978. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment.

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Biographical Note

Mark Green (1932-) moved to San Francisco and became active in the "Beat Movement" as a photographer, writer, and arts advocate. He helped organize two major group exhibitions of beat-era arts and also founded the Nanny Goat Hill Gallery in San Francisco.

Green was born in Cleveland Heights, Ohio in 1932, and attended the University of Miami, Florida from 1950-1952. After taking classes in journalism and philosophy, Green began a career in media and worked as a copy-boy, reporter, and correspondent at various newspapers throughout the United States until 1956.

In 1957, Green moved to San Francisco and worked as a bartender at the Co-Existence Bagel Shop, a local spot for Beat gatherings. It was during this time that Green became involved with the Beat Movement and the San Francisco Renaissance. Green became friends with "Beatnick" figures including Edward Silverstone Taylor and Patricia Marx who encouraged him to take up photography. Green's poems were published in *Beatitude* and *The Real Bohemia*.

A more prolific photographer than poet, Mark Green exhibited his photographs at Seven Arts Gallery, the Critic's Choice San Francisco Art Festival (1964), the Focus Gallery, and the "San Francisco Renaissance" at the Gotham Book Mart and Gallery (1975). He was active in organizing group exhibitions including the "Rolling Renaissance" (1968) and "A Kind of Beatness: Photographs of a North Beach Era, 1950-1965" (1975). Additionally, Green founded the Nanny Goat Hill Gallery (1972-1974) to give little-known artists an outlet to exhibit their works.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of San Francisco Beat photographer, journalist, and poet Mark Green consist of biographical information, correspondence, exhibition files, printed materials, scattered writings, and photographs. Photographs by Mark Green are of notable figures and places in the Beat movement, including Allen Ginsberg, Robert Rauschenberg, and Clyfford Still, as well as photographs by others of Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Mark Green, and Jack Kerouac among others.

One folder of correspondence includes letters from Jay DeFeo, Wallace and Shirley Berman, and Robert Emory Johnson. Exhibition files are found for two Beat exhibitions that Mark Green assisted in organizing: "Rolling Renaissance", 1968 and "A Kind of Beatness: Photographs of a North Beach Era, 1950-1965", 1975. Exhibition files contain correspondence, photographs of work exhibited and installation views, clippings, announcements and catalogs. Photographs are of Thomas Albright, Francis Ford Coppola, Allen Ginsberg, Leonard Hull, Robert Emory Johnson, Bob Kauffman, J. Oliver Mitchell, Francis Rigney, Jerome Stauber, and Edward Silverstone Taylor. Correspondents include include Thomas Albright, Wallace Berman, Bill Eisenlord, Alfred Frankenstein, Allen Ginsberg, Helen Johnson of the Focus Gallery, Robert Emory Johnson, Chester Kessler, and Philip Whalen.

Mark Green's writings include a history of the Nanny Goat Hill Gallery, a statement about his photography, and various notes.

Printed materials consist of clippings, exhibition announcements for the San Francisco area and Nanny Goat Hill Gallery, and comic books.

The series of photographs is particularly rich due to Green's thoughtful and informative reflections written on the back of many of the photographs. The majority of the photographs identify the photographer, sitter, date, and place. Many times, Green included his own recollections of the particular sitter or photographer as well. In addition to photographs of Mark Green, there are photographs taken by Green and others of important Beat Movement figures. There are also photographs of beatnick "hot-spots" including the Co-Existence Bagel Shop, The Cellar, and The Place.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 6 series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Biographical Information, 1967-1970s (Box 1; 1 folder)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1959-1976 (Box 1, 3; 1 folder)
- Series 3: Exhibition Files, 1954-1975 (Box 1, 3; 13 folders)
- Series 4: Writings and Notes, 1974-1978 (Box 1; 3 folders)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1959-1978 (Box 1-3; 8 folders)
- Series 6: Photographs, 1950s-1970s (Box 2-3; 0.3 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Beat generation
Bohemianism -- California -- San Francisco
Journalists -- California -- San Francisco
Photographers -- California -- San Francisco
Photography -- California -- San Francisco
Photography -- Exhibitions -- California -- San Francisco
Poets -- California -- San Francisco

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Writings

Names:

Albright, Thomas
Berman, Shirley
Berman, Wallace, 1926-1976
Coppola, Francis Ford, 1939-
DeFeo, Jay, 1929-1989
Eisenlord, William J., 1926-1997
Ferlinghetti, Lawrence
Frankenstein, Alfred V. (Alfred Victor), 1906-1981
Ginsberg, Allen, 1926-

Hull, Leonard
Johnson, Robert E. (Robert Emory), 1932-
Kauffman, Bob
Kerouac, Jack, 1922-1969
Kessler, Chester
Mitchell, J. Oliver
Nanny Goat Hill Gallery (San Francisco, Calif.)
Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925-2008 -- Photographs
Rennie, Helen J., 1906-1989
Rigney, Francis J. (Francis Joseph), 1923-
Stauber, Jerome
Taylor, Edward Silverstone
Whalen, Philip

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Information, 1967-1970s

1 Folder (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical information includes Mark Green's resume, a xerox copy of a guest book of a Mark Green photo exhibition, and copies of exhibition announcements in which Green participated.

This series has been scanned in its entirety

Box 1, Folder 1 [Mark Green, 1967 - circa 1970s](#)

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1959-1976

1 Folder (Box 1, Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is between Mark Green and others, including Wallace and Shirley Berman, Jay DeFeo, and Robert Emory Johnson. Correspondence is arranged by date.

This series has been scanned in its entirety

Box 1, Folder 2 [General Correspondence, 1959-1976](#)
Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 3

Box 3 Oversized Correspondence, 1969
Notes: Oversized material scanned with Box 1, Folder 2

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Series 3: Exhibition Files, 1954-1975

13 Folders (Box 1, Box 3)

Scope and Contents: This series consists primarily of materials relating to exhibitions that Mark Green helped to organize: "A Kind of Beatness" (1975) and "Rolling Renaissance" (1968). Also found is a catalog for "North Beach Memorabilia, the 40s to the 60s," (1968). Exhibition files include correspondence, clippings, catalogs, photographs, writings, announcements, and press releases. Photographs are of Thomas Albright, Francis Ford Coppola, Allen Ginsberg, Leonard Hull, Robert Emory Johnson, Bob Kauffman, J. Oliver Mitchell, Francis Rigney, Jerome Stauber, and Edward Silverstone Taylor. Correspondents include Thomas Albright, Wallace Berman, Bill Eisenlord, Alfred Frankenstein, Allen Ginsberg, Helen Johnson of the Focus Gallery, Robert Emory Johnson, Chester Kessler, and Philip Whalen.

Arrangement: Exhibition Files are arranged into 3 subseries:

- Subseries 3.1: "A Kind of Beatness: Photographs of a North Beach Era, 1950-1965," 1954-1970s
- Subseries 3.2: "North Beach Memorabilia: the 40s to the 60s" [1968], circa 1970s
- Subseries 3.3: "Rolling Renaissance" [1968], 1967-1969

3.1: "A Kind of Beatness: Photographs of a North Beach Era, 1950-1965," 1954-1970s

Scope and Contents: Writings, correspondence, and clippings relating to "A Kind of Beatness" exhibition which took place at the Focus Gallery in San Francisco, California in 1975. Also found are photographs which were included in the exhibition and photographs taken during the show. This sub-series has been scanned in its entirety

Box 1, Folder 3 [Clippings, circa 1974-1975](#)

Box 1, Folder 4 [Correspondence, 1974-1976](#)

Notes:

- Bill Eisenlord
- Chester Kessler
- Wallace Berman
- Robert Emory Johnson
- Helen Johnston
- Philip Whalen

Box 1, Folder 5 [Exhibition Announcements, circa 1975](#)

Box 1, Folder 6 [Photographs by Mark Green, circa 1960s-1970s, 1975](#)

Notes:

- A. A. Gugel Jr.
- Edward Silverstone Taylor
- Robert Emory Johnson
- Unidentified Woman
- David Frankenstein
- Helen Johnson and Robert Emory Johnson
- Francis Ford Coppola
- Unidentified Woman

Box 1, Folder 7 [Photographs by Others, 1954-1959, 1975](#)

Notes:

- Bob Kaufman by Chester Kessler
- Paddy O'Sullivan by J. Oliver Mitchell
- Self portrait by J. Oliver Mitchell

- Jungle Jim, Leonard Hull, Jerome Stauber by unknown photographer
- Mark Green by Ella Henry
- Maitland "Sandy" Zane and Mark Green by Bill Paul

Box 1, Folder 8 [Writings and Notes, circa 1975](#)
Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 3

Box 3 Oversized Writings, circa 1975
Notes: Oversized material from Box 1, Folder 8

3.2: "North Beach Memorabilia: the 40s to the 60s" [1968], circa 1970s

Scope and This subseries consists of one exhibition catalog.
Contents:

This sub-series has been scanned in its entirety

Box 1, Folder 9 [Exhibition Catalog, 1968](#)

3.3: "Rolling Renaissance" [1968], 1967-1969

Scope and This subseries includes writings, correspondence, exhibition announcements, and press
Contents: releases from the "Rolling Renaissance" exhibition held throughout San Francisco in 1968.
Notable letters are written to and by Allen Ginsberg and Thomas Albright. Photographs
taken during the exhibition include Allen Ginsberg, Thomas Albright, Robert Emory
Johnson, Dr. Reidar Wennesland, and Francis Rigney.

This sub-series has been scanned in its entirety

Box 1, Folder 10 [Correspondence, 1967-1969](#)
Notes: • Allen Ginsberg
 • Thomas Albright

Box 1, Folder 11 [Exhibition Announcement, 1968](#)
Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 3

Box 1, Folder 12 [Press Release, 1968](#)

Box 1, Folder 13 [Photographs by Mark Green, 1968](#)
Notes: • Allen Ginsberg
 • Thomas Albright
 • Robert Emory Johnson and Dr. Reidar Wennesland
 • John Hamilton
 • Michael Bowen
 • Dr. Francis Rigney

Box 1, Folder 14 [Photographs by Others, circa 1968](#)

Box 1, Folder 15 [Writings and Notes, 1968](#)

Box 3 Exhibition Announcement, 1968

Notes: Oversized material from Box 1, Folder 11

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Series 4: Writings and Notes, 1974-1978

3 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Writings and notes by Mark Green include a history of the Nanny Goat Hill Gallery and statements about his photography. Also found are unidentified writings.

This series has been scanned in its entirety

Box 1, Folder 16 [Drafts and Notes by Mark Green, 1970s](#)

Box 1, Folder 17 [Writings by Mark Green, 1974-1991](#)

Box 1, Folder 18 [Unidentified Writings, 1970s](#)

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1974-1978

8 Folders (Boxes 1-3)

Scope and Contents: Printed materials include clippings and newspapers, miscellaneous Beatnick publications, and comic books. Many clippings relate to the San Francisco Renaissance and the Beat Movement. Also found are materials from the Nanny Goat Hill Gallery including exhibition announcements, forms, and gallery schedules.

The bulk of this series has been scanned. Only relevant clippings and the covers of comic books have been scanned

Box 1, Folder 19	City of San Francisco, 1975 August 10 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 3
Box 1, Folder 20	Clippings, 1959-1975
Box 1, Folder 21	Comic Books, 1968-1969
Box 2, Folder 1	Exhibition Announcements, circa 1960s-1970s
Box 2, Folder 2	Nanny Goat Hill Gallery, Exhibition Announcements, circa 1972-1974 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 3
Box 2, Folder 3	Nanny Goat Hill Gallery Forms, circa 1972-1974
Box 2, Folder 4	Nanny Goat Hill Gallery Schedules, circa 1973
Box 2, Folder 5	The Oracle, circa 1968 Notes: Oversized material housed in Box 3
Box 3	Oversized City of San Francisco, 1975 August 10 Notes: Oversized material from Box 1, Folder 19
Box 3	Oversized Nanny Goat Hill Gallery, Exhibition Announcements, circa 1972-1974 Notes: Oversized material from Box 2, Folder 2
Box 3	Oversized The Oracle, circa 1968 Notes: Oversized material from Box 2, Folder 5

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Series 6: Photographs 1950s-1970s

0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: This series includes photographs of Mark Green, by Mark Green, and by other photographers. Photos are arranged by photographer and subsequently by date that Mark Green specified. Unidentified photographs do not have any identifying descriptions on the back.

Box 2, Folder 6

[Photos of Mark Green, 1959-1976](#)

- Notes:
- by Ella Henry Fitzgerald
 - by Sally Green
 - by Eric Mueller
 - by Mark Green
 - by Gerhard Nicholson
 - by Beatrice Hablig
 - by D. O'Neill

Box 2, Folder 7

[Photos by Mark Green, 1957-1959](#)

- Notes:
- Co-Existence Bagel Shop
 - Self-Portrait

Box 2, Folder 8

[Photos by Mark Green, 1962-1968](#)

- Notes:
- Ed Taylor (6 photos)
 - North Beach mime troop
 - John Droeger
 - Hubert Leslie
 - Richard Brautigan
 - Blair Stapp
 - Irene Travener
 - Lyndon B. Johnson (3 photos)

Box 2, Folder 9

[Photos by Mark Green, 1970-1974](#)

- Notes:
- Loren Sears
 - Thomas Albright
 - Henri Lenoir
 - Edwina Albright
 - David Meltzer and "Friends"
 - Jackie Baks
 - Robert Emory Johnson
 - Bob Seider
 - Gerhard Nicholson
 - Marcia Gray
 - Mark Green
 - Sally Green

Oversized material housed in Box 3

Box 2, Folder 10

[Photos by Mark Green, 1975-1978](#)

- Notes:
- Wallace Berman
 - Jay DeFeo
 - Jackie Baks
 - Dick Wahlburg

- Helen Johnson
- Robert Emory Johnson
- Wally Hedrick
- Bruce Connor
- Diane di Prima
- Jackson Allen
- Dr. Reidar Wennesland
- Clyfford Still
- Thomas Albright
- Edward Silverston Taylor
- Alfred Frankenstein
- Nata Piaskowski
- Judith Johns
- Henry Hopkins
- William Wolfenden
- Rolando Castellon
- Robert Rauschenberg
- Paul Karlstrom
- Bob Kaufman
- Gregory Corso
- Harold Norse
- Neeli Cherkovski
- Art Grant
- Mary Miles Ryan
- Ansel Wetterhahn

Box 2, Folder 11

[Photos by Mark Green, circa 1960s-1970s](#)

Notes:

- Robert Rauschenberg
- Henry Hopkins
- Diane di Prima
- Jackson Allen
- John McDowell

Box 2, Folder 12

[Photos by Others, 1957-1959](#)

Notes:

- Michael McClure, Phillip Lamantica, John Wieners, David Meltzer by Gui de Angulo
- Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Brue Lippincott, Kenneth Rexroth by Ed Nyberg at The Cellar
- Gallery Six Collective Expressionism by unknown photographer
- North Beach, San Francisco by Leo Krikorian
- The Place, San Francisco by Leo Krikorian
- San Francisco Beanicks at St. Francis by Bob Campbell
- Irene Tavener by Bob Snyder
- Claudine Bodner, Thomas Albright, Fletcher Benton by Bob Snyder
- Eric Nord by Joseph Rosenthal
- Mike Nathan by Bill Eisenlord
- Jay DeFeo by Jerry Burchard
- Bob Snyder photograph
- Mark Green by Edward Silverstone Taylor

Oversized material housed in Box 3

Box 2, Folder 13	<p>Photos by Others, 1960, 1963-1965</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poetry reading by Peter Breinig • Jack Kerouac by J. Oliver Mitchell • Jack Kerouac, William Morris, Philip Whalen by J. Oliver Mitchell • Charles Dawkins by Edward Silverstone Taylor • Patricia Marx by Edward Silverstone Taylor (2 photos)
Box 2, Folder 14	<p>Photos by Others, 1971-1976</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr and Mrs Bob Snyder, Thomas Albright by unknown photographer • Kenneth Rexroth, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Mirium Patchen, Joanna McClure, Shig Murao, Jamie McClure, Gary Snyder, Peter Orlovsky by unknown photographer • Jackie Baks, Wallace and Shirley Berman by Bill Paul • Phil Linhares, Hayward King by Bill Eisenlord • James Broughton, Ken Leroux by Bill Eisenlord • Joan Brown by Beatrice Hablig • Mark Green, Mr and Mrs Gerhard Nicholson by Bill Paul
Box 2, Folder 15	<p>Photos by Others, circa 1950s-1970s</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Dawkins by unknown photographer • Knute Stiles by Moss Photography • Nemi Frost, John Weiners by Bob Snyder • David Meltzer by Bob Snyder • John Ryan by Bob Snyder • B. Bufano Studio by Joe Eareth
Box 2, Folder 16	<p>Unidentified Photographs, circa 1950s-1970s</p>
Box 3	<p>Photos by Mark Green, 1970-1974</p> <p>Notes: Oversized material from Box 2, Folder 9</p>
Box 3	<p>Photos by Others, 1957-1959</p> <p>Notes: Oversized material from Box 2, Folder 12</p>

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