



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Duane Michals Papers,
circa 1940-2019, in the Archives of American Art

Hilary Price

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Duane Michals papers
Identifier:	AAA.michduan
Date:	circa 1940-2019
Extent:	7.5 Linear feet
Creator:	Michals, Duane
Language:	Collection is in English.
Summary:	The papers of New York based photographer Duane Michals date from circa 1940-2019 and measure 7.5 linear feet. This small collection includes Michals' correspondence from the 1970s, printed material, photographs of Michals, as well as photographic prints he has taken for commercial and artistic projects. There is a 6.3 linear foot unprocessed addition to this collection donated 2019 and 2020 that includes primarily photographs taken by Michals of actors, writers, friends, family and classmates; photo books, postcards, assemblages, photo-sequences by Michals; an Yves St. Laurent portfolio; and photographs of Michals. Additional material includes biographical information, correspondence, printed material and a catalog on CD.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Archives of American Art by Duane Michals in 2015, 2019, and 2020.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Duane Michals conducted by Christopher Lyon in 2016.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Hilary Price in 2017.

Preferred Citation

Duane Michals papers, circa 1940-2019. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Duane Michals (1932-) is a photographer in New York, New York. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Michals received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Denver in 1953, after which he served for two years in the Army. In 1956 he moved to New York City, and began studying graphic design at Parsons School of Design. Although he did not complete his studies there, he developed an interest in photography and began working as a commercial photographer for magazines. In addition to his commercial work, Michals has been exhibiting his photographs in galleries and museums since the 1960s.

Scope and Contents

The papers of New York based photographer Duane Michals date from circa 1940-2019 and measure 7.5 linear feet. This small collection includes Michals' correspondence from the 1970s, printed material, photographs of Michals, as well as photographic prints he has taken for commercial and artistic projects. There is a 6.3 linear foot unprocessed addition to this collection donated 2019 and 2020 that includes primarily photographs taken by Michals of actors, writers, friends, family and classmates; photo books, postcards, assemblages, photo-sequences by Michals; an Yves St. Laurent portfolio; and photographs of Michals. Additional material includes biographical information, correspondence, printed material and a catalog on CD.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as four series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1967-2010 (0.5 linear feet; Box 1-2)
 - Series 2: Printed Material, circa 1970-2015 (0.2 linear feet; Box 2)
 - Series 3: Photographs, circa 1960-2015 (0.5 linear feet; Box 2, OV 3-6)
 - Series 4: Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-2019 (6.3 linear feet; Boxes 7-13, 16-18, OV 14-15)
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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:

Photographers -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1967-2010

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Correspondence dates from 1967-2010 is both personal and professional. The bulk consists of letters to Michals from 1972-1977, although a few drafts of outgoing letters are also found here. Notable correspondents include photographers Berenice Abbott, Ralph Gibson, Les Krims, Gerard Malanga, Eve Sonneman, and Arthur Tress. Professional correspondence is with magazines, museums, and galleries, and pertains to work for hire, publication permissions, exhibitions, and requests for appearances. A draft of Michals' text "Real Dreams" was sent to a friend for review, and is filed with the 1976 correspondence.

Box 1, Folder 1	Chronological Correspondence, 1967, 1970-1971
Box 1, Folder 2-3	Chronological Correspondence, 1972
Box 1, Folder 4	Chronological Correspondence, 1975
Box 1, Folder 5-6	Chronological Correspondence, 1976
Box 1, Folder 7-8	Chronological Correspondence, 1977
Box 2, Folder 1	Chronological Correspondence, 1977
Box 2, Folder 2	Chronological Correspondence, circa 2005-2010

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Series 2: Printed Material, circa 1970-2015

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Printed material dates from circa 1970-2015 and documents Michals' career through announcements, clippings, exhibition catalogs, and press releases. A book featuring Michals, and a few other printed items including brochures, a program, and an essay about Michals' work are also found here.

Box 2, Folder 3	Book, <i>Duane Michals Steals a Book</i> by Erik LaPrade, 2015
Box 2, Folder 4	Announcements, circa 1970-2010
Box 2, Folder 5	Clippings, circa 1970, 2000-2010
Box 2, Folder 6	Exhibition Catalogs and Guides, 2008-2010
Box 2, Folder 7	Press Releases, circa 1972
Box 2, Folder 8	Other Printed Matter, 2003-2010, circa 1975

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Series 3: Photographs, circa 1960-2015

0.5 Linear feet (Box 2, OV 3-6)

Photographs date from circa 1960-2015 and are both of and by Michals. The first folder here includes snapshots of Michals at exhibitions and with family and friends. The remainder of the folders contain Michals' working prints from photographic series for various commercial and artistic projects.

Box 2, Folder 9	Photographs of Duane Michals at Exhibitions and with Family and Friends, 1976, 2005-2010
Box 2, Folder 10	Photographs by Duane Michals, Assorted, circa 1960-2015
Oversize 3	Advertising Campaign for Eli Lilly, circa 1976
Oversize 4	Advertising Campaign for Eli Lilly, circa 1976
Oversize 5	Black and White Photographs with Handwritten Text, 1970s-1980s
Oversize 6	Color Photographs, Still Lifes, 2006

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Series 4: Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-2019

6.3 Linear feet (Boxes 7-13, 16-18, OV14-15)

The 6.3 linear foot unprocessed addition to this collection donated 2019 and 2020 includes primarily photographs taken by Michals of actors, writers, friends, family and classmates; photo books, postcards, assemblages, photo-sequences by Michals; an Yves St. Laurent portfolio; and photographs of Michals. Additional material includes biographical information, correspondence, printed material and a catalog on CD.

Box 7	Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-2019
Box 8	Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-2019
Box 9	Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-2019
Box 10	Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-2019
Box 11	Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-2019
Box 12	Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-2019
Box 13	Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-2019
Oversize 14	Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-2019
Oversize 15	Unprocessed Addition, circa 1940-2019
Box 16	Unprocessed Addition, circa 1982-2017
Box 17	Unprocessed Addition, circa 1982-2017
Box 18	Unprocessed Addition, circa 1982-2017

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