



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Norma Minkowitz Papers, 1926-2022, bulk 1970-2022, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

2023/05/01

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Norma Minkowitz papers
Date:	1926-2022 (bulk 1970-2022)
Identifier:	AAA.minknorm
Creator:	Minkowitz, Norma M., 1937-
Extent:	3.1 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	<p>The papers of fiber artist Norma Minkowitz (1937-) measure 3.1 linear feet and date from 1926 to 2022 with the bulk of the papers dating from 1970 to 2022. The collection comprises biographical materials consisting of family photographs and papers, interviews with Minkowitz, awards, and a sketchbook; professional files that include gallery records, files for grant and book projects, and other professional activity files; files for the exhibitions <i>Fiber R/Evolution</i> (1986), <i>Weaving the World: Contemporary Art of Linear Construction</i> (1999), <i>Inside the Void</i>, <i>Drawing and Collage by Norma Minkowitz</i> (2014), and several others; printed materials consisting of clippings, announcements and catalogs for Minkowitz's exhibitions, flyers, a few magazines featuring crochet items by Minkowitz, and press releases; and photographic materials containing photographs, slides, negatives and transparencies of Minkowitz's works of art, as well as photographs of Minkowitz with her artwork, her mother, Joan Mondale, Lloyd Herman, and a few others.</p>

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Norma Minkowitz papers were donated in 2016 and 2023 by Norma Minkowitz.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Norma Minkowitz conducted by Patricia Malarcher on September 17, 2001 and November 16, 2001 for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, in Minkowitz's home in Westport, Connecticut.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Norma Minkowitz papers, 1926-2022, bulk 1970-2022. 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 or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Norma Minkowitz (1937-) is a fiber artist in Westport, Connecticut.

Minkowitz was born in New York, N.Y. She attended Music and Art High School, then graduated from Cooper Union Art School in 1958. She is known for using crochet techniques in her artwork. Her work has been exhibited internationally in Poland through the U.S. Art in Embassies Program and the *9th International Triennial of Tapestry Invitational* (1998), Japan, Finland, and throughout the U.S. In 2009 she received the Master of the Medium Award from the James Renwick Alliance and is a fellow of the American Craft Council.

Scope and Contents

The papers of fiber artist Norma Minkowitz (1937-) measure 3.1 linear feet and date from 1926 to 2022 with the bulk of the papers dating from 1970 to 2022. The collection comprises biographical materials consisting of family photographs and papers, interviews with Minkowitz, awards, and a sketchbook; professional files that include gallery records, files for grant and book projects, and other professional activity files; files for the exhibitions *Fiber R/Evolution* (1986), *Weaving the World: Contemporary Art of Linear Construction* (1999), *Inside the Void, Drawing and Collage by Norma Minkowitz* (2014), and several others; printed materials consisting of clippings, announcements and catalogs for Minkowitz's exhibitions, flyers, a few magazines featuring crochet items by Minkowitz, and press releases; and photographic materials containing photographs, slides, negatives and transparencies of Minkowitz's works of art, as well as photographs of Minkowitz with her artwork, her mother, Joan Mondale, Lloyd Herman, and a few others.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 5 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1926-2015 (0.4 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Professional Files, 1977-2022 (1.1 linear feet; Boxes 1, 5)
- Series 3: Exhibition Files, 1985-2022 1961 (0.2 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 4: Printed Material, 1970-2016 (0.8 linear feet; Box 2, OV 6)
- Series 5: Photographic Material, circa 1972-circa 2010 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 2-4)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- American studio craft movement
- Women artists

Types of Materials:

- Sketchbooks

Occupations:

- Fiber artists -- Connecticut

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1926-2015

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The series consists of several award certificates from the American Craft Council, the Central Museum of Textiles in Lodz, Poland, Cooper Union, and the U.S. Department of State; a photo album of Norma and her husband Shelly's wedding in 1959; childhood and family photographs; piano recital programs for pianist David Chigrinsky, also Minkowitz's grandfather; and interviews with Minkowitz for the Contemporary Fiber Artists Maker Profile on an electronic disc, an artist book by Brown / Grotta Arts, American Craftspeople Oral History Project at Columbia University, and the Archives of American Art. Also included is a sketchbook containing elaborate drawings, drafts of artist's statements, notes regarding projects accompanied by photographs, and sketches.

Box 1, Folder 1	Award Certificates, 1958-2008
Box 1, Folder 2	Family Photo Album, "Our Children's Wedding Norma and Shelly June 20, 1959", 1959
Box 1, Folder 3	Family Photos and Papers, 1926-1988
Box 1, Folder 4	Interview, Contemporary Fiber Artists Maker Profile, 2004 1 Electronic discs (DVD)
Box 1, Folder 5	Interview, Questions for Artist Book by Brown / Grotta Arts, 2015
Box 1, Folder 6	Interview Transcript, American Craftspeople Oral History Project at Columbia University, Conducted by Richard Polsky, 1988
Box 1, Folder 7	Interview Transcript, Archives of American Art Oral History, Conducted by Patricia Malarcher, 2001
Box 1, Folder 8	Interview Transcript (Partial), circa 1986
Box 1, Folder 9	Sketch, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Sketchbook / Art Journal, circa 1998

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Series 2: Professional Files, 1977-2022

1.1 Linear feet (Boxes 1, 5)

Scope and Contents: Files in the series relate to Minkowitz's involvement with arts organizations, grant projects funded through the National Endowment for the Arts, book projects with Telos publishers and author of *Fiber Art Today* Carol K. Russell, and the U.S. Embassies Program. Also included are writings by Minkowitz and writings about Minkowitz and her artwork, samples of crocheted structures, material for Minkowitz's lecture at the de Young Museum for the Textile Arts Council, and a few exhibition artwork lists. Material regarding Minkowitz's business with Bellas Artes Gallery, Fuller Craft Museum, Jack Lenor Larsen, Museum of Art and Design, and the Snyderman / Works Gallery are also in the series.

Box 1, Folder 11	A-D, 1987-2019
Box 1, Folder 12	American Craft Council / Museum, 1990-2015
Box 1, Folder 13	Arkansas Art Center, 2015
Box 1, Folder 14	Artist Fellowship Grants, 1986-2009
Box 1, Folder 15	Bellas Artes Gallery, 1989-2006
Box 1, Folder 16	Connecticut Commission on the Arts, 1990-2003
Box 1, Folder 17	Contemporary Jewish Museum, 2004-2009
Box 1, Folder 18	E-H, 1984-2017
Box 1, Folder 19	Exhibition Artwork Lists, 2004-2016
Box 1, Folder 20	Fuller Craft Museum, 2006-2010
Box 1, Folder 21	I-M, 1977-2015
Box 1, Folder 22	James Renwick Alliance Masters of the Medium Award Material, 2008-2009
Box 1, Folder 23	Larsen, Jack Lenor, 1985-2007
Box 1, Folder 24	Lecture at de Young Museum for Textile Arts Council, 2014-2015
Box 1, Folder 25	Miscellaneous Correspondence, circa 1993
Box 1, Folder 26	Museum of Arts and Design, 1995-2010
Box 1, Folder 27	N-R, 1986-2022
Box 1, Folder 28	Odyssey Video, 2002
Box 1, Folder 29	Russell, Carol, 2010-2011

Box 1, Folder 30	S, 1987-2017
Box 1, Folder 31	Sabbath Project, 2010-2014
Box 5	Samples of Small Crochet Structures, undated
Box 1, Folder 32	Snyderman / Works Gallery, 1983-1998
Box 1, Folder 33	T-Y, 1986-2014
Box 1, Folder 34-36	Telos Book Projects, 2004-2011
Box 1, Folder 37	U.S. Embassies Program, 1996-2001
Box 1, Folder 38	Writing by Minkowitz, circa 1990-2021
Box 1, Folder 39	Writings About Minkowitz and Artwork, circa 1989-circa 2005

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Series 3: Exhibition Files, 1985-2022

0.2 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: The series contains files for 10 of Minkowitz's exhibitions dating from 1986 to 2023. Materials include correspondence, artwork lists, printed materials, artist statements, loan forms, and shipping documentation. Exhibitions include *Fiber R/Evolution* (1986), *9th International Triennial of Tapestry* (1998) in Poland, *Inside the Void: Drawing and Collage by Norma Minkowitz* (2014), and *Norma Minkowitz: Body to Soul* (2023).

Box 1, Folder 40	Fiber R/Evolution (1986), Milwaukee Art Museum and University Art Museum, 1985-1986
Box 1, Folder 41	Miriam Cup Invitational Exhibition (1997), 1996-1997
Box 2, Folder 1	9th International Triennial of Tapestry (1998) in Lodz, Poland, 1997-1998
Box 2, Folder 2	Weaving the World: Contemporary Art of Linear Construction (1999), Yokohama Museum of Art, 1999
Box 2, Folder 3	Transcending Process: Contemporary Fiber (2003), 2003
Box 2, Folder 4	"Narrations" at Nancy Margolis Gallery (2008), 2008-2009
Box 2, Folder 5	Years in the Making: Aging Artists, Ageless Art (2009), 2007-2010 Notes: Includes 1 electronic disc (CD/DVD).
Box 2, Folder 6	Inside the Void, Drawing and Collage by Norma Minkowitz (2014) at Gallery La Peche, 2014
Box 2, Folder 7	Solos 2015 (2015), Westport Arts Center, 2015
Box 2, Folder 8	Norma Minkowitz: Body to Soul (2023), 2022

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Series 4: Printed Materials, 1970-2016

0.8 Linear feet (Box 2, OV 6)

Scope and Contents: Printed Materials include reproductions of artwork, clippings relating artwork and exhibitions, announcements and catalogs for Minkowitz's exhibitions dating from the 1970s to 2010s, flyers, a few magazines featuring crochet items by Minkowitz, and press releases.

Box 2, Folder 9	Artwork Reproductions, circa 1975-2008
Box 2, Folder 10	Brochures / Pamphlets, 1971-2008
Box 2, Folder 11-12	Clippings, circa 1990-2016
Oversize 6, Folder 1	Clippings, 1976-1985
Box 2, Folder 13	Exhibition Announcements, 1972-2016
Box 2, Folder 14-15	Exhibition Catalogs, 1970s
Oversize 6, Folder 2	Exhibition Catalogs, 1970s
Box 2, Folder 16-18	Exhibition Catalogs, 1980s
Box 2, Folder 19-20	Exhibition Catalogs, 1990s
Box 2, Folder 21-22	Exhibition Catalogs, 2000s
Box 2, Folder 23	Exhibition Catalogs, 2010s
Box 2, Folder 24	Flyers, 1975-1999
Box 2, Folder 25	Magazines and Newsletters, 1973-2009
Box 2, Folder 26	Press Releases, 1986-2014

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Series 5: Photographic Materials, circa 1972-circa 2010

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4)

Scope and Contents: The series includes photographic prints, slides, negatives, and transparencies of works of art by Minkowitz. One file contains portraits of Minkowitz, Minkowitz with her artwork and at exhibitions, and with Joan Mondale and Lloyd Herman.

Box 2, Folder 27	Minkowitz, circa 1972-circa 2004 Notes: Includes photographs of Minkowitz with her artwork, her mother, Joan Mondale, and Lloyd Herman.
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Box 2, Folder 28	Works of Art, circa 1975-circa 2010
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Box 3, Folder 1-7	Works of Art, circa 1975-circa 2010
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Box 4, Folder 1-4	Works of Art, circa 1975-circa 2010
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