



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the May Stevens Papers, 1967-1982, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

Processing of this collection received support from
the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	May Stevens papers
Date:	1967-1982
Identifier:	AAA.stevmay
Creator:	Stevens, May
Extent:	0.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of feminist painter and educator May Stevens measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1967 to 1982. Found are biographical materials including a transcript of an interview, correspondence with notable art world figures, photographs of works of art, and printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1975 and 1983 by May Stevens.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds two oral history interviews of May Stevens. One conducted by Lynn Katzman for the Archives of American Art "Art World in Turmoil" oral history project, circa 1971 and an additional interview of May Stevens conducted August 10 and 11, by Judith Olch Richards, for the Archives of American Art, at Stevens's home and studio, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2023 with support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

Preferred Citation

May Stevens papers, 1967-1982. 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.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

May Stevens (1924-2019) was a feminist painter and educator from Massachusetts who was active in New York City, New York. She was a founding member of Guerrilla Girls, an anonymous group of feminist, female artists devoted to fighting sexism and racism within the art world, and the collective feminist journal *Heresies*, and taught at the School of Visual Arts, New York, from 1961-1996.

Scope and Contents

The papers of feminist painter and educator May Stevens measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1967 to 1982. Found are biographical materials including a transcript of an interview, correspondence with notable art world figures, photographs of works of art, and printed material.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Women artists
- Women educators
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Interviews

Occupations:

- Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: May Stevens Papers, 1967-1982

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical materials include a biographical sketch of Stevens, a student paper mentioning Stevens, and a transcript of an interview with May Stevens by Cindy Nemser. Correspondence is with Stevens's friends and acquaintances, mostly from the art world and include artists and art historians. Correspondents include Allen Ginsberg, Phyllis Freeman, Elizabeth Janeway, Jacob Lawrence, Lucy Lippard, Linda Nochlin, Miriam Schapiro, and Raphael Soyer. Many letters discuss the personal friendships between the writer and Stevens but some mention feminist issues and offer congratulations upon exhibition openings. Photographs depict works of art. Printed materials include clippings and exhibition announcements and catalogs for solo and group shows.

Box 1, Folder 1 Biographical Material, 1971-1982

Box 1, Folder 2 [Correspondence, 1967-1975](#)

Box 1, Folder 3 Photographs, Works of Art, 1967-1971

Box 1, Folder 4 Printed Material, Clippings and Periodicals, 1972-1981

Box 1, Folder 5-7 Printed Material, Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1975-1982

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