



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Jock Truman Papers,
1852-2011, in the Archives of American Art

Erin Kinhart

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Jock Truman papers
Identifier:	AAA.trumjock
Date:	1852-2011
Extent:	4 Linear feet
Creator:	Truman, Jock, 1920-
Language:	Collection is in English.
Summary:	The papers of gallery director and art collector Jock Truman measure 4.0 linear feet and date from 1852 to 2011. Found within the collection are biographical material; correspondence with friends, family, artists, and others; records of the short-lived Truman Gallery; a few writings by Truman; printed material; artwork by Truman and others; and photographs of Truman, his partner Eric Green, friends, family, and the Truman-Green collection of artwork. A small amount of material documents his work at the Betty Parsons Gallery.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 1982 and 2005-2006 by Jock Truman and 2011 by Truman via Eric Kane, Executor.

Processing Information

The collection was processed to a minimal level and a finding aid prepared by Erin Kinhart in 2014. The collection has been minimally rearranged and retains the existing/original folder titles when possible. All materials have been rehoused in archival folders and boxes for long-term stability, but often staples and other fasteners have not been removed. Materials within folders have not been rearranged.

Preferred Citation

Jock Truman papers, 1852-2011. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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

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Biographical / Historical

Jock Truman (1920-2011) was an art collector, dealer, and gallery owner in New York, New York. Truman was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the son of Curtis Truman and Athelyn Amundsen Truman. He attended the University of Cincinnati from 1938 to 1941 and served in the U.S. Armed Forces in Brazil from 1942 to 1946. From 1946 to 1950 he attended the Harvard Graduate School of Design where he studied with Josef Albers, Gyorgy Kepes, and Hyman Bloom. During the 1950s he owned Thirty-Five River St. Inc., a Boston firm specializing in architectural and interior design.

Truman worked at Robert Isaacson Gallery for four years before moving to Betty Parsons Gallery, where he worked from 1961 to 1974. There he gained specialist knowledge regarding the work of Ad Reinhardt and assisted Reinhardt's widow in the evaluation of artworks after the artist's death. In 1974 he served as director of Parsons Gallery and he and Betty Parsons opened the Parsons-Truman Gallery, which operated as a joint venture from 1975 to 1976. In 1976 he opened Truman Gallery at 38 East 57th St. The gallery closed in 1979.

In 1989 Truman and his companion of over 30 years, Eric Green, moved to Miami. Truman and Green had a large collection of art which they donated to various museums including the Bass Museum of Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art in North Miami.

Scope and Contents

The papers of gallery director and art collector Jock Truman measure 4.0 linear feet and date from 1852 to 2011. Found within the collection are biographical material; correspondence with friends, family, artists, and others; records of the short-lived Truman Gallery; a few writings by Truman; printed material; artwork by Truman and others; and photographs of Truman, his partner Eric Green, friends, family, and the Truman-Green collection of artwork. A small amount of material documents his work at the Betty Parsons Gallery.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 7 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1914-2006 (0.4 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1929-2011 (0.6 linear feet; Box 1)
- Series 3: Truman Gallery Records, 1975-1979 (9 folders; Boxes 2, 6)
- Series 4: Writings, circa 1970s-2005 (1 folder; Box 2)
- Series 5: Printed Material, 1852, 1940s-2010 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 2, 6, OV 7)

- Series 6: Artwork, 1860-1995 (0.3 linear feet; Boxes 2, 6, OV 7)
- Series 7: Photographs, circa 1860s-2009 (1.9 linear feet; Boxes 2-6, OV 7)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Collectors and collecting -- New York (State) -- New York
Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York
Gallery directors -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Betty Parsons Gallery
Green, Eric
Truman Gallery

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1914-2006

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Truman, Jock, 1920-

Biographical material includes biographical summaries about Truman, various identification documents, school and military records, award certificates, and genealogy records on the Truman family. Also found are family records belonging to Truman's partner, Eric Green. Additionally there are records of the donation of a large portion of their art collection to the Bass Museum of Art and Museum of Contemporary Art in North Miami.

Box 1, Folder 1	Address Books, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Artwork Purchases, circa 1977-1998
Box 1, Folder 3	Award Certificates, 1996, 1977
Box 1, Folder 4	Biographical Summaries and Curriculum Vitae, circa 1970s-2005
Box 1, Folder 5	Bow-tie, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 6	Business and Calling Cards, circa 1940s-1990s
Box 1, Folder 7-9	Collection Donation to Bass Museum of Art, 1993-1995
Box 1, Folder 10	Donation to Vatican Museums, 2001-2003
Box 1, Folder 11-12	Eric Green Family Documents, circa 1914-1950s
Box 1, Folder 13	Guest List for Unidentified Event, undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Mail Art Exhibition, Museum of Contemporary Art, 2005-2006
Box 1, Folder 15	Military Dog Tags, circa 1941
Box 1, Folder 16	Military Records, 1942-1947
Box 1, Folder 17	Passport, 1961
Box 1, Folder 18	School Records, 1930s-1940s
Box 1, Folder 19	Travel Itinerary, undated

Box 1, Folder 20 Truman Family History, circa 1941-1990s

Box 1, Folder 21 Truman Letterhead and Notecards, circa 1970s-1990s

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1929-2011

0.6 Linear feet (Box 1)

Found here is Truman's personal correspondence with family, friends, artists, and his partner, Eric Green. A small amount of professional correspondence is also included. Of note are postcards and letters from Christo and Jeanne-Claude and artist Leo Rabkin and his wife Dorothy. Handmade holiday cards and a few pieces of mail art sent to Truman are also included.

Box 1, Folder 22	Amundsen, Iver, 1929-1968
Box 1, Folder 23	Archives of American Art, 2004-2007
Box 1, Folder 24	A-B, Miscellaneous, circa 1961-1990s
Box 1, Folder 25	Christo and Jeanne-Claude, 1982-1996
Box 1, Folder 26	C-E, Miscellaneous, circa 1960-2007
Box 1, Folder 27	Fishbein, Gloria, circa 2010-2011
Box 1, Folder 28	F, Miscellaneous, 1963-2006 Includes postcards from Helen Frankenthaler.
Box 1, Folder 29	Green, Eric, circa 1967-2004
Box 1, Folder 30-31	Green, Eric, Correspondence with Others, 1946-1990s
Box 1, Folder 32	G-I, Miscellaneous, 1949-1994 Includes letters from Grace Glueck.
Box 1, Folder 33	J-L, Miscellaneous, circa 1964-1990
Box 1, Folder 34	Mahon, Annette, circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 35	Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2005-2006
Box 1, Folder 36	M, Miscellaneous, circa 1950s-2007
Box 1, Folder 37	N-O, Miscellaneous, 1974-2004 Includes a letter from Louise Nevelson.
Box 1, Folder 38	P, Miscellaneous, 1960-2004 Includes postcards from Henry Pearson, Betty Parsons, and Lucio Pozzi.
Box 1, Folder 39	Rabkin, Leo and Dorothy, 1971-1998

Box 1, Folder 40	Q-S, Miscellaneous, circa 1963-2007
Box 1, Folder 41	Truman, Curtis & Mrs. (Parents), circa 1934-1963
Box 1, Folder 42	T-V, Miscellaneous, 1947-1996 Includes a handwritten letter from Harry S. Truman.
Box 1, Folder 43	Vollmer, Ruth, 1967-1970s
Box 1, Folder 44	V-Z, Miscellaneous, 1977-2005
Box 1, Folder 45-46	Unidentified, First Names Only, circa 1940s-2000s

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Series 3: Truman Gallery Records, 1975-1979

9 Folders (Boxes 2, 6)

The small amount of Truman Gallery records found here include gallery exhibition announcements, news clippings, press releases, and a few photographs of Jock Truman at the gallery. Additionally there are notes and letters from artist Jack Bergamini regarding an exhibition of his work and a folio of cartoons by Ad Reinhardt, published for his exhibition, "Ad Reinhardt: Art Comics and Satires," held at the gallery October 2-30, 1976.

Box 2, Folder 1-3	Exhibition Announcements, 1975-1979
Box 2, Folder 4	Miscellaneous Records, circa 1976-1979
Box 2, Folder 5	News Clippings, 1976-1979
Box 2, Folder 6	Notes and Letters from Jack Bergamini, circa 1976-1978
Box 2, Folder 7	Photographs, circa 1977-1979
Box 2, Folder 8	Press Releases, circa 1976-1977
Box 6, Folder 1	Folio of Cartoons for "Ad Reinhardt: Art Comics and Satires", 1976

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Series 4: Writings, circa 1970s-2005

1 Folder (Box 2)

Box 2, Folder 9

Writings by Jock Truman include a few one-page lists and notes as well as brief writings on New Realism, Agnes Martin, and ideas for a television program on collecting.

Box 2, Folder 9

Writings by Jock Truman, circa 1970s-2005

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Series 5: Printed Material, 1852, 1940s-2010

0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2, 6, OV 7)

Printed material includes exhibition catalogs and announcements, event programs, new clippings, press releases, and travel publications. Also of note are two plastic bags from Keith Haring's original Pop Shop at 292 Lafayette Street in New York.

Box 2, Folder 10	Blank Postcards, circa 1950s-1990s
Box 2, Folder 11	Book, <i>Changing Light</i> by Carol Brockmon, 1964
Box 2, Folder 12-13	Brochures and Event Programs, circa 1955-2010
Box 2, Folder 14-15	Exhibition Catalogs and Announcements, circa 1960s-2005
Box 2, Folder 16	Guide to Flowers, undated
Box 2, Folder 17	Internet Articles, 2003-2005
Box 2, Folder 18-22	News Clippings, 1940s-2000
Box 2, Folder 23	Press Releases, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 24	Reproductions of Artwork and Blank Notecards, undated
Box 2, Folder 25	Travel Brochures, Maps, and Souvenirs, circa 1950s-1990s
Box 6, Folder 2	<i>Gleason's Pictorial</i> Newspaper, 1852
Box OV 7	Keith Haring Pop Shop Bag, 1985

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Series 6: Artwork, 1860-1995

0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 2, 6, OV 7)

Artwork is by Jock Truman and others. Included are handmade holiday cards by Truman and watercolors, pencil, and ink drawings completed by him in the early 1950s. Works by other artists are mostly unidentified but include a few pieces of mail art, sketches, a childhood portrait of Truman, and etchings and woodblock prints.

Box 2, Folder 26-27	Handmade Holiday Cards, circa 1950s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 28	Pastel Portrait of Jock Truman, 1930
Box 2, Folder 29	Prints, 1860, undated
Box 2, Folder 30	Silhouette Cutouts, 1944
Box 2, Folder 31-33	Miscellaneous Works of Art, circa 1876-1995
Box 6, Folder 3	Oversize Artwork by Jock Truman, 1950s Oversize material also housed in OV 7.
Box OV 7	Oversize Artwork by Jock Truman, from Box 6, Folder 3, 1950s

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Series 7: Photographs, circa 1860s-2009

1.9 Linear feet (Boxes 2-6, OV 7)

Photographs are extensive and depict Jock Truman's childhood, family, travel, military service in Brazil, and snapshots of events and social gatherings. Of note are portraits of Truman by Ruth Lazar, photographs of Truman with artists Lyman Kipp and William Congdon, and photographs of Truman at Betty Parsons Gallery. Also found are photographs of Truman with his partner, Eric Green, and many of Green's personal family photographs. Additionally there are inventory photographs of the Jock Truman and Eric Green collection of art.

Box 2, Folder 34-36	Photographs of Jock Truman, circa 1938-2000s
Box 2, Folder 37	Professional Photographs of Jock Truman, 1960s-1970s
Box 2, Folder 38	Portraits of Jock Truman by Ruth Lazar, 1978
Box 3, Folder 1	Photographs of Jock Truman, Lyman Kipp, and William Congdon at Foundry, 1960s
Box 3, Folder 2	Photographs of Jock Truman as a Child, circa 1920-1930
Box 3, Folder 3-4	Jock Truman Family Photographs, circa 1860s-1960s
Box 3, Folder 5-7	Photographs of Military Service, Brazil, 1940s
Box 3, Folder 8-9	Photographs of Jock Truman and Eric Green, 1950s-1980s Oversize material housed in Box 6, Folder 4
Box 3, Folder 10-12	Photographs of Eric Green, circa 1930s-1990s
Box 3, Folder 13-17	Eric Green Personal and Family Photographs, circa 1900-1940s
Box 3, Folder 18	Photographs of Luiz Antonio Velho, circa 1940s
Box 3, Folder 19-20	Portraits of Others, circa early 1900s-1997
Box 3, Folder 21-25	Miscellaneous Snapshots, 1960s-1990s
Box 3, Folder 26-31	Travel Photographs, circa 1938-1990s
Box 4, Folder 1	Travel Negatives, undated
Box 4, Folder 2	Photographs of Mail Art, circa 1990s
Box 4, Folder 3	Photographs of Pont Neuf Wrapped, circa 1985

Box 4, Folder 4	Photographs of Art Collection, circa 1990s
Box 4, Folder 5-6	2009 Collection Inventory, circa 2005-2009
Box 4, Folder 7	"Works we no longer own", circa 1990s
Box 4, Folder 8	Miscellaneous Negatives, circa 1980s-1990s
Box 5, Folder 1-3	Slides of Brazil, undated
Box 6, Folder 4	Oversize Photograph of Jock Truman and Eric Green, from Box 3, Folder 9, 1985

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