



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Westbeth Records, 1970-1978, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Westbeth records
Date:	1970-1978
Identifier:	AAA.westbgall
Creator:	Westbeth Gallery
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Language:	The bulk of the collection is in English. Two exhibition catalogs, one written in Spanish and the other in Chinese, are also present.
Summary:	The Westbeth records measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1970 to 1978. The collection includes one financial report, clippings and writings about Westbeth, a resume for artist Jacques Joseph Camins, an exhibition announcement for artist Mel Fowler, two exhibition catalogs, one copy of the Westbeth newsletter (1970), and some event photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated 1981 by Nell Perret, a New York City painter and printmaker who lived at Westbeth.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Christopher DeMairo in 2022.

Preferred Citation

Westbeth records, 1970-1978. 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

Westbeth is an artists' housing complex in New York, founded in 1970. Funding for the space was initially provided by the National Council on the Arts, J.M. Kaplan Fund, Bankers Trust Company, and Federal Housing Administration. The building was home to sculptors, painters, photographers, and print-makers, as well as actors, dancers, musicians, film makers, and writers. The complex includes studio space for artists, a gallery, theatre, and commercial space. The housing complex is currently owned by Westbeth Housing Development Fund Corporation. In addition to Westbeth's tenants and features, the space is also home to the New School for Drama, The Martha Graham Center for Contemporary Dance, and Congregation Beth Simchat Torah.

Scope and Contents

The Westbeth records measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1970 to 1978. The collection includes a financial report of the Westbeth Corporation Housing Development Fund Co., Inc.; clippings and writings about Westbeth and its artists; a resume for artist Jacques Joseph Camins and an exhibition announcement for artist Mel Fowler; two exhibition catalogs from shows of Westbeth artists, one held in China and the other in Mexico; one copy of the Westbeth newsletter (1970); and some event photographs.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the records 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:

Artists -- Housing -- New York (State) -- New York
Arts -- New York (State) -- New York
Federal aid to the arts -- New York (State) -- New York

Functions:

Artist-run galleries -- New York (State)

Container Listing

Series 1: Administrative Records, 1970-1978

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found here is a financial report of the Westbeth Corporation Housing Development Fund Co., Inc.; clippings and writings about Westbeth and its artists; a resume for artist Jacques Joseph Camins and an exhibition announcement for artist Mel Fowler; two exhibition catalogs from shows of Westbeth artists, one held in China and the other in Mexico; one copy of the Westbeth newsletter (1970); and some event photographs.

Box 1, Folder 1	Artists' File, Jacques Joseph Camins and Mel Fowler, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Exhibition Catalog, Westbeth Exhibition in Mexico, 1972
Box 1, Folder 3	Exhibition Catalog, Westbeth Graphic Arts Exhibition (1973), Chung Hsing Galleries, 1973
Box 1, Folder 4	Exhibitions Held Elsewhere, 1971, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Financial Records, Westbeth Corp. Housing Development Fund Co., Inc., 1977-1978
Box 1, Folder 6	Newsletter, Westbeth News, 1970
Box 1, Folder 7	Photographs from Events, circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 8	Printed Material, Westbeth Announcements and Brochures, 1970-1975
Box 1, Folder 9	Printed Material, Clippings, 1970-1971
Box 1, Folder 10	Writings about Westbeth, 1970, undated

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