



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Herman Leonard Photographic Collection, 1948-1993

NMAH.AC.0445

David Jellema and Scott Schwartz

December 2, 1993



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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Herman Leonard Photographic Collection
Date:	1948-1993
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0445
Creator:	Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010 (Creator)
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Musical History
Extent:	5.6 Cubic feet (10 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Jazz club photographs by noted Jazz photographer Herman Leonard.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Herman Leonard Photographs were donated to the National Museum of American History by Mr. Leonard on December 17, 1991 and in 2006.

Processing Information

Collection processed by David Jellema and Scott Schwartz, December 2, 1993.

Preferred Citation

Herman Leonard Photographic Collection, 1948-1993, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Archives Center does not own the rights to the Leonard photographs. All requests for permission to use these photographs for non-museum purposes must be addressed to: Herman Leonard Photography, LLC, 530 South Lake Avenue #503, Pasadena, CA 91101 (818) 509-8987.

Accruals

An addenda consisting of twenty prints was donated by Joshua Paillet in 2006.

Biographical / Historical

Herman Leonard (1923-2010) was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania and served as a military photographer in Burma during World War II. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in photography from Ohio University and began

working with Yousuf Karsh, a Canadian portraitist. Settling in New York in 1949, Leonard began photographing jazz musicians at various jazz clubs on Broadway and Fifty-Second Streets, and in Harlem for such publications as *Cosmopolitan*, *Esquire*, *Life*, *Look*, *Playboy*, and *Time*. He later to Paris to begin a fashion and advertising business. He also continued photographing jazz musicians. In 1988 Leonard presented his first exhibition, "Images of Jazz," in London. This show established his reputation as a leading photographer of jazz and sparked further shows and publications.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of 110 black-and-white photographic prints depicting musicians performing at various American and European jazz clubs between 1948 and 1991. The collection contains mounted and unmounted 11" x 14" and 16" x 20" prints made by Leonard. Artists represented among these photographs are Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra, Lester Young, Louis Armstrong, Miles Davis, and Thelonious Monk. The photographs are organized into three series: Series 1: 11"x 14" prints, Series 2: 16" x 20" prints, and Series 3: Addenda. The series are arranged alphabetically by performer's last name. Unmatted 16" x 20" prints can be found in box 2 but are listed alphabetically by performer.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Jazz
- Jazz musicians -- United States
- Music -- 20th century

Types of Materials:

- Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin -- 19th-20th century

Names:

- Armstrong, Louis, 1901-1971
- Baker, Chet
- Bennett, Tony, 1926-
- Blakey, Art, 1919-1990
- Brown, Clifford
- Camero, Candido, 1921-
- Cole, Nat King, 1917-1965
- Cole, Nat King, 1917-1965
- Davis, Miles
- Davis, Miles
- Eckstine, Billy
- Ellington, Duke, 1899-1974
- Fitzgerald, Ella, 1917-1996
- Garner, Erroll
- Getz, Stan, 1927-1991
- Gillespie, Dizzy, 1917-
- Gordon, Dexter, 1923-1990
- Haig, Al, 1924-1982

Heath, Percy, 1923-2005
Holiday, Billie, 1915-1959
Horne, Lena
Marsalis, Wynton, 1961-
Monk, Thelonious
Mulligan, Gerry
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Musical History
Parker, Charlie, 1920-1955
Pettiford, Oscar, 1922-1960
Roach, Max, 1924-2007
Russell, Curly
Sims, Zoot
Sinatra, Frank, 1915-1998
Stitt, Sonny
Strayhorn, Billy (William Thomas), 1915-1967
Terry, Clark
Washington, Dinah, 1924-1963
Webster, Ben
Young, Lester, 1909-1959

Container Listing

Series 1: 11" x 14" Prints, 1948-1991

Box 1, Folder 1 Louis Armstrong -- Paris [backstage at Olympia Theatre,] [photoprint, black-and-white], 1960
 1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.)
[Image\(s\): Armstrong, Louis; Backstage of Olympia Theatre, Paris, 1960](#)
[Image\(s\): Louis Armstrong -- Paris \[backstage at Olympia Theatre,\] 1960 \[photoprint, black-and-white\].](#)
 Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010
 Notes: AC0445-0000003.tif (AC Scan No.)
 00044501.tif (AC Scan, duplicate)
 Box No. 1.
 Subject holds trumpet on lap. Title under image at left, signed at lower right.

Names: Armstrong, Louis, 1901-1971
 Olympia Theatre (Paris, France)

Topic: African American musicians
 Jazz
 Musicians -- 1950-2000

Place: Paris (France)

Culture: African Americans

Box 1, Folder 2 Baker, Chet; Leonard's Studio Rooftop, New York City, 1949

Box 1, Folder 3 [Brown, Clifford; Birdland, New York City, 1954](#)

Box 1, Folder 4 Miles Davis in Switzerland. [Photoprint, black-and-white], [July 1991.]
 1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.)
[Image\(s\): Davis, Miles; Montreaux, Switzerland, July 1991](#)
[Image\(s\)](#)
 Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010
 Notes: 94-3292 (SI Neg. No.)
 AC0445-0000001.tif (AC Scan No.)
 From black copy print notebook in reading room.

Names: Davis, Miles

Topic: Musicians -- 1950-2000
 Jazz
 African American musicians

Culture: African Americans

Box 1, Folder 5 Eldridge, Roy; Recording Studio, New York City, 1952

Box 1, Folder 6 [Ellington, Duke; Olympia Theatre, Paris, 1958](#)

Box 1, Folder 7 Ellington, Duke (Shoes); Olympia Theatre, Paris, 1958

Box 1, Folder 7A Duke Ellington -- Paris -- 1960 [photoprint, black-and-white]
1 Contact sheet (Silver gelatin on paper.; 8 1/2" x 11")
1 Item (8.5" x 11".)
[Image\(s\): Ellington, Duke; Paris, 1960](#)
[Image\(s\)](#)
Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010
Creator: Ansco (film manufacturer)
Notes: 00044509.tif (AC Scan)
In box 9.
Three frames, enlarged from a 35mm film strip, showing Ellington at the piano. Title under image at left, signed at lower right. Film is Ansco Super Hypan.
Names: Ellington, Duke, 1899-1974
Topic: Piano
African American musicians
Jazz
Musicians -- 1950-2000
Place: Paris (France)
Culture: African Americans

Box 1, Folder 8 Ella Fitzgerald -- Downbeat Club -- NYC 1949 [black-and-white photoprint], 1949
1 Item (11" x 14".)
[Image\(s\): Fitzgerald, Ella; Downbeat Club, New York City, 1949](#)
[Image\(s\)](#)
Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010
Notes: AC0445-0000004.tif (AC Scan)
00044502.tif (AC Scan, duplicate)
Silver gelatin on paper.
In Box 1, Folder 8.
Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.
Ella Fitzgerald at the microphone with three band members behind; photographed at the Downbeat Club in New York, New York. Title below image, left; signed below image at right.
Names: Fitzgerald, Ella, 1917-1996
Downbeat Club
Topic: Jazz
African American singers -- 1940-1950
Singers
Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1940-1950 -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin
Culture: African Americans

Box 1, Folder 9 Garner, Erroll; Bop City Club, New York City, 1953

Box 1, Folder 10 [Getz, Stan; RCA Recording Studio, New York City, 1949](#)

Box 1, Folder 11	Gillespie, Dizzy; Royal Roost, New York City, 1948
Box 1, Folder 12	Gordon, Dexter; Royal Roost, New York City, 1948
	<p>[Saxophonist Dexter Gordon with cigarette smoke : photoprint, black-and-white.], 1948 1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.) Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010 Language: English. Notes: 00044508.tif (AC Scan) Title under image at left, signed at lower right? Print probably made ca. 2000. Dated from an Internet resource.</p> <p>Names: Gordon, Dexter, 1923-1990 Topic: Saxophone Smoking -- 1940-1990 Smoke African American musicians Cigarettes -- 1850-2000 Jazz Musicians -- 1950-2000</p> <p>Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1940-1950 -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin Later prints</p> <p>Culture: African Americans</p>
Box 1, Folder 13	Hodges, Johnny; Brasserie Lip, Paris, 1958
Box 1, Folder 14	Holiday, Billie; New York City, 1949
Box 1, Folder 15	Holiday, Billie; Hollywood Bowl, Hollywood, California, 1953
Box 1, Folder 16	Holiday, Billie; Recording Studio, New York City, 1955
Box 1, Folder 17	<p>Quincy Jones -- NYC [photoprint, black-and-white.], 1955 1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.) Image(s): Jones, Quincy; Recording Studio, New York City, 1955 Image(s) Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010 Notes: AC0445-0000007.tif (AC Scan No.) Box No. 1. Title, date, signature in lower margin.</p> <p>Names: Jones, Quincy, 1933- Topic: Studios (work spaces) African American musicians Jazz Musicians -- 1950-2000</p> <p>Place: New York (N.Y.) Culture: African Americans</p>

Box 1, Folder 18	Kenton, Stan; Rehearsal, Big Band, Atlanta, Georgia, 1950
Box 1, Folder 19	<p>Thelonious Monk [making notes at the piano]. [Photoprint, black-and-white, [undated.]] 1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.) Image(s): Monk, Thelonious; Minton's Playhouse, Harlem, New York City, 1949 Image(s) Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010 Notes: 94-3283 (SI Neg. No.) AC0445-0000002.tif(AC Scan No.) From black copy print notebook in reading room. The subject is leaning on the piano, smoking a cigarette while he writes.</p> <p>Names: Monk, Thelonious Topic: Piano Smoking -- 1940-1990 Cigarettes Jazz African American musicians Musicians -- 1950-2000 Culture: African Americans</p>
Box 1, Folder 20	Mulligan, Gerry and Zoot Sims; Mercury Recording Studio, New York City, 1955
Box 1, Folder 21	Navarro, Fats; Birdland, New York City, 1948
Box 1, Folder 22	Parker, Charlie and Dizzy Gillespie; Recording Studio, New York City, 1949
Box 1, Folder 23	<p>Charlie Parker -- Birdland [New York City] [Photoprint, black and white,], 1949 1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.) Image(s): Parker, Charlie; Birdland, New York City, 1949 Image(s) Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010 Notes: AC0445-0000008.tif (AC Scan No.) Box No. 1 Parker playing saxophone, dramatically photographed from a low angle. Title, signature, date in lower margin.</p> <p>Names: Parker, Charlie, 1920-1955 Birdland (New York, N.Y.) Topic: Saxophone African American musicians Jazz Musicians -- 1950-2000 Culture: African Americans</p>
Box 1, Folder 24	Parker, Charlie, with the Metronome All Stars; RCA Victor Recording Studio, New York City, 1949

Box 1, Folder 25	Pettiford, Oscar; Recording Studio, New York City, 1950
Box 1, Folder 26	Powell, Bud; Birdland, New York City, 1949
Box 1, Folder 27	Rich, Buddy; Recording Studio, New York City, 1954
Box 1, Folder 28	<p>Max Roach -- NYC [black-and-white photoprint,], 1950 1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.) Image(s): Roach, Max; Recording Studio, New York City, 1950 Image(s)</p> <p>Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010 Notes: AC0445-0000009.tif (AC Scan No.) Box No. 1. Roach is shown playing the drums in a recording studio. Title, signature, date in lower margin. Used April 27, 2010, on the Smithsonian Photographic Initiative web site, "click! photography changes everything" (http://click.si.edu) to accompany contributor Jeremy Wolfe's (a professor at Harvard School of Medicine who investigates visual attention) story, which reflects on how photography changes what and how much we remember.</p> <p>Names: Roach, Max, 1924-2007 Topic: African American musicians Drums Drummers (Musicians) Jazz Musicians -- 1950-2000 Culture: African Americans</p>
Box 1, Folder 29	<p>Frank Sinatra -- NYC [in a New York City recording studio] [black-and-white photoprint,], 1956 1 Item Image(s): Sinatra, Frank; Recording Studio, New York City, 1956 Image(s)</p> <p>Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010 Notes: AC0445-0000006.tif (AC Scan) 00044504.tif (AC Scan, duplicate) Silver gelatin on paper, 11" x 14". In Box 1, Folder 29. Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves. Title under image, left; signed under image, right.</p> <p>Names: Sinatra, Frank, 1915-1998 Topic: Studios (work spaces) Singers Jazz Musicians -- 1950-2000 Place: New York (N.Y.)</p>

Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1950-1960 -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin

Box 1, Folder 30	<p>Frank Sinatra [photoprint, black-and-white,], 1956 1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.) Image(s): Sinatra, Frank; Recording Studio, New York City, 1956 Image(s) Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010 Notes: AC0445-0000005.tif (AC Scan No.) Box No. 1. Sinatra singing into microphone at New York City recording studio. Title below image, signed at lower right. Gift of the artist. Used April 27, 2010, on the Smithsonian Photographic Initiative web site, "click! photography changes everything" (http://click.si.edu) to accompany contributor Jeremy Wolfe's (a professor at Harvard School of Medicine who investigates visual attention) story, which reflects on how photography changes what and how much we remember. Names: Sinatra, Frank, 1915-1998 Topic: Singers -- 1950-1960 Jazz Musicians -- 1950-2000</p>
Box 1, Folder 30A	<p>Strayhorn, Billy; Paris, 1960 1 Contact sheet (8 1/2" x 11")</p>
Box 1, Folder 31	<p>Vaughan, Sarah; Recording Studio, New York City, 1950</p>
Box 1, Folder 32	<p>Young, Lester; Birdland, New York City, 1949</p>
Box 1, Folder 33	<p>Young, Lester; Recording Studio, Paris, 1958</p>
Box 1, Folder 34	<p>Lester Young -- Paris. [Black-and-white photoprint,], 1958 1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.) Image(s): Young, Lester; Recording Studio, Paris, 1958 Image(s) Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010 Notes: AC0445-0000010.tif (AC Scan No.) Lester Young is holding his saxophone. Title, date, signature in lower margin. Names: Young, Lester, 1909-1959 Topic: Saxophone African American musicians Jazz Musicians -- 1950-2000 Place: Paris (France) Culture: African Americans</p>

Box 1, Folder 35	Young, Lester (Hat); Recording Studio, New York City, 1948
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Box 1, Folder 36	Davis, Miles, Royal Roost, New York City, 1948
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Series 2: 16" x 20" Prints, 1948-1991

Box 3, Folder 1	Adderly, Cannonball; New York City, 1956
Box 3, Folder 2	<p>Louis Armstrong [singing at microphone, holding handkerchief [black-and-white photoprint, black-and-white] 1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.) Image(s): Armstrong, Louis; Birdland, New York City, 1956 Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010 Notes: 00044507.tif (AC Scan) Title under image at left, signed at lower right.</p> <p>Names: Armstrong, Louis, 1901-1971 Topic: Handkerchiefs Microphones African American musicians Jazz Musicians -- 1950-2000 Culture: African Americans</p>
Box 2, Folder 1	Armstrong, Louis; Paris, 1960
Box 3, Folder 3	Baker, Chet; New York City, 1956
Box 2, Folder 2	Basie, Count; Newport, 1955
Box 2, Folder 3	Blakey, Art; Paris, 1958
Box 3, Folder 4	Brown, Clifford; Studio, New York City, 1954
Box 3, Folder 5	Brown, Ray; New York City, 1948
Box 9, Folder 4	Carroll, Diane, Duke Ellington, and Louis Armstrong; on the set of Paris Blues, Paris, 1960
Box 4, Folder 1	Clark, Kenny; Royal Roost, 1948
Box 2, Folder 4	Davis, Miles; Peray, Heath and Mulligan, Gerry; Newport, 1955
Box 4, Folder 2	Davis, Miles; London, 1989
Box 2, Folder 5	<p>Davis, Miles; Montreaux, Switzerland, 1991 Notes: Unmounted</p>
Box 4, Folder 3	Ellington, Duke; Paris, 1958
Box 4, Folder 4	Ellington, Duke (shoes); Paris, 1958

Box 4, Folder 5	Ellington, Duke; Carnegie Hall, 1960
Box 9, Folder 5	Ellington, Duke; on the set of Paris Blue, Paris, 1960
Box 9, Folder 6	Fitzgerald, Ella; Downbeat Club, New York City, 1949
Box 9, Folder 7	Fitzgerald, Ella; Paris, 1960
Box 9, Folder 8	Fitzgerald, Ella; Bop City, New York, 1949
Box 9, Folder 9	Fitzgerald, Ella; Downbeat Club, 1949
Box 9, Folder 10	Fitzgerald, Ella with Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman at the Downbeat Club, 1948 Notes: Margin note made by Herman Leonard on photograph records the date as 1949. However, evidence indicates the photograph was taken on June 10, 1948 at the Three Deuces night club. Stan Hasselgard, seated with Benny Goodman behind Duke Ellington, died in a car accident, November 23, 1948, en route to Chicago and Mexico City.
Box 5, Folder 1	Garner, Erroll; Bop City Club, New York City, 1953
Box 5, Folder 2	Getz, Stan; New York City, 1949
Box 2, Folder 6	Gillespie, Dizzy; Royal Roost, New York City, 1948
Box 5, Folder 3	Gillespie, Dizzy and Charlie Parker; New York City, 1948
Box 5, Folder 4	Gordon, Dexter; Royal Roost, New York City, 1948
Box 5, Folder 5	Hodges, Johnny; Paris, 1958
Box 6, Folder 1	Holiday, Billie; Hollywood, 1953
Box 2, Folder 7	Billie Holiday -- NYC [photoprint, black-and-white,], 1949 1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.) Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010 Notes: 00044503.tif (AC Scan No.) Holliday singing into microphone with smoke swirling around her. Title below image, signed at lower right. Names: Holiday, Billie, 1915-1959 Topic: Smoke African American singers -- 1940-1950 Jazz musicians -- 1940-1950 Jazz Place: New York (N.Y.) -- 1930-1950 -- Photographs Culture: African Americans -- 1940-1950

Box 6, Folder 2	Holiday, Billie; New York City, 1955
Box 2, Folder 8	Monk, Thelonious; Minton's Playhouse, Harlem, New York, 1949
Box 6, Folder 3	Moody, James; New York City, 1951
Box 6, Folder 4	Mulligan, Gerry; Newport, 1958
Box 6, Folder 5	Navarro, Fats; Royal Roost, New York City, 1948
Box 7, Folder 1	Parker, Charlie; Royal Roost, New York City, 1948
Box 7, Folder 2	Parker, Charlie; Birdland, New York City, 1949
Box 7, Folder 3	Parker, Charlie; Metronome All Stars (Eddie Szafranski, Billy Bauer, and Lennie Tristano), 1949
Box 7, Folder 4	Parker, Charlie; Metronome All Stars, 1949
Box 2, Folder 9	Pettiford, Oscar; New York City, 1950
Box 8, Folder 1	Powell, Bud; Birdland, New York City, 1949
Box 7, Folder 5	Roach, Max and Clifford Brown; Birdland, New York City, 1954
Box 8, Folder 2	Sinatra, Frank; New York City, 1956
Box 8, Folder 3	Sinatra, Frank; Monte Carlo, 1958
Box 8, Folder 4	Stitt, Sonny; New York City, 1953
Box 8, Folder 5	Tatum, Art; Los Angeles, 1955
Box 2, Folder 10	<p>Sarah Vaughan -- NYC [photoprint, black-and-white,], 1950 1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.) Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010 Notes: 00044505.tif (AC Scan No.) Vaughan sitting on bench, singing from sheet music. Title below image, signed at lower right.</p> <p>Names: Vaughan, Sarah, 1924-1990 Topic: African American singers -- 1940-1950 Jazz musicians -- 1940-1950 Jazz Place: New York (N.Y.) -- 1930-1950 -- Photographs Culture: African Americans -- 1940-1950</p>
Box 9, Folder 1	[Dinah Washington singing into microphone] [photoprint, black-and-white, [1950?]]

1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.)
[Image\(s\): Washington, Dinah; New York City, 1955](#)
[Image\(s\)](#)
Photographer: Leonard, Herman, 1923-2010
Notes: 00044506.tif (AC Scan No.)
Title below image at left, signed at lower right.
Names: Washington, Dinah, 1924-1963
Topic: Women in jazz
Microphones
African American singers -- 1940-1950
Jazz musicians -- 1940-1950
Jazz
Women in music
Place: New York (N.Y.) -- 1930-1950 -- Photographs
Culture: African Americans -- 1940-1950

Box 2, Folder 11 [Webster, Ben; backstage at Birdland, New York, 1950](#)

Box 9, Folder 2 Young, Lester; Paris, 1960

Box 9, Folder 3 Young, Lester; New York City, 1948

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Series 3: Addendum 16" x 20" Prints, 1948-1991

Box 10, Folder 1	Armstrong, Louis
Box 10, Folder 1	Bennett, Tony
Box 10, Folder 1	Camero, Candido
Box 10, Folder 1	Cole, Nat "King"
Box 10, Folder 1	Davis, Miles (two photographs)
Box 10, Folder 1	Eckstine, Billy
Box 10, Folder 2	Getz, Stan
Box 10, Folder 2	Gillespie, Dizzy (with Miles Davis)
Box 10, Folder 2	Heath, Percy
Box 10, Folder 2	Holiday, Billy
Box 10, Folder 2	Horne, Lena
Box 10, Folder 2	Marsalis, Wynton
Box 10, Folder 2	Monk, Thelonious
Box 10, Folder 3	Pozo, Chano (with Art Blakeley)
Box 10, Folder 3	Roach, Max
Box 10, Folder 3	Sims, Zoot
Box 10, Folder 3	Strayhorn, Billy
Box 10, Folder 3	Terry, Clark
Box 10, Folder 3	Washington, Dinah

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