



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Emile Waagenaar Photoprints of Cajun Musicians : digital prints

NMAH.AC.1150

David Haberstich

2017

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
archivescenter@si.edu
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Emile Waagenaar Photoprints of Cajun Musicians : digital prints
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1150
Date:	1980-2008
Extent:	0.5 Cubic feet (64 items)
Creator:	Waagenaar, Emile
Language:	English Collection is in English.
Summary:	Environmental portraits of Cajun musicians: 64 inkjet photographic prints, 1980-2008, some in black-and-white and others in color.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by Emile Waagenaar. The photographer had these prints made specifically for this gift.

Processing Information

Collection processed by David Haberstich.

Preferred Citation

Emile Waagenaar Photoprints of Cajun Musicians, Archives Center, National Museum of American History. Gift of the artist. Copyright held by the artist.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Emile Waagenaar retains copyright. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

Emile Waagenaar lives in the Netherlands, where he works as a commercial photographer. He is an enthusiastic aficionado of Cajun music and because he loves the music, which he discovered in the 1970s, in 1982 he began photographing musicians who play this regional style in New Orleans and

elsewhere in Louisiana, Texas, etc. Over the years, at his own expense, he has made many trips from his home to the United States in order to seek out, befriend, and photograph Cajun musicians with their instruments—in their homes, businesses, and concert environments in the United States. Since he fears that this music is always at risk of disappearing as older musicians die and other popular music styles of the moment attract audiences away from traditional forms and styles, he has a missionary spirit in engaging in this project. He hopes not only to preserve visual records of some of the most important musicians and their environments, but to engender interest in Cajun music on the part of those who view his photographs. This project seems to be one to which he devotes considerable time and passion and is the most personal of his photographic projects because it is self-assigned rather than deriving from economic necessity. His enthusiasm for this style of music led him to form his own Cajun band in the Netherlands. Many of his images can be viewed on his web site at <http://www.emilecajun.web-log.nl/>.

Waagenaar has had a number of exhibitions of his work on Cajun musicians in Europe and the United States, including the solo exhibit, "La Joie de la Musique," Sept. 9-Nov. 25, 2006 (La Musées de Lafayette, Louisiana). His work is discussed and critiqued by Johan von Gulp in the catalog *Schatten van Breda's Museum* (Breda, Netherlands, 2003).

Waagenaar's aims are both aesthetic and historical. He has tried to document the most important and innovative musicians, first among the generation of musicians who were the founders of Cajun music in the beginning of the 20th century. He writes, "After that I think it is important to have the second, third and fourth generation of these musicians. Every generation gives...Cajun music another drive, but the people I want to photograph must...respect the old traditional style and stay close to that. These days I use the Internet to find new musicians, but the best [way to] locate these people is talking with the musicians I already know...when I am in Louisiana. Mostly I give them a phone call and explain my intentions."

Scope and Contents

Environmental portraits of Cajun musicians, often taken in their homes, usually showing them with their instruments, typically accordions, violins, and guitars. Exterior images sometimes include automobiles. The collection consists of 64 inkjet photographic prints, 297 x 420 mm. (12" x 16-3/4"), some in black-and-white and others in color. They are beautifully crafted and include a wealth of detail. They are basically straightforward environmental portraits, and although the subjects are rendered with dignity, sometimes unusual, quirky aspects of some subjects' personalities, including seemingly incongruous details, also are on display in whimsical pictures imbued with gentle humor. This group of prints is in excellent, new condition. Waagenaar's pictures are sharp, clear, and demonstrate a sympathetic, warm attitude toward his subjects. Prints are signed in pencil on verso. Printed on Hahnemule Fine Art Inkjet Paper.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Accordion

Automobiles
Cajun music -- Louisiana
Dwellings -- Louisiana
Guitars
Musicians
Violin

Types of Materials:

Digital images
Inkjet prints
Photographs -- Digital prints -- 20th century
Photographs -- Digital prints -- 21st century

Geographic Names:

Louisiana

Container Listing

Series 1: Prints, 1982 - 2008

[Image\(s\)](#)

Contains two sample postcards reproduced from Waagenaar photographs, including biographical information about the subjects; and 6 sheets containing thumbnail images of photographs in the collection.

Box 1, Folder 1	J. Soileau, Ville Platte, 1998 [with viola]
Box 1, Folder 1	Aldus Roger, Lafayette, 1982 [accordion]
Box 1, Folder 1	Allen Richard, Gueydan, 2001 [guitar]
Box 1, Folder 1	Ambrose Thibodeaux, Lafayette, 1982 [accordion]
Box 1, Folder 1	Bobby Charles, Breaux Bridge, 1989 [in hammock, no instrument]
Box 1, Folder 1	Carol Rachou, Lafayette, 1982 [seated in room, with trumpet or cornet on shelf]
Box 1, Folder 1	Cory and Lisa McCauley, Mamou, 1998 [accordion and guitar]
Box 1, Folder 1	Dirk Powell and Christine Balfa, St. Martinville, 1998 [accordion and Maid-Rite washboard]
Box 1, Folder 1	Don Montouchet, Scott, 2001 [accordion; animal trophies on wall]

[Image\(s\)](#)

Don Montoucet, Scott [Louisiana] [black-and-white inkjet digital photoprint], 2001

1 Item (8-3/4" x 12-3/4" image on 11-3/4" x 16-1/2" paper.)

[Image\(s\): Don Montoucet, Scott \[Louisiana\] \[black-and-white inkjet digital photoprint\].](#)

Waagenaar, Emile, Photographer

Title imprinted under image. Subject plays a concertina in a room with two mounted animal heads on the wall and a small stuffed animal.

Ink on paper, digital print.

Local Numbers

AC1150-0000007.tif (AC Scan No.)

Exhibitions Note

Displayed in Archives Center exhibition, "Gift of the Artist: Photographers as Donors," November 11, 2011-Feb. 29, 2012. David Haberstich, curator.

Names: Montoucet, Don
 Topic: Cajun music -- Louisiana
 Concertinas
 Musicians
 Taxidermy
 Place: Louisiana
 Genre/
 Form: Inkjet prints
 Photographs -- 21st century -- Digital prints
 Culture: Cajuns

Box 1, Folder 1	Doris Leon "D.L.", Menard, Erath, 1997 [seated on rear of Buick, with guitar]
Box 1, Folder 2	Eddie & P.J. Emmerson Lejeune, Morse, 1998 [accordion; laughing child with miniature accordion]
Box 1, Folder 2	Eddie Shuler, Lake Charles, 1982 [Eddie's Music House sign; no instrument shown]
Box 1, Folder 2	Errol Verret & Tony Latiolais, St. Martinville, 1997 [accordion and guitar]
Box 1, Folder 2	Ervin Lejeune, Lake Charles, 2001 [accordion]
Box 1, Folder 2	Floyd Soileau, Ville Platte, 1998 [recording equipment, no instrument]
Box 1, Folder 2	Hector Duhon, Lafayette, 1989 [standing with Buick, no instrument]
Box 1, Folder 2	Horace Trahan and Felix Richard, Lafayette, 1998 [accordions] Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 2	Hubert Maitre, Scott, 2001 [guitar]
Box 1, Folder 2	Jo-El Sonnier, Rayne, 1982 [on exercise bicycle with accordion]
Box 1, Folder 2	Joe (Douglas) Badon, Henderson, 2001 [accordion; fishing equipment]
Box 1, Folder 3	Kira Viator, Crowley, 1998 [accordion; stuffed animal toys]
Box 1, Folder 3	L.J. Hebert, Kaplan, 2001 [accordion]

[Image\(s\)](#)

- Box 1, Folder 3 Larry G. Miller, Iota, 1982 [accordion]
- Box 1, Folder 3 Lee Benoit, Rayne, 2001 [accordion]
- Box 1, Folder 3 Lee Lavergne, Church Point, 1997 [no instrument; sign for Lanor Records, etc.]
- Box 1, Folder 3 Leo Abshire, Guydan, 1998 [violin]
- Box 1, Folder 3 Leola Denson-Thibodeaux, Lafayette, 1997 [triangle]
- Box 1, Folder 3 Leroy "Happy" Fats Leblanc, Rayne, 1982 [electric guitar]
- Box 1, Folder 3 Luderin Darbone, Sulphur, 1982 [viola?]
- Box 1, Folder 3 Matthew Courville, Carencro, 1997 [accordion]

[Image\(s\)](#)

Matthew Courville, Carencro [Louisiana], 1997 [black-and-white digital inkjet photoprint], Printed 2008-2009
1 Item (13-3/4" x 9" image on 16-1/2" x 11-5/8".)

[Image\(s\): Matthew Courville, Carencro \[Louisiana\], 1997 \[black-and-white digital inkjet photoprint\].](#)

Waagenaar, Emile, Photographer

Title imprinted under image. Subject plays an accordion while sitting on a high curb.

Ink on paper, digital print.

Local Numbers

AC1150-0000003.tif (AC Scan No.)

Names: Courville, Matthew

Topic: Accordion
Cajun music -- Louisiana
Musicians

Place: Louisiana

Genre/ Form: Inkjet prints
Photographs -- 21st century -- Digital prints

Culture: Cajuns

- Box 1, Folder 3 Merlin Fontenot, Lafayette, 1997 [violin]
- Box 2, Folder 1 Michael Doucet and his wife Sharon, Lafayette, 1982 [no instruments]

- Box 2, Folder 1 Milton Adams, Kaplan, 2001 [accordion]
- Box 2, Folder 1 Morris and Dexter Ardoin, Basile, 1998 [accordion and violin]
- Box 2, Folder 1 Nonc Allie Young and his wife Viola, 2001 [accordion]
- Box 2, Folder 1 Morris and Dexter Ardoin, Mamou, 1998 [accordion and violin]
- Box 2, Folder 1 Octa Clark, Mulates-Breaux Bridge, 1997 [no instrument]
- Box 2, Folder 1 Phil Menard, Lake Charles, 1982 [with car, no instrument]
- Box 2, Folder 1 Raymond Cornier, Rayne, 2001 [violin]
- Box 2, Folder 1 Roddie Romero, Lafayette, 1997 [accordion]
- Box 2, Folder 1 Rodney Fontenot, Eunice, 2001 [violin]
- Box 2, Folder 2 Romero Brothers, St. Martinville, 1997 [triangle and accordion]
- Box 2, Folder 2 Shelton Manuel, Eunice, 2001 [accordion]
- Box 2, Folder 2 Sheryl Cormier, Carencro, 1997 [accordion; stands beside vehicle with her name and an accordion image on wheel cover]
- Box 2, Folder 2 Steve Riley, Lafayette, 1997 [accordion]
- Box 2, Folder 2 Walter Mouton, Scott, 2001 [accordion, on motorcycle]
- Box 2, Folder 2 Wedest Bourque, Rayne, 1982 [accordion]
- Box 2, Folder 2 Adam Hebert en [and] Cleveland DuPuis, nursing home in Lafayette, 2008 [violin and accordion]
- Box 2, Folder 2 Al Berard, Cecilia, 2008 [sitting on part of old car, with violin]
[Image\(s\)](#)

Al Berard, Cecilia, 2008 [inkjet digital photoprint], 2008
1 Item (13-3/4" x 9" image on 16-1/2" x 11-5/8".)

[Image\(s\): Al Berard, Cecilia, 2008 \[inkjet digital photoprint\].](#)

Waagenaar, Emile, Photographer

Title imprinted under image. Subject plays a violin while sitting on the shell of an automobile.

Ink on paper, digital print.

Local Numbers

AC1150-0000004.tif (AC Scan No.)

Names: Berard, Al
 Topic: Automobiles
 Cajun music -- Louisiana
 Musicians
 Violin
 Wrecks, automobile
 Place: Louisiana
 Genre/ Form: Inkjet prints
 Photographs -- 21st century -- Digital prints
 Culture: Cajuns

Box 2, Folder 2

Ann Savoy, Eunice, 2008 [guitar]D'jalma Garnier, Carencro, 2008 [violin]

[Image\(s\)](#)

Ann Savoy, Eunice [Louisiana], 2008 [color digital inkjet photoprint], Printed 2008-2009

1 Item (13-3/4" x 9" image on 16-1/2" x 11-5/8".)

[Image\(s\): Ann Savoy, Eunice \[Louisiana\], 2008 \[color digital inkjet photoprint\].](#)

Waagenaar, Emile, Photographer

Title imprinted under image. Subject plays a guitar while seated in living room.

Ink on paper, digital print.

Local Numbers

AC1150-0000005.tif (AC Scan No.)

Names: Savoy, Ann, 1952-
 Topic: Cajun music -- Louisiana
 Guitar
 Guitar music -- Louisiana.
 Interior architecture
 Living rooms
 Musicians
 Place: Louisiana
 Genre/ Form: Inkjet prints
 Photographs -- 21st century -- Digital prints
 Culture: Cajuns

D'Jalma Garnier, Carencro [Louisiana] [full-color inkjet digital photoprint], 2008

1 Item (9-1/8" x 13-7/8" image on 11-3/4" x 16-1/2".)

Image(s): D'Jalma Garnier, Carencro [Louisiana] [full-color inkjet digital photoprint].

Waagenaar, Emile, Photographer

Title imprinted under image. Subject holds a violin while sitting on the porch of his house. Laundry is shown drying on racks.

Ink on paper, digital print.

Local Numbers

AC1150-0000006.tif (AC Scan No.)

Exhibitions Note

Displayed in Archives Center exhibition, "Gift of the Artist: Photographers as Donors," November 11, 2011-Feb. 29, 2012. David Haberstick, curator.

Names:	Gernier, D'Jalma
Topic:	Cajun music -- Louisiana Laundry Musicians Violin
Place:	Carencro (La.) Louisiana
Genre/ Form:	Inkjet prints Photographs -- 21st century -- Digital prints
Culture:	Cajuns

Box 2, Folder 3	David Greely, Breaux Bridge, 2008 [violin]
Box 2, Folder 3	Ellis Vanicor, Lacassine, 2008 [violin]
Box 2, Folder 3	Jason Frey, Eunice, 2008 [accordion]
Box 2, Folder 3	Jesse Leger, Backside Liberty Theater in Eunice [sic], 2008 [accordion]
Box 2, Folder 3	Ken Smith, Kinder, 2008 [violin]
Box 2, Folder 3	Kevin Wimmer, Breaux Bridge, 2008 [violin]
Box 2, Folder 3	L.J. Melancon, Cecilia, 2008 [accordions]
Box 2, Folder 3	Milton & Odile Vanicor, Welsh, 2008 [homemade one-string tobacco can violin]
Box 2, Folder 3	Paul Daigle, Branch, 2008 [seated on wrecked car with accordion, dog watching]

[Image\(s\)](#)

Paul Daigle, Branch [full-color inkjet digital photoprint], 2008
 1 Item (13-3/4" x 9" image on 16-1/2" x 11-5/8" paper.)

[Image\(s\): Paul Daigle, Branch \[full-color inkjet digital photoprint\].](#)

Waagenaar, Emile, Photographer

Title imprinted under image. Subject plays a concertina while sitting on a totally wrecked and dismantled automobile, as a seated dog observes.

Ink on paper, digital print.

Local Numbers

AC1150-0000002.tif (AC Scan No.)

Names: Daigle, Paul
 Topic: Accordion
 Automobiles
 Cajun music -- Louisiana
 Concertinas
 Dogs
 Musicians
 Wrecks, automobile
 Place: Louisiana
 Genre/ Inkjet prints
 Form: Photographs -- 21st century -- Digital prints
 Culture: Cajuns

Box 2, Folder 3

Ray Abshire, Lafayette, 2008 [accordion, at swimming pool]

Box 2, Folder 3

Rodney Lejeune, Nederland, Texas, 2008 [guitar in living room, Katie Couric on television]

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