



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Michael Cipriano Papers

NMAH.AC.1274

NMAH Staff

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Michael Cipriano Papers
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1274
Date:	1983 - 1993
Extent:	0.6 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
Creator:	Cipriano, Michael, 1960-1993
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was donated in 1993 by D. Thomas Shoemaker.

Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in 2012.

Processing Information

Collection is unprocessed.

Preferred Citation

Michael Cipriano Papers, 1983-1993, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection open for research on site by appointment. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

Window and display designer. Born Waterbury Connecticut, 1960. Cipriano studied fine art and art history at the University of Connecticut. His professional interests include costume, set, and theater design of the

Art Deco, Art Moderne, and Art Nouveau styles. Prior to 1983, he did freelance displays for a number of small shops in Connecticut.

He began his professional career as a display trimmer for Macy's department store in New York in 1983. He designed for Bloomingdale's from 1984-85, and for Bergdorf Goodman's Home Department from 1985 to 1986. Cipriano became recognized shortly before his death in 1993, as an innovative designer of table settings for Barney's Chelsea Passage, where he served as Display Manager from 1985-1990.

Scope and Contents

It consists of business records and correspondence, colored pencil sketches for Barney's Christmas windows done in 1988-1989, and approximately 500 color 35 mm slides illustrating window displays for Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Bergdorf Goodman, and Barney's. This collection covers the full range of Cipriano's design career from 1983 to 1993.

Scope and Contents

The majority of the collection focuses on Cipriano's work for the Chelsea Passage for Barney's New York. Included is a copy of Barney's display policy providing details on when displays need to be checked, how often floral arrangements need to be changed, and other details. The collection also contains documentation for projects Cipriano did for Bride's magazine, Etoile, Ercole, Puiforcat, and Kosta Boda.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Chelsea Passage
- Display of merchandise -- United States
- Show windows
- Table setting and decoration

Types of Materials:

- Advertising cards
- Clippings
- Color slides
- Color xerographic copies
- Correspondence
- Drawings
- Invoices
- Obituaries
- Photographs -- Color prints -- 20th century
- Proposals
- Purchase orders
- Receipts
- Sketches
- Swatches

Names:

Barneys New York
Bergdorf Goodman, New York
Bloomingdale's (Firm)
Cooper-Hewitt Design Archive
Ercole (Store)
Etoile (Store)
Kosta Boda (Firm)
Macy, R.H., & Co., New York
Puiforcat (Firm)

Occupations:

Window display designers

Preferred Titles:

Bride's (Magazine)