

Center for Creative Photography

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Finding aid for the  
Imogen Cunningham Miscellaneous Acquisitions Collection,  
1920s-1974  
AG 128

## **Imogen Cunningham Miscellaneous Acquisitions Collection, 1920s-1974**

### **AG 128**

#### **Creator**

Center for Creative Photography

#### **Abstract**

Miscellaneous materials pertaining to the life and career of Imogen Cunningham (1883-1976), photographer. Each group of materials was collected from a separate source and is described individually as a series.

#### **Quantity/ Extent**

Fraction of a linear foot.

#### **Language of Materials**

English

#### **Biographical Note**

Imogen Cunningham was born in Portland, Oregon in 1883. She attended the University of Washington in Seattle for Chemistry after being told by a professor that it would further her career in photography. After graduation she worked in Edward S. Curtis' portrait studio. A few years later she opened her own studio in Seattle photographing soft focus photographs of her and her friends. In 1914, Cunningham's first solo exhibition was held at the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences and ten of her photographs were exhibited in Film und Foto in Stuttgart, Germany. She was also an original member of the f.64 group. Cunningham died in 1976.

#### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection is comprised of four series, each collected from a separate source. Among the materials are two letters written by Cunningham, an interview transcript, photographs of Cunningham, and bound photocopies of documents and ephemera related to the life and career of Cunningham.

Series One, Correspondence, contains two original typed, signed letters from Imogen Cunningham to Anita Mozley, Curator, Stanford Museum of Art. Content of the letters is general. One letter is dated 3 May 1974, the other is undated.

Series two contains a 215 page transcript dated 1961 of a 1959 tape recorded interview with Cunningham conducted by Edna Tartsul Daniel for the Regional Cultural History Project of the University of California at Berkeley. Transcription was corrected and modified by Cunningham and includes a three page introduction by Beaumont Newhall. Original transcript was illustrated with photographs by William R. Heick of Mill Valley, California, but this copy contains no illustrations.

Series three is a bound volume of photocopies, entitled "IC Notebook", of Cunningham's documents, ephemera and letters, 1920's-1960's, related to her life and career. Compiler unknown, but notations made by "ICT", possibly reference the Imogen Cunningham Trust. Volume is sectioned into topics. Of note are lists of sold prints, to whom sold, dates of prints and prices.

Series four contains five 8" x 10" b & w prints of Cunningham taken by photographer Jeanne O'Connor in 1973. Of note is an image of Cunningham with Lisette Model.

### **Arrangement**

- Series 1: Correspondence, n.d., 1974
- Series 2: Interview Transcript, 1961
- Series 3: Notebook, 1920s-1960s
- Series 4: Photographs, 1973

### **Names and Subject Terms**

Cunningham, Imogen, 1883-1976  
Photography

### **Restrictions**

#### **Conditions Governing Access**

Access to this collection requires an appointment with the Volkerding Study Center.

#### **Conditions Governing Use**

Some material under copyright.

Some restrictions apply. See archivist for further details.

It is the responsibility of the user to obtain permission from the copyright owner (which could be the institution, the creator of the record, the author or his/her transferees, heirs, legates or literary executors) prior to any copyright-protected uses of the collection.

The user agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Arizona Board of Regents, the University of Arizona, Center of Creative Photography, including its officers,

employees, and agents, from and against all claims made relating to copyright or other intellectual property infringement.

**Provenance**

Series One, gift of Anita Mozely, 1987.

Series Two, provenance unknown.

Series Three, provenance unknown.

Series Four, gift of Jeanne O'Connor, 2000.

**Preferred Citation**

Imogen Cunningham Miscellaneous Acquisitions Collection, 1920s-1974. AG 128. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

**Processing Information**

Finding aid updated by Meghan Jordan in May 2016.

**Container List**

Box Folder

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | Series One, Correspondence, n.d., 1974 |
| 1 | 2 | Series Two, Interview Transcript, 1961 |
| 1 | 3 | Series Three, Notebook, 1920's-1960's  |
| 1 | 4 | Series Four, Photographs, 1973         |