

Center for Creative Photography

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Finding aid for the  
Kurt Baasch Collection, 1916-1994  
AG 137

**Kurt Baasch Collection, 1916-1994**

**AG 137**

**Creator**

Baasch, Kurt (1891-1964)

**Abstract**

Personal papers and photographic materials, 1916-1994, of Kurt Waldemar Baasch (1891-1964), photographer, ceramicist, and horticulturalist. Includes letters from Baasch's friends and associates, Paul and Rebecca Strand, Hazel Strand, Alfred Stieglitz, Julien Levy, and Elizabeth McCausland; as well as clippings related to the films and photography of Paul Strand.

**Quantity/ Extent**

2 linear feet

**Language of Materials**

English, German

**Biographical Note**

Kurt Baasch, born in 1891 in Venezuela, grew up in Germany where, at the age of fourteen, he began photographing. By 1909 his work was included in a major exhibition in Dresden. Baasch moved to New York in 1911 where he met and was befriended by Alfred Stieglitz and Paul Strand. Baasch's vision was boldly original; he was fascinated with modern city life and by the camera's ability to weave together realist and abstract concerns, facts, and ideas. Baasch died in 1964.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Kurt Baasch Collection is made up of three series housed in three boxes. Series 1 contains correspondence to Kurt and Isobel Baasch from Paul Strand, Rebecca Strand, Alfred Stieglitz, Grace Mayer, Julien Levy, and The Camera Club of New York City.

Series 2 contains biographical materials of Paul Strand such as original and photocopied newspaper and magazine clippings related to Strand's films and photography.

Series 3 is made up of contact prints made in 1994 by CCP staff from Baasch's original negatives.

**Arrangement**

Series 1: Correspondence (Box 1)

Series 2: Biographical materials of Paul Strand (Box 2)

Series 3: Photographic materials of Kurt Baasch (Box 3)

### **Names and Subject Terms**

Baasch, Kurt Waldemar, 1891-1964

Strand, Paul, 1890-1976

James, Rebecca Salsbury, 1891-1968

Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946

Photography

### **Restrictions**

#### **Conditions Governing Access**

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

#### **Conditions Governing Use**

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**

The collection was a gift of Herbert Baasch and Olga Baasch Vrana, the photographer's children beginning in 1992. Additional materials received in 1995.

### **Preferred Citation**

Kurt Baasch Collection, 1916-1994. AG 137. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

### **Processing Information**

Preliminary inventory prepared in August 1992; revised March 1997, September 1998, and 2008. Finding aid updated by Meghan Jordan in May 2016 and again by Alexis Peregoy in 2019.

## Container List

### Series 1: Correspondence

Quantity: 1 box. Correspondence includes letters to Kurt and Isabel Baasch from Paul Strand (31), Rebecca Strand (30), and Alfred Stieglitz (2).

Box	Folder
1	1 Alfred Stieglitz (1930, 1940)
	2 Paul Strand (1930s)
	3 Paul and Rebecca Strand (1931-32)
	4 Paul Strand (1936?)
	5 Rebecca Salsbury James (1930s to 40s)
	6 Paul Strand (1950s)
	7 Rebecca Salsbury James (1950s)
	8 Paul Strand (1960s)
	9 Rebecca Salsbury James (1960s)
	10 Hazel Strand (1971)
	11 Rebecca Salsbury James letters
	12 Rebecca Salsbury James ephemera
	13 Letter from Paul Strand to Isabel Baasch, November 22, 1968.
	14 Photocopy of typed manuscript "The Eighth Art" (3 pp.) by Paul Strand, 1917.
	15 Photocopy of letter from Grace Mayer to Isabel Baasch, February 16, 1966.
	16 Letters (5) from Julien Levy to Kurt Baasch, 1932-1933.
	17 Letter from The Camera Club [New York City] to Kurt Baasch, December 20, 1916; checklist of Camera Club exhibition of Baasch photographs, April 14 to May 11, [1916?].
	18 Letter from Elizabeth McCausland to Kurt Baasch, May 11, 1933; copy of McCausland's privately printed booklet on Strand, 1933 [4 pp.]
	19 Photocopies of letter from Paul Strand to Kurt and Isabel, December 17, 1952, and poem from Strand to Olga Baasch, September 17, 1928.

**Series 2: Biographical Materials**

Quantity: 1 box. Materials are related to the films and photography of Paul Strand.

2                    Newspapers, clippings and photocopies, circa 1940-1990.

**Series 3: Photographic Materials**

Quantity: 1 box. Contact prints made in 1994 by CCP staff from Baasch's original negatives.

3                    Contact prints, 1994