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Finding aid for the
Lynn Stern archive, 1971-2017
AG 238

Finding aid created by Alexis Perego, 2018
Lynn Stern archive, 1971-2017

AG 238

Creator
Stern, Lynn, (1942- )

Abstract

Quantity/ Extent
16 linear feet; 4.4 cubic feet

Language of Materials
English, Spanish

Biographical/ Historical Note
Born Lynn Solinger in New York City in 1942, Stern graduated with honors from Smith College, where she majored in English and minored in music. Stern's aesthetic sensibility was influenced by the collection of abstract expressionist painting and sculpture assembled by her father, David Solinger. Hoping to become a film editor, she apprenticed briefly at Ross-Gaffney Films then married architect Robert A.M. Stern, with whom she had a son, Nicholas. She worked as her husband’s photo archivist and became interested in photographic composition while assisting his in-house photographer, Edmund Stoecklein. During 1977, she studied at the International Center for Photography in New York, but left because the curriculum was oriented toward photojournalism. She divorced Robert A. M. Stern in 1977. In 1980, she married architect Jeremy Lang. She studied privately with Joseph Saltzer then printed with Paul Caponigro during 1981-1982. Lynn Stern is a life-long resident of New York City.

Stern works exclusively in black & white with natural, indirect light. “My aim,” she writes, “is to de-literalize what is in front of the lens—to make it the expression of something unseen, something beyond the thing itself.” Her work has moved increasingly toward abstraction. Early influences on her work included Paul Caponigro, Edward
Weston, and the 19th century Luminist painters. Later influences include the writings and black paintings of Ad Reinhardt, and the work of Francis Bacon.

Stern has exhibited internationally and her work is in the permanent collections of prominent museums. In 2009 she had a retrospective exhibition entitled Frozen Mystery/El Misterio Congelado at Fundación Cristóbal Gabarrón in Valladolid, Spain. A catalog was published by the Fundación with the Center for Creative Photography for the exhibition.

Published monographs include *Animus, Dispossession, Unveilings, Veiled Still Lifes, Frozen Mystery, and Skulls*.

Appendix A includes a chronology of solo and group exhibitions. Appendix B is a list of Stern’s series of work between 1978 and present.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection is arranged into three series: Exhibition Files, Publications, Photographic Materials. The first series, Exhibitions, consists of correspondence and papers related to the exhibition shipping, framing, crating, installation, catalog production and reviews associated with her 2009 retrospective exhibition *Frozen Mystery/El Misterio Congelado* in Valladolid, Spain. The second series, Publications, consists of book mockups from selected published monographs. The third series, Photographic Materials, is comprised of 16 boxes of work prints from *Frozen Mystery/El Misterio Congelado* in addition to other series of work, such as *Animus, Forebodings, Full Circle, Veiled Still Lifes, Ghost Circles, Beyond Bones, and (W)Holes*.

**Arrangement**

- **Series 1: Exhibition Files, 2009-2010, 1 box**
- **Series 2: Publications, 1988-2017, 3 boxes**
- **Series 3: Photographic Materials, 1971-2017, 18 boxes**

**Names and Subject Terms**

Stern, Lynn [http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500331777]

Art Photography [http://vocab.getty.edu/aat/300178594]

Black-and-White Photography [http://vocab.getty.edu/aat/300162056]

Monographs [http://vocab.getty.edu/aat/300060417]

Photobooks [http://vocab.getty.edu/aat/300265728]
Restrictions

Conditions Governing Access

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

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright is held by Lynn Stern.

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 Lynn Stern, beginning in 2012.

Accruals

Additional materials received in 2018.

Separated Materials

There are photographs in the CCP’s fine print collection. Please see archivist for details.

Related Materials

Stern’s work resides in other public collections, including but not limited to: Brooklyn Museum of Art; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Portland Art Museum; Smith College Museum of Art; Victoria and Albert Museum; Whitney Museum of American Art; and Yale University Art Gallery

Preferred Citation


Processing Information

The first set of materials, related to the 2009 retrospective exhibition in Spain, Frozen Mystery/El Misterio Congelado in Spain, arrived to the CCP in 2012 and processed by Anne Richwine. An additional 15 boxes arrived in 2018 and were processed and integrated into the collection by Alexis Peregoy.
**Container List**

**Series 1: Exhibition Files, 2009-2010**

Note: The collection contents are associated with Stern’s 2009 retrospective exhibition *Frozen Mystery/ El Misterio Congelado* at Fundación Cristóbal Gabarrón in Valladolid, Spain. Materials include correspondence and papers related to the exhibition’s shipping, framing, crating, installation, catalog production and reviews. Materials are arranged alphabetically by exhibition role. Extent: 1 box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Carnet, 2009-2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Catalog contributors, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Catalog design, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Catalog editing, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Catalog essay by Stern, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Catalog printing, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Catalog translation, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Correspondence with Curator and Director, 2009-2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Crates, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Framing, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Installation, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Reviews in the Spanish Press, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Shipping, 2009-2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series 2: Publications, 1988-2017**

Note: Materials include book mockups for several of Stern’s published monographs. Extent: 3 boxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Book mockup for <em>Dispossession</em>, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Book mockup for <em>Unveilings</em>, 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Book mockup for <em>Frozen Mystery</em> [Stern’s personal copy], 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Book mockup for <em>Frozen Mystery</em> [designer Katy Homan’s copy], 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Book mockup for <em>Skull</em>, 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series 3: Photographic Materials, 1971-2017**

Note: This series includes work prints, transparencies, and family photographs. Extent: 18 boxes.

**Subseries 1: Work Prints**

Note: Materials include gelatin silver work prints from several of Stern’s publications and exhibitions. The arrangement of work prints has maintained Stern’s original order from shipment to CCP. All labels are directly from Stern. Boxes 8-12 were prints from the *Frozen Mystery* exhibition; other boxes include prints that were not included in the retrospective exhibition and/or were rejects. Dates listed with each series are printing dates rather than when the negatives were made; see appendix B for further information and dates. Extent: 16 boxes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Early work, 1971-1979 [initialed unique or 1/3 prints; most on Bainbridge board]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Early work, 1971-1979 [initialed unique or 1/3 print]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>International Center of Photography (ICP) student work, 1977-1978 [13 prints]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>63 work prints: Gabarrón [Frozen Mystery exhibit] (W)holes “Final version (3rd)” Full Circle, 2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>62 work prints: Gabarrón Veiled Still Lifes, 2010-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>71 work prints: Gabarrón (W)holes (early versions w. scrim glossy &amp; matte), 1994-2006, 2008 “deleted &amp; reject images”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Forebodings, 1983-1988 (29)
White compositions, 1985-1987 (2)
Dialogues in Light (16)
Compressed Landscapes (10)

75 work prints: Unveilings, 1985-

105 work prints:
Whiteness, 1987 (22)
Animus, 1998 (54)
Veiled Still Lifes, 2010- (29)

90 work prints:
Full Circle, 2009 (37)
Ghost Circles, 2006-2007 (19)
Meditation, 2016 [Triptych series] (34)

81 work prints:
Spectator, 2015 (16)
Doppleganger, 2014 (22)
Beyond Bones, 2010 (13)
Toning experiments for Animus (14)
Passage, 2010 (16)

85 work prints [images work printed and then rejected]:
Unveilings, 1985- / Dialogues in Light (18)
Whiteness, 1987 (10)
Skulls, 1991- (4)
Scrim/ skull experiments (8)
Skull/ vase experiments (7)
Animus, 1998 (4)
Veiled Still Lifes, 2010- (10)
Ghost Circles, 2006-2007 (7)
Beyond Bones, 2010 (8)
Passage, 2010 (9)

19 work prints, 11" x 14":
Extended Landscapes, 1929-1982 (7 rejects, 1 work print)
Dispossession (1st rejected composites; reject self-portrait)

5 rejected mockups: Dispossession [each is a different self-portrait mask below each skull]
Subseries 2: Transparencies
Note: Transparencies of original mockups for *Dispossession*. Extent: 1 box; 20 transparencies.

Box Folder
21 Transparencies of *Dispossession* book mockup

Subseries 3: Family Photographs and Snapshots
Note: Family photographs and snapshots. Extent: 1 box; 44 photographs.

Box Folder
22 Family photographs and snapshots, including one photograph with Donald Kuspit and Fré Ilgen (44 photographs)
Appendix A: Exhibition List

Solo Exhibitions

2012  Peter Findlay Gallery, New York, NY
2011  [Artspace at Untitled, Oklahoma City, OK
2009  Museo Fundación Cristóbal Gabarrón, Valladolid, Spain
2007  Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York
2006  QCC Art Gallery, Queensborough Community College, The City University of NY
2002  Herbert F. Johnson Museum, Cornell University
2001  Staller Center for the Arts, State University of New York at Stony Brook
2001  Kowasa Gallery, Barcelona
2001  Peter Findlay Gallery, Works on Paper Art Show, New York
2000  Debs & Co., New York
1998  Barry Friedman Ltd., New York
1995  Gallery B.A.I., New York
1993  Scott Nichols Gallery, San Francisco
1990  SCP Gallery, Kansas City
1988  Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA

Group Exhibitions

2008  First doubt: Optical Confusion in Modern Photography, Selections from the Allan Chasnoch Collection, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT
2006  Walpole’s Leap: 8 Modern Garden Perceptions, Lobby Gallery, 499 Park Ave., NY
2005  Women’s Work, Viewpoint Photographic Art Center, Sacramento, CA
2005  Alva Gallery, New London, CT
2001  Peter Findlay Gallery, New York
1999  Alva Gallery, New London, CT
1997  Peter Findlay Gallery, New York
1992  Traditions in the American Landscape, Scott Nichols Gallery, San Francisco, CA
1992  40 Women Photographers, Silver Image Gallery, Seattle, WA
1989  Flowers, Kathleen Ewing Gallery, Washington, D.C.
1985  Provincetown Art Museum Competition, Provincetown, MA
1984  Space Through a Glass Eye: 8 Photographers, Central State University, Edmond,
OK

1980   4th Annual Small Works Competition, New York

Appendix B: Series of Work

*Gesture/Light*, 1978-1985 [silver gelatin prints]

*Hands*, 1978- [silver gelatin prints]


*Nudes*, 1978 [silver gelatin prints]

*Extended Landscapes*, 1979-1988 [silver gelatin prints]


*Unveilings*, 1985- [silver gelatin prints]

*Passage*, negatives made between 1985-2004, printed in 2010 [archival pigment inkjets]


*Whiteness*, 1987- [silver gelatin prints]

*Dispossession*, 1990-1992 [silver gelatin prints]

*Skulls*, 1991- [silver gelatin prints]

*Veiled Still Lifes*, 1994-2003 [silver gelatin prints in addition to archival inkjet prints]

*(W)holes*, negatives made between 1994-2006; printed 2008 [silver gelatin prints]


*Full Circle*, negatives made between 2001-2006, printed in 2009 [archival pigment inkjets]


*Beyond Bones*, negatives made between 2005-2006, printed in 2010 [archival pigment inkjets]

*Doppelganger*, 2014, negatives made between 2013-2014, printed in 2014 [archival pigment inkjets]

*Spectator*, 2015, negatives made between 2013-2014, printed in 2015 [archival pigment inkjets]