

Center for Creative Photography

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Finding aid for the
Aaron Siskind Miscellaneous Acquisitions, 1964-1991

AG 26

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Creator

Siskind, Aaron, 1903-1991

Alexander, Stuart

Byrne, Pat

International Museum of Photography, George Eastman House

Abstract

Collection contains miscellaneous materials, 1949-1991 documenting the life and career of Aaron Siskind, photographer. Each group of materials was collected from a separate source and is described individually as a subgroup. Among the materials are letters, a bibliography and exhibition chronology with accompanying research materials, 733 Siskind catalog records compiled from the International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House in 1985, 168 Siskind negatives, a video recording, and Siskind's eulogy delivered by James Enyeart in 1991.

Quantity/ Extent

1.5 linear feet

Language of Materials

English

Biographical/ Historical Note

Aaron Siskind (December 4, 1903-February 8, 1991) was an American abstract expressionist photographer and teacher. His earliest important affiliation was with the New York Photo League (1936-1941), where he helped to document life in poorer neighborhoods of New York City. By the early 1940s, his attention turned from people and communities to pure composition, starting with architectural facades, then moving to increasingly abstracted details of man-made and natural objects. Over the years, Siskind developed a parallel teaching career, including notable stints teaching photography at Black Mountain College, the Institute of Design at Illinois Institute of Technology, and the Rhode Island School of Design.

Scope and Content Note

The collection was acquired from various sources. The collection consists of five subgroups.

Subgroup one contains eight letters, 1964-1966, from Siskind and his wife Caroline to Virginia Hassell Ballinger regarding a posthumous exhibit of Paul Hassel photographs at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Subgroup two contains the research materials of Stuart Alexander, gathered ca. 1981-1985 for a project to compile a comprehensive bibliography and exhibition chronology of Siskind. Includes notes and an explanation of the project.

Subgroup three contains "Aaron Siskind Collection: IMP/GEH Catalogue Records." Prepared by Pat Byrne at the International Museum of Photography, George Eastman House, 1985. (733 records); a review of "Aaron Siskind: 50 Years," International Center of Photography; Eulogy delivered by James Enyeart, 1991.

Subgroup four consists of a videotape, n.d., "The National Teaching & Learning Forum, 'Aaron Siskind'; 'Aaron Siskind Exhibition Interview'."

Subgroup five consists of 168 Siskind 2 ¼" negatives of unknown date; grouped by "Mary Starka", "Irene Keller's son" and "Bobby Spinka". In addition two 5x7" negatives "1B-2, 3-49"; "1B-3, 3-49", Chicago.

Names and Subject Terms

Siskind, Aaron

[<http://www.getty.edu/vow/ULANFullDisplay?find=&role=&nation=&subjectid=500024299>]

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

Subgroup 1, gift of Virginia Hassel Ballinger, 1984

Subgroup 2, gift of Stuart Alexander, 1986

Subgroup 3, gift of George Eastman House, 1991

Subgroup 4, gift of Carlos Terrazas, 2002

Subgroup 5, gift of Diana O. Rasche, 2012 [see note under processing information]

Related Materials

AG 30, Aaron Siskind archive at the Center for Creative Photography.

Preferred Citation

Aaron Siskind Miscellaneous Acquisitions, AG 26. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

Subgroup Five has note in control file: "Aaron Siskind negatives found by Diana O. Rasche in a friend's possessions and returned to CCP, 2012."

Subgroup Six listed in previous finding aid, (consisting of three gelatin silver prints and three chromogenic prints of Aaron Siskind by Charles Traub) were added to the Charles Traub archive per Katherine Martinez, director. A.R.

Finding aid updated by Ann Richwine in 2014 and Alexis Peregoy in 2016.

Container List

Subgroup 1, 1964-1966

1 folder. Gift of Virginia Hassel Ballinger.

Box Folder

1 1 Virginia Hassel Ballinger correspondence (8 letters)

Subgroup 2, 1981-1985

1 box. Research materials of Stuart Alexander for bibliography project. Contains an additional 23 folders of research materials and 3 boxes of index cards. Box 2, folder 1 contains a listing of their contents.

Box Folder

2 1 Chronology of preparation and history, 1981-1985
2 Bibliography, complete, 1984

Subgroup 3, 1985-1991

4 folders. Gift of the George Eastman House.

Box Folder

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | International Museum of Photography, George Eastman House cataloging records, 1 of 2 |
| | 3 | International Museum of Photography, George Eastman House cataloging records, 2 of 2 |
| | 4 | Review of Aaron Siskind: 50 years, n.d. [clipping photocopy] |
| | 5 | Text of eulogy given by James Enyeart at Aaron Siskind memorial, 1991 |

Subgroup 4, n.d.

1 folder. Gift of Carlos Terrazas.

Box Folder

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 6 | Betacam SP videotape: National Teaching and Learning Forum; dupe of 16mm film, "Aaron Siskind"; dupe of VHS videotape "Aaron Siskind Exhibition Interview" |
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Subgroup 5, n.d., 1949

1 folder. Gift of Diana O. Rasche.

Box Folder

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | Negatives:
(60) 2 ¼ x 2 ¼ negatives "Mary Starka"
(48) 2 ¼ x 2 ¼ negatives, "Irene Keller's son"
(60) 2 ¼ x 2 ¼ negatives, "Bobby Spinka"
(2) 5 x 7 negatives, "1B-2, 3-49"; "1B-3, 3-49" |
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