

## FINDING AID FOR THE

# **RALPH GIBSON COLLECTION**

## **AG 37**

Center for Creative Photography  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0103

*For further information about the archives at the Center for Creative Photography, please contact the Archivist: phone 520-621-6273; fax 520-621-9444*

## **DESCRIPTION**

Papers, photographic materials, audio-visual materials, and memorabilia, 1959 - , of Ralph Gibson (1939 - ), photographer and publisher. Included are correspondence with photographers, museums, universities, publishers, friends, and others relating to a wide variety of activities; activity files containing biographical information, business receipts, clippings, date books, writings, interviews, lectures, and other printed materials on Gibson and his involvement with Lustrum Press and the Sex and Drugs Band; exhibition files containing announcements and catalogs of one-person and group shows; publication materials for published and unpublished books by Lustrum Press including Tropism (1987), Nude: Theory (1979), Days At Sea (1974), Deja Vu (1973), and Somnambulist (1970); negatives, contact sheets, work prints and transparencies by and of Gibson; audiotapes of guitar improvisations and interviews between Gibson and other photographers; publications containing articles about him; and memorabilia pertaining to Gibson and Lustrum Press. The collection is still active.

52 linear feet

## **PROVENANCE**

Gibson began loaning material to the Center in 1977. The collection became a gift in 1985.

## **RESTRICTIONS**

Access to the following is restricted: recommendations and evaluations by or about Gibson; one medical report about Gibson. Permission to view must be obtained from Gibson. Twenty-five year privacy rule is in effect with regard to correspondence.

## **LANGUAGES**

French, German, Swedish

## **CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH**

- 1939** Born in Los Angeles on February 16
- 1956-60** Studied photography while serving in the U.S. Navy
- 1960-61** Studied photography at the San Francisco Art Institute
- 1962** Served as an assistant to Dorothea Lange (San Francisco)
- 1966** Published The Strip
- 1967** Began working with Robert Frank on the film Me and My Brother
- 1968** Published The Hawk
- 1969** Moved to New York to assist Robert Frank on the filming of Conversations in Vermont. Founded Lustrum Press and published The Somnambulist
- 1973** Published Deja-Vu; granted an NEA Fellowship
- 1974** Published Days at Sea
- 1975** Founding member of Sex and Drugs Band; granted an NEA Fellowship; participated in DAAD Exchange Fellowship (Berlin)
- 1976** Began to exhibit with Castelli Graphics (New York)
- 1977** Received Creative Artists Public Service Grant (New York)

## **LUSTRUM PRESS**

- 1969** Founded in New York
- 1970** Published The Somnambulist with Robert Overby as designer
- 1971** Published Tulsa by Larry Clark
- 1972** Published Loud Song by Larry Seymour and Portugal by Neil Slavin
- 1973** Published Lines of My Hand by Robert Frank and Sunday by Erica and Elizabeth Lennard

1975 Partnership established between Gibson and John Flatow as business manager and Andre Lewis as designer

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection has arrived in increments since 1977. There was no original order to the collection; it was organized by record types.

### **Correspondence**

Series one: Correspondence, 1965 - . Includes letters, cards, and telegrams received by Gibson from friends, acquaintances, business associates, museums, galleries, foundations, and admirers of his work. The bulk of this series begins in the 1970s. His earlier correspondence is no longer extant. This series indicates the extent of Gibson's involvement with his chosen medium in America and Europe. Included in these letters are business correspondence addressed to Gibson, relating to the operations and publications of Lustrum Press.

### **Lustrum Press publications and design material**

Series four: Lustrum Press publications and design materials, 1970 - . Contains book mechanicals, folded and gathered signatures, duotone reproductions of photographs, press pages, galleys, dummies and maquettes, and a few finished books. Extensive documentation exists for these published and unpublished titles: *The Somnabulist*, *Days at Sea*, *Deja-Vu*, *Nude: Theory*, and *Susan Sleeps and Dreams Her Myths*, all by Gibson; *Dark Light* by Michael Martone; and *Sunday* by Erica and Elizabeth Lennard. Lustrum Press often published works by younger artists who had not been previously published. There is a small amount of printed materials which could not be linked with any of the extant titles. Not all publications of Lustrum Press are represented here. Many of these earlier editions, such as Larry Clark's *Tulsa*, are now out of print.

### **Photographic materials**

Series five: Photographic materials, ca.1964 - . Color photographs, photographs by other photographers, portraits of Gibson, contact sheets, press prints, graphic arts, work prints, mounted prints, negatives, and transparencies. This work largely reflects Gibson's projects in the 1960s and 1970s including commercial, artistic, and personal work. There are thirty-six black and white photographs, mostly by little-known photographers; and sixty-four portraits of Gibson.

### **Audio-visual materials**

Series six: Audio-visual materials, ca.1975 - . Consists of 1/4 in. reel-to-reel magnetic audio tapes, 1/8 in. cassette tapes, one microcassette, and one 16 mm. color motion picture. The reel-to-reel

tapes are mostly recordings of improvisations and practice sessions featuring Gibson on the electric guitar. There is little or no information on the tapes concerning dates, places, or other individuals who are recorded on the tapes. There is one interview with Gibson discussing his work and aesthetics, but the tape is somewhat distorted with wow and flutter. The cassettes contain interviews by Gibson in 1978 with many leading photographers including Aaron Siskind, Duane Michals, Robert Heinecken, Harry Callahan, Judy Dater, Lisette Model, and others. Although not all tapes were audited, the interviews usually express practical and aesthetic viewpoints of the respective artists. The motion picture was not screened for content.

## **Memorabilia**

Series seven: Memorabilia, ca.1970 - . Includes two tee-shirts and several miscellaneous articles such as a credit card, a placecard, stickers, and a button with a printed slogan.

## **Publications**

Series eight: Publications, 1965 - . Includes a monograph and periodicals which contain articles and reproductions by, on, or about Ralph Gibson, his work, reviews of his exhibitions, profiles of Lustrum Press, and other similar matters. Of interest in this series are publications incorporating some of Gibson's commercial work in the late 1960s. Of special interest is a copy of Nexus: A Monthly Review (September 1963) with Gibson's photo essay "Ja, das Meer is blau, so blau," and a copy of The Strip: A Graphic Portrait of Sunset Boulevard (1966), designed by Roger Kennedy and photographed by Gibson. There are also posters and other printed materials about his participation in workshops and lectures filed in oversize AG37:es.

## **Unprocessed Materials**

Miscellaneous papers and publications filed by Accrual date...

## **BOX LIST**

AG37:1	Correspondence, 1965-1977
AG37:2	Correspondence, 1978-1982
AG37:3	Correspondence, 1983-1987
AG37:4	Correspondence, 1988-1993
AG37:5	Correspondence, 1994-1999

- AG37:6 Correspondence, 1972-1988
- AG37:7 Correspondence, 1989-1990
- AG37:8 Correspondence, 1989-1999
- AG37:9 Correspondence, 2003
- AG37:10 Correspondence, 1991-1993
- AG37:11 Correspondence, 1994-1997
- AG37:12 [papers]
- AG37:13 Correspondence, 2000-2005
- AG37:14 Greeting cards
- AG37:15 Cards, Invitations, Personal Notes, 1971-1987
- AG37:16 Cards, Invitations, Personal Notes, 1977-1992
- AG37:17 Cards, Invitations, Personal Notes, 1993-1995
- AG37:18 Important Projects and Files, 1990s – 2000s
- AG37:19 Cards, Invitations, Personal Notes, 2000
- AG37:20 Cards, Invitations, Personal Notes, 2001
- AG37:21 Cards, Invitations, Personal Notes, Undated
- AG37:22 Cards, Invitations, Personal Notes, 2002
- AG37:23 Cards, Invitations, Personal Notes, 2003-2006
- AG37:24 Cards, Invitations, Personal Notes, 2004
- AG37:25 Cards, Invitations, Personal Notes, 2005-2006
- AG37:26 Photography Career, 1970-2006, Group and Solo Exhibitions, Announcements
- AG37:27 Exhibition Announcements, No Personal Notes
- AG37:28 Photography Career, 1976-1997, Group Shows/Workshops, Announcements, Publications

- AG37:29 Lectures, Workshops, Galleries, Interviews
- AG37:30 Photography Career, 1984-1995, Group and Solo Exhibitions, Publications, Clippings, Correspondence
- AG37:31 Photography Career, 1988-1998, Group and Solo Exhibitions, Announcements, Publications, Clippings, Ephemera
- AG37:32 Appointment Calendars
- AG37:33 Phone Message Book
- AG37:34 Business Cards
- AG37:35 Business Cards
- AG37:36 Gibson Scrapbooks 2005 Acq.
- AG37:37 Lustrum Press publication and design material
- AG37:38 Lustrum Press publication and design material
- AG37:39 Miscellaneous material from 1960s-1980s
- AG37:40 Exhibition: "Tropism" Book Copy, Mss Drafts, Lustrum Press
- AG37:41 Book Dummies: "Courant Continu"
- AG37:42 Book Projects: "Deus ex Machina," "L'Histoire de France," Publication Proofs, Related Correspondence
- AG37:43 Business, Financial, Tax related
- AG37:44 Audio-visual Materials: videotapes and audiotapes
- AG37:45 Audio-visual Materials: reel-to-reel audio tapes, cassette audio tapes
- AG37:46 CCP Overby Collection
- AG37:47 Color Snapshots of Photos
- AG37:48 Record of Prints
- AG37:49 Memorabilia
- AG37:50 Photographic Materials: Negatives, Black and White, Color
- AG37:51 Photographic Materials: Workprints, Architectural Details

- AG37:52 Portraits
- AG37:53 Misc. Oversize
- AG37:54 Photographic Materials
- AG37:55 Photographic Materials: Work prints, Mounted Prints
- AG37:56 Photographic Materials: Work prints
- AG37:57 Photographic Materials
- AG37:58 Photographic Materials: Transparencies, Color
- AG37:59 New Acq T/F 04219
- AG37:60 Papers (T/F 04488/2006)
- AG37:61 Posters
- AG37:62 Exhibition Announcements (rec 5 Mar 07)
- AG37:63 New Acq, Misc.
- AG37:64 RG Work Used for Book Design, etc.
- AG37:65 Publications: Mock-ups/Proofs  
T/F 04038 (2001), T/F 04219 (2004)
- AG37:66 Appointment Calendars, Clippings, Correspondence, 2006-2007,  
Exhibition announcements, catalog (rec 26 Feb 07)
- AG37:67 Greeting Cards, Invitations, Memorabilia, Misc (rec 26 Feb 07)
- AG37:68 Monographs by others, Monographs by Gibson, Publications Containing images  
Gibson images (rec 26 Feb 07)

### **SELECTED INDEX TO CORRESPONDENCE**

(Note: This index is selective, incomplete, and does not include unprocessed materials.)

Adams, Ansel, 1978

Adams, Robert, 1978,80

Alinder, James, 1973,78

Apeiron Workshops (Millerton, N.Y.), 1975-78

Baltz, Lewis, ca.1973,75-77  
Barrow, Thomas, see George Eastman House, 1971,73  
Beaton, Cecil, 1978  
Brandt, Bill, 1976  
Brown, Dean, 1971  
Bullock, Edna, 1976,79  
Bullock, Wynn, 1975  
Bunnell, Peter, 197?

Camera, 1974-76  
Canon Photo Galerie (Geneva), 1979  
Capa, Cornell, 197?,72  
Castelli Graphics (New York), 1977-78  
Center for Creative Photography (Tucson, Ariz.), 1978-80  
Center for Photographic Studies (Louisville, Ky.), 1977  
Clergue, Lucien, 1975,78-79  
Coke, Van Deren, see University of New Mexico, 1973-74,78  
Coleman, A.D., 1977,79-80  
Connor, Linda, 196?,??,73-74  
Cordier, Pierre, 1978

Dater, Judy, 1978  
Desmarais, Charles, 1977-78

Enyeart, James L., see Center for Creative Photography, 1980  
Erwitt, Elliott, 1979

Fogg Art Museum (Cambridge, Mass.), 1977  
Fontana, Franco, 1978  
Frank, Robert, 1969,71-73  
Friends of Photography (Carmel, Calif.), 1972,74-75,79

Gassan, Arnold, 1976  
Gautrand, Jean-Claude, 1978  
George Eastman House (Rochester, N.Y.), 1971,73,77-78  
Goldsmith, Arthur, see Popular Photography, 1973,79

Hahn, Betty, 1973,75,79  
Hosoe, Eikoh, 1971,73-75,79-80

International Center of Photography (New York), 1978-79

Jay, Bill, 1979  
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (New York), 1972-73,  
75,78-79  
Jones, Harold, ca.1980  
Josephson, Kenneth, 1978



Klein, William, 1979-80  
Krause, George, 1980  
Krimms, Les, 1971,75

Larson, William, 1975  
Lartigue, Jacques Henri, 197?,73,75  
Lewis, Cynthia Gano, see Center for Creative Photography, 1979-80  
Lyons, Nathan, see Visual Studies Workshop, 1971

McFarland, Lawrence, 197?  
Mendoza, Antonio, 1980  
Mertin, Roger, 1979  
Museum of Fine Arts (Houston, Tex.), 1976-78  
Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), 1978

Namuth, Hans, 1978-79  
National Endowment for the Arts (Washington, D.C.), 1976-78  
Neimanas, Joyce, 1978  
Newton, June, 1978-80  
Nixon, Nicholas, 1978  
Noggle, Anne, 1973

Parker, Fred, see Friends of Photography, 1972,75,79  
Popular Photography, 1973,79  
Porter, Allan, see Camera, 1974-76  
Porter, Eliot, 1980  
Pratt, Davis, see Fogg Art Museum, 1977  
Prince, Doug, 1978

Richards, Eugene, 1977

St. Martin, Barbara, 1972  
Sinsabaugh, Art, 1980  
Slavin, Neal, 1971,79  
Swedlund, Charles, 1979

Tucker, Anne, see Museum of Fine Arts (Houston, Tex.), 1976-78

University of New Mexico (Albuquerque), 1973-74,78

Vestal, David, 1971,73,78  
Visual Studies Workshop, 1971  
Vogt, Christian, 1975

Witkin Gallery (New York), 1979