

Center for Creative Photography

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Finding aid for the
Arnold Gassan Archive, 1945 - 1989

AG 58

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Creator

Gassan, Arnold

Abstract

Papers, 1945 - 1989, of Arnold Gassan (1930 - 2001), photographer. Correspondents include Minor White, Walter Chappell, Syl Labrot, Ansel Adams, and Ralph Eugene Meatyard. Of interest are a transcription of a journal kept by Gassan during his participation in Adams' Yosemite workshop in June 1959, a mimeographed review of notes from lectures given by Adams at the Museum of Modern Art (New York), in 1945, an author's manuscript for a revised edition of *A Chronology of Photography*, and the working notes for an article in *Aperture* (1955) by Minor White and Walter Chappell.

Quantity/ Extent

4 linear feet

Language of Materials

English

Biographical/ Historical Note

Arnold Gassan (1930-2001) was an American photographer, author, and psychologist. Notable photographic books written by Gassan include *A Chronology of Photography* (1972) and *Exploring Black and White Photography* (1989). Gassan became a licensed psychologist in Arizona in 1991.

Scope and Content Note

The first series, Correspondence, includes correspondence with notable artists such as Ansel Adams, Minor White, and others, along with correspondence with Center for Creative Photography staff. A selected index is included in the container list.

Series two, Activity Files, includes several articles written by notable American photographers, transcribed notes and interview, Ansel Adams lecture notes and Yosemite workshop journal, portfolio announcement, exhibition slides, and two Many materials are missing dates.

Series three, Publications, includes publications, exhibition catalogs, and Gassan's 1986 Ph.D. dissertation.

Series four, Photographic materials, includes the last photogravure plate in the portfolio *The Grottoes* (1969) and a photogravure test print of William Jenkins in 1967, along with photographic proofs from Syl Labrot's *Pleasure Beach*.

Series five, Personal papers, includes papers over the period of 1968 to 1989 as well as publishing correspondence.

Arrangement

- Series 1: Correspondence
- Series 2: Activity Files
- Series 3: Publications
- Series 4: Photographic materials
- Series 5: Personal papers

Names and Subject Terms

- Gassan, Arnold [<https://lccn.loc.gov/n81004514>]
- Adams, Ansel, 1902-1984 [<https://lccn.loc.gov/n79056359>]
- Meatyard, Ralph Eugene, 1925-1972 [<https://lccn.loc.gov/n84037122>]
- White, Minor [<https://lccn.loc.gov/n79003239>]

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

This collection was a gift to the Center for Creative Photography from Arnold Gassan beginning in 1982.

Preferred Citation

Arnold Gassan Archive, 1945 - 1989. AG 58. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

Processed 1985 by Roger Myers. Revised July 1988. Finding aid updated by Paloma Phelps in 2017. Bulk of collection in unprocessed; cards have not been made.

Container List

Series 1: Correspondence

Arrangement: Chronologically by year, then alphabetical by correspondent

Quantity: 0.25 linear feet

Box	Folder	
1	1-20	Correspondence
	21	Arnold Gassan to CCP staff, 1985 - [biographical]
	21	Arnold Gassan to CCP staff, 1985 - [biographical]
6		Correspondence with various photographers, 1950s – 1970s (R/M 1946)

Selected Index to Correspondence

Adams, Ansel, 1959, 1961 – 1964, 1969

Alinder, Jim, 1977

Aperture, 1978

Carnahan, Marion, 1959

Chappell, Walter, 1958 – 1968

Coke, Van Deren, 1973

Creative Camera, 1973

Labrot, Barbara, 1977

Labrot, Syl, 1959, 1969(?), 1976 – 1977

Light Impressions (Rochester, NY), 1973

Meatyrd, Ralph Eugene, 1969

National Endowment for the Arts (Washington, DC), 1977

Petersen's Photographic Magazine, 1977

Popular Photography, 1969

Suntop, Lionel, see Light Impressions

White, Minor, 1956 – 1966, 1969 – 1970, 1973

Series 2: Activity Files

Arrangement: Chronological
Quantity: 0.25 linear feet

Box	Folder	
5	1	On Photography, 1955, Minor White & Walter Chappell
	2	Anonymous. "Some General Aims of Education through Art," n.d. [6 p.]
	3	Bell, Marvin. "Words: On Language and Photography," n.d. [11 p.]
	4	Heinecken, Robert. "Manipulative Photography," n.d. [4 p.]
	5	Uelsmann, Jerry. "Post-Visualization," n.d. [8 p.]
	6	White, Minor. "A Unique Experience in Teaching Camera Work," n.d. [36 p.; the California School of Fine Arts]
	7	Ansel Adams lecture notes, Museum of Modern Art (New York), 1945
	8	White, Minor. "Creative Pattern and Creative Experience in Photography," 5 May 1955 [55 p.]
	9	Gassan Yosemite Workshop Journal, 1959
	10	Smith, Henry Holmes. "Conference and Workshop on Photography Instruction," Indiana University, July/August 1962 [13 p.]
	11	Certificate of Incorporation, Center of the Eye (Aspen, CO), 1968
	12	"New York Interviews: Duane Michals, Peter Bunnell, Bruce Davidson, and Garry Winogrand," recorded by Gassan with students from Ohio University, 31 October and 1 November, 1969 [typed transcription]
	13	Notes transcribed from the visit of Frederick Sommer to Ohio University, 10 October 1970
	14	Portfolio announcement, <i>Elegy</i> , 1979
	15	Slides of exhibition "8 Major Photographers," 1963
	16	<i>Photographer's Choice</i> no. 1 (1959)
	17	<i>Memo</i> 1:2 (1964)
	18	SPE Papers, 1967
	19	<i>Exposure</i> (1968)
	20	<i>Exposure</i> (1969)
	21	SPE: chairman's report 1965, etc.
	22	<i>New Daguerreian Journal</i> 1:4 (1972) <i>Arnold Gassan Archive, Center for Creative Photography, The University of Arizona</i> 3
	23	<i>New Photographs from Three Areas of America</i> (1965)
7		Recent Acquisitions; T/F 1968
8		Recent Acquisitions; T/F

Series 3: Publications

Arrangement: Chronological
Quantity: 0.25 linear feet

Box	
2	"Experimental duotone from random-dot plate printed by Union Printing

(Athens, OH), prepared as a test for the unpublished book, *Fences*, by Arnold Gassan," n.d. "The text from *Fences*, a proposed book of words and pictures by Arnold Gassan," n.d.

Three Photographic Visions, 1977 [exhibition catalog; 2 copies]

Bruck, Barbara. *Catharsis 3*, 1979

Gassan, Arnold. "An Investigation of Father-Daughter Incest Using Photographs and the Semantic Differential," Ph.D. dissertation, Ohio University, 1986 [289 p. ; *see also* Appendix A]

4 *A Chronology of Photography* (1972)
Author's corrected edition and text for revised edition (1986)

6 Miscellaneous Publications (R/M 1951 – 1952)

Series 4: Photographic Materials

Box

3 Photogravure plate: last plate in the portfolio *The Grottoes* (1969) 19.2 x 24.2 cm. Photogravure test print of William Jenkins, 1967
Proofs from Syl Labrot's *Pleasure Beach*

Series 5: Personal papers

Arrangement: Chronological

Box

9 Personal Papers, ca. 1968 – 1981

10 Personal Papers, ca. 1982 – 1989

11 Personal papers, Publishing correspondence