

Center for Creative Photography

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Finding aid for the
Van Deren Coke Collection, 1966-1999

AG 140

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Creator

Coke, Van Deren (1921-2004)

Abstract

Publications and ephemera, 1966-1999, related to the career of Van Deren Coke (1921-2004), photographer, curator, and educator.

This collection is active.

Quantity/ Extent

.5 linear feet

Language of Materials

English

Biographical Note

Van Deren Coke was born in 1921 in Lexington, Kentucky where he studied history and art history at the University of Kentucky. He also studied photography in New York at the Clarence H. White School of Photography. In 1958 he received his MA in art history and MFA in sculpture from Indian University, further pursuing a doctorate in art history at Harvard. He advanced his study of photography with Ansel Adams in the 1950s. He taught as a professor at the University of Florida, Arizona State University, and the University of New Mexico. While at UNM he served as founding director of the University of New Mexico Art Museum where he donated more than 1,200 objects from his own collection. Furthermore he served as an intervening deputy director and director of the George Eastman House in Rochester, NY and was Curator of Photography at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art from 1979-1987. His own photographic practice mirrors those of the Surrealists, in which he used 19th-century negatives along with his own manipulated prints to create an element of graphic design in his work. Van Deren died in New Mexico in 2004. (Obituary)

Scope and Content Note

The Van Deren Coke Collection is made up of one series housed in six folders within one box. Included in the collection are gallery announcements and other exhibition ephemera related to Coke's photographs, publications containing the writing of Coke, photocopies of letters from Minor White and Ansel Adams. Also in the series is a copy of

a publication accompanying “Three Generations of Hispanic Photographers Working in New Mexico” curate by Coke, as well as a photocopy of chapter 4 of *A Collective Endeavor: the first fifty years of George Eastman House* published in 1999; Coke’s comments on the publication are written on the first page of the copy.

Arrangement

Series 1: Biographical materials

Names and Subject Terms

Coke, Van Deren, 1921-2004
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

This collection began as a gift from Van Deren Coke in 1992.

Preferred Citation

Van Deren Coke Collection, 1966-1999. AG 140. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

Finding aid updated by Meghan Jordan in May 2016.

Container List

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1966-1999

Quantity: 0.5 linear feet. Arrangement: by record type

Box	Folder	
1	1	Gallery announcements and other ephemera related to exhibitions of Van Deren Coke's photographs.
	2	Interviews with Van Deren Coke published in magazines.
	3	Publications containing the writing of Van Deren Coke. Most date to the time when Coke was Curator of Photography at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 1979-1987
	4	Photocopies of letters from Minor White, 10 March 1966, and Ansel Adams, 23 August 1969
	5	"Three Generations of Hispanic Photographers Working in New Mexico," curated by Van Deren Coke. The Harwood Foundation Museum of the University of New Mexico, Taos, 1993. [16 pp.]
	6	Photocopy of chapter 4 in <i>A Collective Endeavor: the first fifty years of George Eastman House</i> published by George Eastman House in 1999. Van Deren Coke's comments on the publication are written on the first page of the copy.