

Center for Creative Photography

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Finding aid for the
Louis Bunin Collection, 1928-circa 1940
AG 146

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AG 146

Creator

Bunin, Lou (1904-1994)

Abstract

Papers of Louis Bunin (1905 - 1994), artist and puppeteer. Includes documentation of puppet shows produced in Mexico City and New York as photographed by Tina Modotti and others, 1928 -circa 1940.

Quantity/ Extent

1 linear foot

Language of Materials

English

Biographical Note

Louis Bunin was born ca. 1905 in Russia and came to the United States as a child. He reportedly studied at the Chicago Art Institute before living and painting in Paris and Spain in 1925. Bunin and his wife, Alice, moved to Mexico City in 1928 at the invitation of Diego Rivera who had interested Bunin in mural painting. While there, Bunin taught puppet theatre to Indian boys at the Casa del Estudiante Indigena. He and his students produced at least two plays in 1928/29; "The Hairy Ape" by Eugene O'Neill, and "El Conejo Astuto" [The Astute Rabbit], and adaptation of a Mexican folk tale.

Tina Modotti photographed Bunin and his puppets during this period. One of her most widely recognized images, The Hands of the Puppeteer, is of Bunin. In all, twenty-one photographs by Modotti are included in this collection. Each is individually cataloged in the CCP database. The supporting documentary materials are part of the CCP archives and are described in this inventory.

Scope and Content Note

The Louis Bunin Collection contains two series, one containing papers and the other photographic materials. Series one has newspaper clippings, programs, and press prints related to Bunin and Tina Modotti. It also includes three photographs of Mexican paintings by unidentified photographers. Series two contains twelve photographs of varying sizes by unidentified photographers. The subject of these photographs is Bunin and his puppet shows.

Arrangement

Series 1: Papers (Box 1)

Series 2: Photographic materials

Names and Subject Terms

Bunin, Lou, 1904-1994

Modotti, Tina, 1896-1942

Mexico

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

The collection was purchased from Bunin's daughter, Zena Bunin, in 1993.

Preferred Citation

Louis Bunin Collection, 1928-ca. 1940. AG 146. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

Finding aid updated by Meghan Jordan in May 2016.

Container List

Series 1: Papers

Arranged: by subject

Box	Folder	
1	1	"Marionettes" by Harry Alan Potamkin, n.d. [Includes biographical information about Louis Bunin.]
	2	El Conejo Astuto: Clippings, 1928/29.
	3	El Conejo Astuto: Programs, 27 December 1929. (6 copies)
	4	The Hairy Ape: Clippings, 1930.
	5	The Hairy Ape: Program, ca. 1940.
	6	The Hairy Ape: Press prints (5 prints and 1 negative).
	7	The Ball of the Mannequins: Program, n.d.
	8	Tina Modotti "The Hands of the Puppeteer" reproduced in <i>Theatre Guild Magazine</i> 8:3 (December 1930), verso of table of contents.
	9	Three photographs of Mexican paintings: a.) "The Dead" by Orozco, photo by F. M. Demarest? On the back, notation indicating the work or the photograph was loaned to the Carnegie Exhibition of Mexican Art by Alma Reed. b.) "Zapata" by Orozco, unknown photographer. On the back, notation indicating the work or the photograph was loaned to the Carnegie Exhibition of Mexican Art by Delphic Studio. c.) Two women and a child (by Juan Guerrero Galvan?), unknown photographer.

Series 2: Photographic materials

Quantity: 12 photographs by unidentified photographers. Arrangement: by subject

1	Lou Bunin, puppeteer with his students, 5 x 7
	Backstage at puppet show, 6 1/2 x 4 1/2
	Hands of student puppeteers, 4 1/2 x 6 3/16
	Animal puppets on steps, 3 15/16 x 6 3/16
	Tiger puppet against background, 4 x 4 1/2
	Scene from El Conejo Astuto, 6 1/8 x 4 7/16

Scene from El Conejo Astuto, 5 7/8 x 4 5/8

Scene from El Conejo Astuto, 4 7/16 x 6 1/2

Scene from El Conejo Astuto, 4 3/8 x 6 1/2

Scene from El Conejo Astuto, 4 7/8 x 5 3/8

Scene from El Conejo Astuto, 4 1/4 x 5 3/4

Scene from El Conejo Astuto, 3 1/2 x 4 5/8