

Center for Creative Photography

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Finding aid for the
Dorothy Norman collection, 1875-1969
AG 164

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AG 164

Creator

Norman, Dorothy

Abstract

Papers, 1875-1969, and photographic materials, 1930s-1960s, of Dorothy Norman (1905-1997), writer, photographer and social activist. Includes extensive research materials and manuscripts related to Norman's books on Alfred Stieglitz, especially *Alfred Stieglitz: Introduction to an American Seer* (1960) and *Alfred Stieglitz: An American Seer* (1973). The photographic materials consist of negatives, contact prints, and proof prints from throughout Norman's career including her large files of portraits, her early work in New York City and Cape Cod, and her later work in India and Japan.

Quantity/ Extent

12 linear feet

Language of Materials

English

Biographical/ Historical Note

Dorothy Norman was born in Philadelphia on March 25, 1905. She was educated at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts (1922-23), and at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (1923-25). In June of 1925, she married Edward A. Norman, an heir to the Sears, Roebuck fortune. They had two children, Andrew and Nancy, but the marriage ended in divorce in 1951.

In 1927, Norman visited The Intimate Gallery on Park Avenue in New York City. Soon thereafter, she met Alfred Stieglitz. As their friendship deepened to love, Stieglitz photographed Norman and encouraged her to make her own photographs. He trained her in development and printing techniques, often writing his comments on the verso of her photographs. Norman documented activities and installations in An American Place, Stieglitz's next gallery. This gave her the opportunity to make portraits of the many artists and writers who were drawn to the gallery. During this period she also photographed extensively in New York City and Cape Cod and created a large body of photographs of her mentor, Stieglitz.

Norman was the publisher and editor of *Twice a Year*, an arts journal, which appeared from 1938-1948. She wrote a column in *The New York Post* between 1942 and 1949. After Stieglitz's death, she published several books devoted to Stieglitz -- *Stieglitz Memorial Portfolio* (1947) and *Alfred Stieglitz: An American Seer* (1973).

Norman was throughout her life an advocate for social change and a variety of liberal causes including Americans for Democratic Action, the New York Urban League, the American Emergency Food Committee for India, the American Citizens' Committee for Economic Aid Abroad, the Group Theatre, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the early Planned Parenthood Association. Her friendship with Indira Gandhi and several visits to India resulted in a large body of photographs and several books documenting the great social changes in India in the 1950s.

In 1968, Norman donated a large collection of photographs by herself and Stieglitz to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. A selection of these exhibited there that year. A larger number of Norman's photographs exhibited at the International Center of Photography in New York City in 1993 accompanied by a book, *Intimate Visions: The Photographs of Dorothy Norman*.

Norman died on April 12, 1997. Her personal papers and photographic works are preserved in the Beinecke Library at Yale University, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Center for Creative Photography.

Scope and Content Note

[Text]

Arrangement

- Series 1: Documents, 1875-1952
- Series 2: Manuscripts, circa 1947-1969
- Series 3: Notes, circa 1940-1960
- Series 4: Photographic Materials

Names and Subject Terms

Norman, Dorothy [<http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500071933>]

Restrictions

Conditions Governing Access

Nitrate negatives have been isolated in cold storage and require a two-week notice for access.

Access to this collection requires an appointment with the Volkerding Study Center.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright to Norman's writings and photographs is held by the Norman Estate. For further information, please contact the archivist.

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

Manuscripts in this collection were purchased from Dorothy Norman in 1976. These consist of copies and duplicates of documents in the Norman Collection at the Beinecke Library, Yale University.

Photographic materials were a gift of the Norman Estate in June 1997.

Preferred Citation

Dorothy Norman, 1875-1969. AG 164. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

Preliminary processing in July 1984 by Roger Myers. Updated in June 1997 by A. Rule. Finding aid updated by Alexis Peregoy in 2018.

Container List

Series 1: Documents, 1875-1952

Arrangement: chronological. Extent: .25 linear feet; 1 box.

Box	Folder	
1	1	1875-1879
	2	1880-1889
	3	1890-1899
	4	1900-1909

5	1910-1919
6	1920-1929
7	1930-1939
8	1940-1949
9	1952

Series 2: Manuscripts, circa 1947-1969

Arrangement: alphabetical, but title of published manuscript. Extent: .25 linear feet; 2 boxes.

Box	Folder	
1	10	Alfred Stieglitz album, 1952
	11-16	Alfred Stieglitz: An American Seer, 1969
2	1-12	Alfred Stieglitz: An American Seer, 1969
	13	Alfred Stieglitz and the Living Artist, ca. 1950
	14	Death of Stieglitz, 1947
	15	Encounter with Stieglitz, ca. 1950
	16	The Meeting, ca. 1950
	17	Self Portrait of a Seer, 1947
	18	Stieglitz [poem], ca. 1947

Series 3: Notes, circa 1940-1960

Arrangement: by earliest page number on the page, or by other organizing alpha-numeric signifiers. A large number of pages lacked any sort of ordering information and, thus, were filed together in miscellaneous fashion. Extent: 1.25 linear feet; 3 boxes.

Box	Folder	
2	19-23	Notes
3	1-26	Notes
4	1-18	Notes

Series 4: Photographic Materials

Arrangement: these materials have not been fully organized or indexed. Once received at the Center, they were housed in archival containers and given a preliminary sorting. Further arrangement and description will take place later. (NOTE: many fine prints by Norman are housed with the Center's art collection. These are available for research although they have not yet been inventoried or cataloged.) Extent: 9 linear feet

Box

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| 5 | India: Loose prints |
| 6 | India: Loose contact prints |
| 7 | India: Negatives and contact prints |
| 8 | India: Contact prints on pages; miscellaneous manuscript materials |
| 9 | Negatives, 4x5 inch, in pages |
| 10 | Contact sheets and negatives |
| 11 | Contact sheets and negatives |
| 12 | Mounted contact prints of portraits of Alfred Stieglitz |
| 13 | Negatives (archivally resleeved), portraits, alphabetically arranged (including some badly deteriorated acetate negatives) |
| 14 | Negatives (archivally resleeved), miscellaneous |
| 15 | Negatives (archivally resleeved), miscellaneous |
| 16 | Negatives, 4x5 inch (archivally resleeved) |
| 17 | India: small negatives (unsorted) |
| 18 | Badly deteriorated nitrate and diacetate negatives |
| 19 | Unsorted negatives; empty vintage photographic paper boxes |
| 20 | Negatives and prints, unsorted: USA and some Amish, Burma, Charleston, Florida, Nevada, New York, Sarasota, Signs, TVA |
| 21 | Negatives and prints, unsorted: foreign travel including Egypt, Greece, India, Indonesia, Israel, Kashmir, Turkey |
| 22 | Proof print files, alphabetical by name or location |

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Altschul
Barragan
Bauer, Catherine
Bernstein, Leonard
Blitzstein, Mark
Brecht, Berthold
Brecht and Ruth Berlau
Buber, Martin
Cage, John
Calder, Alexander
Callary, Mary
Cartier-Bresson, Elli
Chagal, Marc and Ida
Coomeraswamy
Copland, Aaron
Cuernavaca meeting (Cage, Graves, Norman, etc)
Demuth
Dreiser, Theodore
Droth, Andrew
Fischer, Louis
Frank, Waldo
Gandhi, Indira
Glaser, Dorothy
Graves, Morris
Guerwitsch, Nemone
Hartley, Marsden
Howard, Evelyn
Kalonyme, Louis
Kazan, Elia
Knauth, Annie
Kobori, Mihoko
Kreymborg, Albert
Lachaise, Isabel
Lamb, Bernice
Leger, Alexis. See Perse, Saint John.
Levi, Carlo
Manheim, Ralph
Mann, Thomas and Katya
Margules

Marin, John and wife
McAlpin, David
McCullers, Carson
Mellquist, Jerome
Meyer, A.
Miracle, Annie
Mannheim, Ralph
Montoya, Carlos
Mountbatten, Lady
Mumford, Lewis
Nehru, Jawahralal
Nemone. See Guerwitsch, Nemone.
Neumann, Erich
Noguchi, Isamu
Pandit, Tara
Paz, Octavio
Perse, Saint John
Potter, Jeffrey
Potter, Priscilla
Rainer, Louise
Rao, Shanta
Richter, Hans
Roosevelt, Eleanor
Rosenfeld, Paul
Schubert, K.
Shankar, Uday
Silone, S.
Sitwell, Osbert
Spender, Stephen and son
Sze, Mai Mai
Tillich, Paul
Varese
Warbasse
West, Anthony
Wheeler, Charles and wife
Wilson, Emily
Wilson, Jane
Wolf
Woods Hole People
Wright, Richard
Zoler

Unidentified individuals