

Center for Creative Photography

The University of Arizona

1030 N. Olive Rd.

P.O. Box 210103

Tucson, AZ 85721

Phone: 520-621-6273

Fax: 520-621-9444

Email: [info@ccp.arizona.edu](mailto:info@ccp.arizona.edu)

URL: <http://creativephotography.org>

Finding aid for the  
Lynn Stern archive, 1971-2017  
AG 238

**Lynn Stern archive, 1971-2017**

**AG 238**

**Creator**

Stern, Lynn, (1942- )

**Abstract**

Papers and photographic materials, 1971-2017, of American fine art photographer, Lynn Stern (b.1942). The collection includes work prints, publication and exhibition correspondence, exhibition reviews in the Spanish press and book mockups for her exhibitions catalogs and published monographs. The exhibition materials are all associated with her 2009 retrospective exhibition in Spain, *Frozen Mystery/El Misterio Congelado*. The bulk of the collection contains work prints from a variety of Stern's series of work.

**Quantity/ Extent**

16 linear feet; 4.4 cubic feet

**Language of Materials**

English, Spanish

**Biographical/ Historical Note**

Born Lynn Solinger in New York City in 1942, Stern graduated with honors from Smith College, where she majored in English and minored in music. Stern's aesthetic sensibility was influenced by the collection of abstract expressionist painting and sculpture assembled by her father, David Solinger. Hoping to become a film editor, she apprenticed briefly at Ross-Gaffney Films then married architect Robert A.M. Stern, with whom she had a son, Nicholas. She worked as her husband's photo archivist and became interested in photographic composition while assisting his in-house photographer, Edmund Stoecklein. During 1977, she studied at the International Center for Photography in New York, but left because the curriculum was oriented toward photojournalism. She divorced Robert A. M. Stern in 1977. In 1980, she married architect Jeremy Lang. She studied privately with Joseph Saltzer then printed with Paul Caponigro during 1981-1982. Lynn Stern is a life-long resident of New York City.

Stern works exclusively in black & white with natural, indirect light. "My aim," she writes, "is to de-literalize what is in front of the lens—to make it the expression of something unseen, something beyond the thing itself." Her work has moved increasingly toward abstraction. Early influences on her work included Paul Caponigro, Edward

Weston, and the 19<sup>th</sup> century Luminist painters. Later influences include the writings and black paintings of Ad Reinhardt, and the work of Francis Bacon.

Stern has exhibited internationally and her work is in the permanent collections of prominent museums. In 2009 she had a retrospective exhibition entitled *Frozen Mystery/El Misterio Congelado* at Fundación Cristóbal Gabarrón in Valladolid, Spain. A catalog was published by the Fundación with the Center for Creative Photography for the exhibition.

Published monographs include *Animus, Dispossession, Unveilings, Veiled Still Lifes, Frozen Mystery, and Skulls*.

Appendix A includes a chronology of solo and group exhibitions. Appendix B is a list of Stern's series of work between 1978 and present.

### Scope and Content Note

The collection is arranged into three series: Exhibition Files, Publications, Photographic Materials. The first series, Exhibitions, consists of correspondence and papers related to the exhibition shipping, framing, crating, installation, catalog production and reviews associated with her 2009 retrospective exhibition *Frozen Mystery/El Misterio Congelado* in Valladolid, Spain. The second series, Publications, consists of book mockups from selected published monographs. The third series, Photographic Materials, is comprised of 16 boxes of work prints from *Frozen Mystery/El Misterio Congelado* in addition to other series of work, such as *Animus, Forebodings, Full Circle, Veiled Still Lifes, Ghost Circles, Beyond Bones, and (W)Holes*.

### Arrangement

[Series 1: Exhibition Files, 2009-2010, 1 box](#)

[Series 2: Publications, 1988-2017, 3 boxes](#)

[Series 3: Photographic Materials, 1971-2017, 18 boxes](#)

### Names and Subject Terms

Stern, Lynn [<http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500331777>]

Art Photography [<http://vocab.getty.edu/aat/300178594>]

Black-and-White Photography [<http://vocab.getty.edu/aat/300162056>]

Monographs [<http://vocab.getty.edu/aat/300060417>]

Photobooks [<http://vocab.getty.edu/aat/300265728>]

## **Restrictions**

### **Conditions Governing Access**

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

### **Conditions Governing Use**

Copyright is held by Lynn Stern.

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 a gift of Lynn Stern, beginning in 2012.

## **Accruals**

Additional materials received in 2018.

## **Separated Materials**

There are photographs in the CCP's fine print collection. Please see archivist for details.

## **Related Materials**

Stern's work resides in other public collections, including but not limited to: Brooklyn Museum of Art; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Portland Art Museum; Smith College Museum of Art; Victoria and Albert Museum; Whitney Museum of American Art; and Yale University Art Gallery

## **Preferred Citation**

Lynn Stern archive, 1971-2017. AG 238. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

## **Processing Information**

The first set of materials, related to the 2009 retrospective exhibition in Spain, *Frozen Mystery/El Misterio Congelado* in Spain, arrived to the CCP in 2012 and processed by Anne Richwine. An additional 15 boxes arrived in 2018 and were processed and integrated into the collection by Alexis Peregoy.

## Container List

### Series 1: Exhibition Files, 2009-2010

Note: The collection contents are associated with Stern's 2009 retrospective exhibition *Frozen Mystery/ El Misterio Congelado* at Fundación Cristóbal Gabarrón in Valladolid, Spain. Materials include correspondence and papers related to the exhibition's shipping, framing, crating, installation, catalog production and reviews. Materials are arranged alphabetically by exhibition role. Extent: 1 box.

Box	Folder	
1	1	Carnet, 2009-2010
	2	Catalog contributors, 2009
	3	Catalog design, 2009
	4	Catalog editing, 2009
	5	Catalog essay by Stern, 2009
	6	Catalog printing, 2009
	7	Catalog translation, 2009
	8	Correspondence with Curator and Director, 2009-2010
	9	Crates, 2009
	10	Framing, 2009
	11	Installation, 2009
	12	Reviews in the Spanish Press, 2009
	13	Shipping, 2009-2010

### Series 2: Publications, 1988-2017

Note: Materials include book mockups for several of Stern's published monographs. Extent: 3 boxes.

Box	Item	
2	1	Book mockup for <i>Dispossession</i> , 1995
	2	Book mockup for <i>Unveilings</i> , 1988
3	1	Book mockup for <i>Frozen Mystery</i> [Stern's personal copy], 2009
	2	Book mockup for <i>Frozen Mystery</i> [designer Katy Homan's copy], 2009
4	1	Book mockup for <i>Skull</i> , 2017

### Series 3: Photographic Materials, 1971-2017

Note: This series includes work prints, transparencies, and family photographs. Extent: 18 boxes.

#### Subseries 1: Work Prints

Note: Materials include gelatin silver work prints from several of Stern's publications and exhibitions. The arrangement of work prints has maintained Stern's original order from shipment to CCP. All labels are directly from Stern. Boxes 8-12 were prints from the *Frozen Mystery* exhibition; other boxes include prints that were not included in the retrospective exhibition and/or were rejects. Dates listed with each series are printing dates rather than when the negatives were made; see appendix B for further information and dates. Extent: 16 boxes.

Box	Folder
5	Early work, 1971-1979 [initialed unique or 1/3 prints; most on Bainbridge board]
6	Early work, 1971-1979 [initialed unique or 1/3 print]
7	International Center of Photography (ICP) student work, 1977-1978 [13 prints]
8	63 work prints: Gabarrón [ <i>Frozen Mystery</i> exhibit] <i>(W)holes</i> "Final version (3 <sup>rd</sup> )" <i>Full Circle</i> , 2009
9	109 work prints: Gabarrón [ <i>Frozen Mystery</i> ] <i>Animus</i> , 1998
10	62 work prints: Gabarrón <i>Veiled Still Lifes</i> , 2010-
11	71 work prints: Gabarrón <i>(W)holes</i> (early versions w. scrim glossy & matte), 1994-2006, 2008 "deleted & reject images"
12	165 work prints: Gabarrón <i>Nudes</i> , 1978 <i>Interior Light</i> , 1978-1984 <i>Extended Landscapes</i> , 1979-1988 <i>Forebodings</i> , 1983-1988 <i>Unveilings</i> , 1985- <i>White compositions</i> , 1985-1987 <i>Whiteness</i> , 1987- <i>Skulls</i> , 1991- <i>Dispossession</i> , 1990-1992
13	122 work prints: <i>Nudes</i> , 1978 (16) <i>Gesture/ Light</i> , 1978-1985 (9) <i>Interior Light</i> , 1978-1984 (11) <i>Extended Landscapes</i> , 1979-1988 (29)

- Forebodings*, 1983-1988 (29)  
*White compositions*, 1985-1987 (2)  
Dialogues in Light (16)  
Compressed Landscapes (10)
- 14 75 work prints: *Unveilings*, 1985-
- 15 105 work prints:  
*Whiteness*, 1987 (22)  
*Animus*, 1998 (54)  
*Veiled Still Lives*, 2010- (29)
- 16 90 work prints:  
*Full Circle*, 2009 (37)  
*Ghost Circles*, 2006-2007 (19)  
*Meditation*, 2016 [Triptych series] (34)
- 17 81 work prints:  
*Spectator*, 2015 (16)  
*Doppelganger*, 2014 (22)  
*Beyond Bones*, 2010 (13)  
Toning experiments for *Animus* (14)  
*Passage*, 2010 (16)
- 18 85 work prints [images work printed and then rejected]:  
*Unveilings*, 1985- / *Dialogues in Light* (18)  
*Whiteness*, 1987 (10)  
*Skulls*, 1991- (4)  
Scrim/ skull experiments (8)  
Skull/ vase experiments (7)  
*Animus*, 1998 (4)  
*Veiled Still Lives*, 2010- (10)  
*Ghost Circles*, 2006-2007 (7)  
*Beyond Bones*, 2010 (8)  
*Passage*, 2010 (9)
- 19 19 work prints, 11" x 14":  
*Extended Landscapes*, 1929-1982 (7 rejects, 1 work print)  
*Dispossession* (1<sup>st</sup> rejected composites; reject self-portrait)
- 20 [OS] 5 rejected mockups: *Dispossession* [each is a different self-portrait mask below each skull]

Subseries 2: Transparencies

Note: Transparencies of original mockups for *Dispossession*. Extent: 1 box; 20 transparencies.

Box    Folder

21                      Transparencies of *Dispossession* book mockup

Subseries 3: Family Photographs and Snapshots

Note: Family photographs and snapshots. Extent: 1 box; 44 photographs.

Box    Folder

22                      Family photographs and snapshots, including one photograph with  
Donald Kuspit and Fré Ilgen (44 photographs)



## Appendix A: Exhibition List

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2012 Peter Findlay Gallery, New York, NY
- 2011 [Artspace at Untitled, Oklahoma City, OK
- 2009 Museo Fundación Cristóbal Gabarrón, Valladolid, Spain
- 2007 Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York
- 2006 QCC Art Gallery, Queensborough Community College, The City University of NY
- 2002 Herbert F. Johnson Museum, Cornell University
- 2001 Staller Center for the Arts, State University of New York at Stony Brook
- 2001 Kowasa Gallery, Barcelona
- 2001 Peter Findlay Gallery, Works on Paper Art Show, New York
- 2000 Debs & Co., New York
- 1998 Barry Friedman Ltd., New York
- 1995 Gallery B.A.I., New York
- 1993 Scott Nichols Gallery, San Francisco
- 1990 SCP Gallery, Kansas City
- 1988 Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA

### Group Exhibitions

- 2008 First doubt: Optical Confusion in Modern Photography, Selections from the Allan Chasnoff Collection, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT
- 2006 Walpole's Leap: 8 Modern Garden Perceptions, Lobby Gallery, 499 Park Ave., NY
- 2005 Women's Work, Viewpoint Photographic Art Center, Sacramento, CA
- 2005 Alva Gallery, New London, CT
- 2002 What's New: Recent Photography Acquisitions, Whitney Museum of American Art, NY
- 2001 Peter Findlay Gallery, New York
- 2000 S. Sidney Kahn (1937-1999): Mementi Mori, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT
- 1999 Alva Gallery, New London, CT
- 1997 Peter Findlay Gallery, New York
- 1992 Traditions in the American Landscape, Scott Nichols Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1992 40 Women Photographers, Silver Image Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 1989 Flowers, Kathleen Ewing Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 1985 Provincetown Art Museum Competition, Provincetown, MA
- 1984 Space Through a Glass Eye: 8 Photographers, Central State University, Edmond,

OK

1980 4th Annual Small Works Competition, New York

**Appendix B: Series of Work**

*Gesture/ Light*, 1978-1985 [silver gelatin prints]

*Hands*, 1978- [silver gelatin prints]

*Interior Light*, 1978-1984 [silver gelatin prints]

*Nudes*, 1978 [silver gelatin prints]

*Extended Landscapes*, 1979-1988 [silver gelatin prints]

*Forebodings*, 1983-1988 [silver gelatin prints]

*Unveilings*, 1985- [silver gelatin prints]

*Passage*, negatives made between 1985-2004, printed in 2010 [archival pigment inkjets]

*White compositions*, 1985-1987 [silver gelatin prints]

*Whiteness*, 1987- [silver gelatin prints]

*Dispossession*, 1990-1992 [silver gelatin prints]

*Skulls*, 1991- [silver gelatin prints]

*Veiled Still Lifes*, 1994-2003 [silver gelatin prints in addition to archival inkjet prints]

*(W)holes*, negatives made between 1994-2006; printed 2008 [silver gelatin prints]

*Animus*, negatives made between 1995-1997, printed in 1998 [silver gelatin prints]

*Full Circle*, negatives made between 2001-2006, printed in 2009 [archival pigment inkjets]

*Ghost Circles*, negatives made between 2004-2005, printed in 2006-2007 [archival pigment inkjets]

*Beyond Bones*, negatives made between 2005-2006, printed in 2010 [archival pigment inkjets]

*Doppelganger*, 2014, negatives made between 2013-2014, printed in 2014 [archival pigment inkjets]

*Spectator*, 2015, negatives made between 2013-2014, printed in 2015 [archival pigment inkjets]

*Meditation*, 2016 [Triptych series], negatives made between 2013-2015, printed in 2016 [archival pigment inkjets]