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Finding aid for the
Joan Liftin archive, 1972-2016

AG 262

Finding aid updated by Alexis Peregoy, 2019

Joan Liftin archive, 1972-2016

AG 262

Creator

Liftin, Joan

Abstract

Project and teaching files, exhibition files, publications and printed material, and photographic materials from the 1970s through 2016 of Joan Liftin (1935-), photographer and teacher.

Quantity / Extent

7 Boxes, 6.75 linear ft.

Language of Materials

English, French, Italian

Biographical Note

Joan Liftin is an American photographer and photo editor. She was born in Teaneck, NJ, in 1935 and grew up in New York City. Liftin studied modern dance at the Connecticut Dance School before pursuing a degree in journalism at Ohio State University, where she received a BA in 1957. Liftin danced with the Ann Halprin, Weland Lathrop, and Jose Limon companies until 1971. She began her photography career while working as a photo editor at the United Nations from 1971-1975. Liftin photographed assignments for UNICEF in Haiti, Peru, Chile, Algeria, and Iran while at the U.N. In 1975 Liftin joined the staff of Magnum, and served as the Director of the Magnum Photo Library until 1980.

During her time at Magnum in the late 1970s Liftin began to develop an independent photographic practice. She directed the International Center for Photography's Documentary and Journalism program from 1989-2001. She married fellow photographer Charles Harbutt in 1978. Liftin has received a CAPS grant from the New York State Council on the Arts and in 2010 she was the recipient of the Peter S. Reed Foundation Grant. Her work is included in the collections of the Center for Creative Photography, The Cleveland Museum of Art, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Princeton University, among others.

Scope and Content Note

The Joan Liftin Archive contains files from reportage projects undertaken throughout the United States from the 1980s through the 2000s, including prints, negatives, slides, and contact sheets along with published newspaper articles and magazine reviews. Manuscripts and published volumes edited or sequenced by Liftin, along with "dummy"

copies of her own books, are included within the project files. Catalogues from the Centro de la Imagen, detailing Liftin's time spent teaching in Mexico, are also present. Exhibition materials include postcards and reviews of exhibitions in which Liftin's work was featured. Published material consists primarily of magazines and books featuring images made by Liftin or Charles Harbutt. Photographic materials including fine prints, negatives, slides, and contact sheets from both reportage and fine art projects are also present in the archive.

Arrangement

[Series 1: Activity Files, 1978-2017, 3 boxes](#)

- Subseries 1: Project Files
- Subseries 2: Teaching Files

[Series 2: Exhibition Files, 1972-2014, .5 box](#)

[Series 3: Published Materials, 1976-2016, 2.25 boxes](#)

[Series 4: Photographic Materials, 1984-2004, 1.5 boxes](#)

- Subseries 1: Negatives
- Subseries 2: Slides
- Subseries 3: Contact Sheets
- Subseries 4: Prints

Names and Subject Terms

- Harbutt, Charles, 1935-2015 [<http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500083469>]
- Liftin, Joan, 1935- [<http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/nr2003022525>]

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

Gift of Joan Liftin, 2016.

Preferred Citation

Joan Liftin Archive, 1972-2016. AG 262. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

Processed by Andy Hayt, 2017.

Container List

Series 1: Activity Files, 1978-2017

Arrangement: Chronological; Quantity: 3 Boxes, 1.5 linear ft.

Subseries 1: Project Files, 1978-2017

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|---|
| 1 | 1 | Catalogue, Kertesz- Harbutt, Sympathetic Explorations, Plains Art Museum, 2 copies inscribed by Harbutt and Kertesz |
| | 2 | Paris Magnum, 1981 |
| | 3 | Mary Ellen Mark, Falkland Road, 1981 |
| | 4 | Republican Convention, 1984 |
| | 5 | Charles Harbutt, Maquette of Progreso, 1984 |
| | 6 | Charles Harbutt Published copy of Progreso, 1986 |
| | 7 | Joan's Diary, Trip to Russia, 1988 |
| | 8 | Drive-Ins, newspaper articles, dummy copy, Letter from Elanor Wilner and original copy of poems for 'Drive-Ins' 1996-2004 |
| | 9 | Mississippi reportage, 1998 |
| 2 | 1 | Idalina Pedrosa, Enfants de la Patrie, dummy copy, DVD of images, 2003 |
| | 2 | Maquette of Enfants de la Patrie, 2003 |
| | 3 | Childhood Obesity, 2003-2004 |
| | 4 | Inkjet prints from Childhood Obesity, 2003-2004 |
| | 5 | Washington Square Park, 2004 |
| | 6 | Naomi Savage, maquette of <i>My Family and Other Strangers</i> , 2005 |
| | 7 | Jeff Jacobson, published copy of <i>Melting Point</i> , 2006 |
| 3 | 1 | Andrea Stern, maquette of <i>Inheritance</i> , 2007 |
| | 2 | Andrea Stern, published copy of <i>Inheritance</i> , 2007 |

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| | 3 | Joan Liftin, maquette of <i>Runaway</i> , 2008 |
| | 4 | Charles Harbutt, maquette of <i>Departures and Arrivals</i> , 2012 |
| | 5 | Ninni Romeo, maquette of <i>Inferno</i> , 2012 |
| | 6 | Independently published copy of <i>Liftin Family Chronicles</i> , 2015 |
| 3A | 1 | Published copies (2) of <i>Marseille</i> , with postcard and annotations, 2015 |
| | 2 | Andrea Stern, maquette of <i>Dog Days</i> , 2017 |
| 9 | | [unprocessed; accrual TF 5530, 2019] |
| | | <i>Dog Days</i> , Andrea Stern, first dummy, 2017 (edited by Joan Liftin) |
| | | <i>Departures and Arrivals</i> , Charles Harbutt, Damiani, 2012 (edited by Joan Liftin) |
| | | <i>House Music</i> , Charles Rozier, first dummy, 2019 (edited by Joan Liftin) |
| | | Interview with Liftin, Run in Visura (internet), June, 2019 |
| | | Small packet of post cards |

Subseries 2: Teaching Files, 2000-2014

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | Programs from the Centro de la Imagen and the Centro Fotografico Manuel Alvarez Bravo |
|---|---|---|

Series 2: Exhibition Files, 1972-2014

Arrangement: Chronological; Quantity: .5 Box, .25 linear ft.

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| 4 | 2 | Exhibition Files: 1970s |
| | 3 | Exhibition Files: 1980s |
| | 4 | Exhibition Files: 1990s |
| | 5 | Exhibition Files: 2000s |
| | 6 | Exhibition Files: 2010s |

Series 3: Published Materials, n.d., 1976-2016

Arrangement: Chronological; Quantity: 2.25 Boxes, 2.75 linear ft.

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 4 | 7 | Assorted Postcards |
| | 8 | <i>Modern Photography</i> , 1974, 1979, 1982, 1988 |

- 9 *Revue fotografie* 75/4
- 10 *Creative Camera*, May 1976
- 11 *Zoom: Le Magazine de l'Image*, March 1977
- 12 *Infinitio*, June 1985, 6.
- 13 *OVO Magazine*. Vol. 15, No. 59/60/61 (1986). Montreal: OVO Magazine.
- 14 *DoubleTake*, 3:4, Fall 1997.
- 15 *The New York Times Magazine*, July 6, 1997
- The New York Times, Week in Review*, March 22, 1998
- 4A Oversize tearsheets: *Infinitio*, June 1985, 6, and unidentified
- 5 Snyder, Norman. *The Photography Catalog*. New York: Harper and Row, 1976.
- Wiesenfeld, Cheryl, Yvonne Kalmus, Sonia Katchian, Rikki Ripp, and Annie Gottlieb. *Women see Woman*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1976.
- Hayes, Dannielle B. *Women Photograph Men*. New York: Morrow, 1977.
- Mason, Jerry. *The Family of Children*. Canada: The Ridge Press, 1977.
- Girlfriends*. Produced and directed by Claudia Weill. Warner Brothers, 1978. VHS. All photos shown in the film are by Joan Liftin
- Mason, Jerry. *The Family of Woman*. New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1979.
- Olsen, Tillie, Julie Olsen Edwards, and Estelle Jussim. *Mothers & Daughters: That Special Quality: An Exploration in Photographs*. New York: Aperture Foundation, 1987.
- Friend, David. *The Meaning of Life*. Canada: Little, Brown and Co., 1991.
- Liftin, Joan. *Drive-Ins*. London: Trolley, 2004.
- Two Copies of: Mark, Mary Ellen, Lynne Honickman, and Melissa Harris. *Outside the Ordinary: Michael E. Hoffman: A Tribute in Pictures*. New York, NY: Aperture Foundation, 2004.
- 6 Stevens, Norma, Yolanda Cuomo, Pete Hamill, Adam Gopnik, Vince Aletti, and Patricia Marx. *New York at Night: Photography After Dark*. Brooklyn, NY: Power House Books, 2012.
- De Gasperis, Giammaria. *Contatti: Provini d'Autore*. Rome: Postcart, 2013
- Liftin, Joan. *Marseille*. Bologna: Damiani, 2015
- Stern, Andrea. *Dog Days*. Bookdummy press, 2017.
- Liftin, Joan. *Water for Tears*. Bologna: Damiani, 2018.

Film by Elaine Mayes on Helen Levitt and herself spending summers in a house in the Catskills, 2018. USB flash drive. Photo stills of the poker game are by Joan Liftin.

Series 4: Photographic Materials, 1984 – 2004

Arrangement: Chronological; Quantity: 1.5 Boxes, 2.25 linear ft.

Subseries 1: Negatives, 1984-2004

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|--|
| 7 | 1 | Negatives, Republican Convention, 1984 |
| | 2 | Negatives, b/w, Mississippi, 1998 |
| | | Negatives, color, Mississippi, 1998 |
| | 3 | Negatives, Childhood Obesity, 2003-2004 |
| | 4 | Negatives, Marseille, 2007, 2009-2011, 2013-2014 |
| | 5 | Negatives, not used in Marseille book |
| 9 | | Negatives, Mississippi [unprocessed; accrual TF 5530, 2019] |
| | | Negatives, Russia, 1988 [unprocessed; accrual TF 5530, 2019] |

Subseries 2: Slides, 1997

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|-------------------------|
| 7 | 6 | Slides, Drive-Ins, 1997 |

Subseries 3: Contact Sheets, 1984-2004

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|---|
| 7 | 7 | Contact sheets, Republican Convention, 1984 |
| | 8 | Contact sheets, Mississippi, 1998 |
| | 9 | Contact sheets, Childhood Obesity, 2003-2004 |
| | 10 | Contact sheets, Marseille, 2007, 2009-2011, 2013-2014 |
| | 11 | Contact sheets, not used in Marseille book |
| 9 | | Contact sheets, Mississippi [unprocessed; accrual TF 5530, 2019] |
| | | Contact sheets, Russia, 1988 [unprocessed; accrual TF 5530, 2019] |

Subseries 4: Prints, n.d., 1984-2004

| Box | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 8 | | Vintage 16x20 black and white prints |
| | | Color prints from <i>Drive-Ins</i> , 2004 |

Black and white prints from Republican Convention, 1984
Black and white prints from Russia Trip, 1988
Color prints from Mississippi Reportage, 1998
Black and white prints not used in Marseille book
Black and white prints of Helen Levitt's poker game with photographers,
1980s (photos by Joan Liftin)
Envelope – 8x10 portraits, Greenwich Village, 1993-1995

Index

Exhibition Index:

- 1972 – “Next Year in America,” SOHO Photo Gallery, New York
- 1974 – “Mardi Gras,” Raffi Photo Custom Lab, Inc. New York
- 1974 – “Coming of Age in America,” The Midtown Y Gallery, New York
- 1980 – “Twenty-First Midwestern Invitational,” Rourke Art Gallery, Moorhead
Minnesota
- 1994 – “Under Surface,” Group Show, Gallery Onetwentyeight, New York
- 2000 – “Snapshot,” Contemporary Museum
- 2001 – “Indivisible: Stories of American Community,” The Center for Creative
Photography, Tucson
- 2004 – “Drive-Ins by Joan Liftin,” Redux Gallery, New York
- 2004 – “Photographs: Joan Liftin and Charles Harbutt,” Westwerk, Hamburg
- 2005 – “Waldsee – 1944,” Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion Museum,
New York
- 2006 – “Joan Liftin: Drive- Ins,” OK Harris Gallery, New York
- 2007 – “Making the Scene: The Midtown Y Photography Gallery, 1972-1996,” The New
York Public Library, New York
- 2008 – “Song of Myself,” The powerHouse Arena, Brooklyn
- 2012 - Bursa Photofest, Bursa, Turkey
- 2014 – “Joan Liftin: Runaway, Drive-Ins,” Centro Fotográfico Manuel Álvarez Bravo,
Mexico City