

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

URL: <http://creativephotography.org>

Finding aid for the
Mitchell Payne archive, circa 1940-1977

AG 49

Mitchell Payne archive, circa 1940 – 1977

AG 49

Creator

Payne, Mitchell, 1944-1977

Abstract

Papers and photographic materials, ca.1940 - 1977, of Mitchell Payne (1944 - 1977), photographer. The bulk of the collection documents his student and professional work in Rochester, N.Y. and San Francisco, Calif., from 1944 to 1974, including his Hospital Pictures and American Snapshots projects.

Quantity/ Extent

6 linear feet

Language of Materials

English

Biographical/ Historical Note

Mitchell Payne was born on March 31, 1944 in Shawnee Mission, Kan. He attended Monmouth College (B.A., 1966), the University of Missouri at Kansas (1967), a Presbyterian seminary in Marin County, Calif., and the Rochester Institute of Technology (M.F.A., 1971).

While in Rochester, Payne worked on a number of photographic essays including Lisa, the story of a young blind girl, Strippers, and Hospital Pictures, his graduate thesis on neurosurgeons at Strong Memorial Hospital. In June 1971, Payne married Linda Montano, a teacher of sculpture at Nazareth College.

Payne and Montano moved to San Francisco, Calif. in the summer of 1971, where Hospital Pictures was exhibited at Focus Gallery in 1972. The same series of photographs was later published in Physician's World as "Neurosurgeons in Action" (1973). During the same period, Payne completed two independent assignments, one for West and the other for Design and Environment. Payne was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts grant in 1973 which resulted in the photographic essay, High School Youth. This project is thought to have provided impetus for his extended essay, Tammy, the portrait of a teenaged belly dancer. Payne (with collaborator Ken Graves) was again awarded a NEA grant in 1976 to compile material for American Snapshots; a book (1977) and later an exhibition (1978).

Despite these successes, Payne and Montano were unable to secure steady work in San Francisco. Payne actively solicited free-lance and commercial assignments and temporarily taught photography classes for both the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department and the University of California. His attempts at obtaining a permanent teaching position were unsuccessful, however.

Payne and Montano were divorced in 1977. He returned to Kansas and began working for the family firm, Morrison, Gregg, and Mitchell Grain. Payne died August 19, 1977 from a gunshot wound. He was thirty-three.

Scope and Content Note

This collection arrived at the Center in 1981. Preliminary arrangement was begun, but soon abandoned; final arrangement and description by record types having eventually been completed in 1985. The collection has been divided into Papers and Photographic materials.

Papers

Series one: Papers, 1970 - 1977. Contains biographical information, correspondence, project files, and printed materials relating to Payne's brief career. The papers document his publications, photojournalistic assignments, exhibitions, and employment endeavors from 1970-74. The project files contain limited information on his major photographic essays, Lisa, Hospital Pictures, High School Youth, Tammy, and American Snapshots. Printed materials include handbooks, brochures, and clippings relating to photojournalism and photographic equipment; reviews of Payne's show at Focus Gallery (1972); notes about the dye transfer process; and other subjects.

For a more complete description of Payne's projects, see Appendix A. This collection contains little information on his personal life or photographic activities before 1970 or after 1974.

Photographic materials

The bulk of the collection is photographic materials in a variety of formats - negatives, contact sheets, color transparencies, and dye transfer materials. Negatives and contact sheets are primarily 35 mm. black-and-white, although there are some 6x6 cm., 6x9 cm., 4x5 in. and color negatives. Subjects include Payne's photographic essays, Strippers, Lisa, High School Youth, Tammy, and Neurosurgeons; family and friends; and some commercial work including architectural studies done for Design and Environment.

Series two: Personal photographs, ca.1880 - 1975. Contains black-and-white and some color photographs. Most are commercially processed photographs of Payne and his family and friends at weddings, parties, and at leisure. Personal photographs are also found in Series: Contact sheets and Series: Negatives.

Series three: Contact sheets, 1969 - 1976. Mostly from 35 mm. black-and-white negatives. Contact sheets exist for Payne's photographic essays, Hospital Pictures, Lisa, and High School Youth. Also included are many sheets with photographs of family, friends, vacations, children, parades, and Payne himself. There are family portraits of Payne's wife, Linda Montano; brother, Nettleton Payne, and sister-in-law, Penn; niece, Elizabeth; and parents, Mildred and Nettleton Payne. Some contact sheets are missing.

Series four: Negatives, 1969 - ca.1976. Mostly 35 mm. black-and- white. Negatives are stored in envelopes, most of which contain handwritten annotations regarding subject matter and date. There are more sets of negatives than contact sheets. Skips in numerical sequence indicate that some negatives may be missing. There is one box of unnumbered and sometimes unidentified negatives, consisting primarily of places and people.

Series five: Transparencies, 1968 - 1977. Consists of mounted and unmounted, black-and-white, color, and color copy transparencies of photographs from six of Payne's photographic essays. Most are from Hospital Pictures and American Snapshots. There are a few unidentified slides.

Series six: Dye transfer materials, ca.1971 - 1977. Consists of six sets of dye transfer tests which contain handwritten and typed notes, test strips, graphs, charts, work prints, masks, and separation negatives. There are also matrices and negatives from his American Snapshots project, ca.1977.

Arrangement

The collection is organized as follows:

Series 1: Papers

- Subseries 1: Biographical materials, 1970-1974
- Subseries 2: Correspondence, 1971-1977
- Subseries 3: Project files, 1969-1977
- Subseries 4: Printed materials, 1970-1973

Series 2: Photographic Materials

- Subseries 1: Contact sheets, 1969-1976
- Subseries 2: Personal photographs, circa 1880-1976
- Subseries 3: Negatives, 1969- circa 1976
- Subseries 4: Transparencies, 1968-1977
- Subseries 5: Dye transfer materials, 1971-1977

Names and Subject Terms

Montano, Linda [<http://vocab.getty.edu/ulan/500056183>]

Photography

Restrictions

Conditions Governing Access

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

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish from materials in this collection must be obtained from Linda Montano. Please see an archivist for further information.

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 was donated to the Center by the photographer's ex-wife, Linda Montano, in 1981.

Accruals

Additional photographs were donated by Linda Montano in 2013 and 2014.

Separated Materials

Master prints by Payne and Payne's collection of photographs by others (including Bill Owens, Ken Graves, Richard Stocken, Janet Applebaum, and Linda Montano) were transferred to the Center's Fine Print Collection.

Preferred Citation

Mitchell Payne archive, circa 1940-1977. AG 49. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

An initial inventory of the collection was conducted in 1981. Judith Leckrone processed the collection in 1984. The finding aid was updated by Alexis Peregon in 2017.

Container List

Series 1: Papers, 1970-1977

Note: arranged by record type. 0.5 linear feet.

Subseries 1: Biographical materials, 1970-1974

1 folder.

Box Folder

1 1 Biographical materials, 1970-1974

Subseries 2: Correspondence, 1971-1977

2 folders.

Box Folder

1 2-3 Correspondence, 1971-1977

Subseries 3: Project files, circa 1969- circa 1977

7 folders.

Box Folder

1 4 American Snapshots, circa 1977
5 High School Youth, circa 1973
6 Hospital Pictures, circa 1970-1972
7 Lisa, circa 1969-1972
8 Strippers, 1970
9 Photography and You, 1973
10 Tammy, circa 1973-1976

Subseries 4: Printed materials, circa 1970s

5 folders.

Box Folder

1 11 Technical materials, circa 1970s
12 Exhibition reviews, 1972
13 Miscellaneous materials, circa 1970s
14 Miscellaneous materials, circa 1970-1973
15 Periodicals, 1973

Selected Index to Correspondence

Black Star (New York), 1972

Bragstad, Jeremiah O., 1971

Camera (Lucerne), 1973

Camera 35, 1972

Chapnick, Howard, see Black Star

Design and Environment, 1972

Focus Gallery (San Francisco, Calif.), 1971

Johnston, Helen, see Focus Gallery

Life, 1971

Pearson, James B., 1971-72

Polaroid Corporation (Cambridge, Mass.), 1973

Poli, Kenneth, see Popular Photography

Popular Photography, 1972

Porter, Allan, see Camera

Rapho Guillumette Pictures (New York), 1973

TimeLife Books (New York), 1974

United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, D.C.), 1972

Series 2: Photographic materials, circa 1880-1977

Subseries 1: Contact sheets, 1969-1976

Note: Contact sheets and negatives have been arranged according to Payne's own system. Most are numbered sequentially, (i.e. number 1 negative set was printed on number 1 contact sheet), however, not all contact sheets and negatives have a corresponding set, and there are gaps in the sequence. Duplicates are filed together. Contact sheets without numbers are filed after those with numbers. Title and date of contact sheets (when known) is noted on negative envelopes.

Quantity: 2 linear feet

Box Folder

2	Numbers 1, 176371 (1969-1971)
3	Numbers 377-560 (1971-1972)
4	Numbers 561-729 (1972-1973)
5	Numbers 737-887; unnumbered sheets (1973-1976)

Subseries 2: Personal photographs, circa 1880-1976

Note: arranged by person or place; some unidentified. 0.5 linear feet (114 photographs)

Box	Folder	
6	1	Mitchell Payne, circa 1950s- 1975
	2	Mitchell Payne, elementary school, 1950-1954
	3	Linda Montano, circa 1975
	4	Nettleton Sr. and Mildred Payne, circa 1940s- 1970s
	5	Nettleton Jr. and Penn Payne, January 1965
	6	Unidentified children, circa 1950s- 1969
	7	Unidentified adults, circa 1950s- 1969
	8	Pets, places and plants, circa 1967- 1968
	9	Unidentified family portrait [mounted on cardboard], circa 1880
6a		Two (2) black-and-white photographs by Mitchell Payne and hand-colored by Linda Montano, circa 1960s, 1971

Subseries 3: Negatives, 1969 – circa 1976

Note: Negatives have been filed according to Payne's own consecutive numbering system; negative numbers corresponding to those of contact sheets. Negatives which are unnumbered but which contain handwritten annotations have been divided into broad subject areas, and then alphabetized by Payne's labels. Unnumbered negatives are filed after numbered negatives. Negatives with neither numbers or labels have been divided into black-and-white and color and then filed randomly.

Quantity: 3 linear feet

Box	Folder	
7		Numbers 1-120 (Nov. 1969-Jan. 1970; Dec. 1970)
8		Numbers 122-208 (Dec. 1969-May 1970)
9		Numbers 210-286 (Nov. 1969-Nov. 1970)
10		Numbers 288-336 (Dec. 1970-Feb. 1971)
11		Numbers 337-380 (Feb.-Mar. 1971)
12		Numbers 381-426 (Apr.-Oct. 1971)
13		Numbers 427-476 (Dec. 1971-Apr. 1972)
14		Numbers 476-517 (Apr.-July 1972)

- 15 Numbers 518-576 (July-Dec. 1972)
- 16 Numbers 577-629 (Jan.-Mar. 1973)
- 17 Numbers 630-723 (May 1973)
- 18 Numbers 727-825 (ca.1973-76)
- 19 Numbers 826-881 (ca.1972-76)
- People [unnumbered, labeled], (ca.1969)
- Places, general [unnumbered, labeled], (ca.1969)
- 20 Places, specific [unnumbered, labeled], (ca.1969)
- Projects, miscellaneous negatives [unnumbered, labeled], (ca.1969-75)
- Subjects, miscellaneous [unnumbered, labeled], (ca.1969)
- Personal, commercially processed [unnumbered, labeled], (ca.1967)
- 21 Black-and-white and color negatives [unnumbered, unlabeled],
(ca.1965-76)

Subseries 4: Transparencies, 1968- 1977

Note: Mounted transparencies have been divided by photographic essay, and then arranged chronologically. Unmounted transparencies have been filed before materials pertaining to photographic essays; miscellaneous transparencies after.

Quantity: 0.5 linear feet

Box Folder

- 21 Unmounted, color, circa 1969- 1975
- Unmounted, black-and-white copy, circa 1969- 1976
- 22 1 Mounted, Strippers, 1968-70
- 2 Mounted, Lisa, 1969-72
- 3 Mounted, Hospital Pictures, 1970-72
- 4 Mounted, High School Youth, 1973-75
- 5 Mounted, Tammy, 1973-76
- 6 Mounted, American Snapshots, 1977
- 7 Mounted, miscellaneous, 1977

Subseries 5: Dye transfer materials, circa 1971- 1977

Note: arranged chronologically. 8 folders.

Box	Folder	
23	1	Dye Transfer Test #1, ca.1971
	2	Dye Transfer Test #2, ca.1971
	3	Dye Transfer Tests #3 and #4, ca.1971
	4	Dye Transfer Test #10,ca.1971
	5	Dye Transfer Test, no number, ca.1971
	6	Mask and separation negative tests, ca.1971
	7	<u>American Snapshots</u> matrices, ca.197
	8	<u>American Snapshots</u> separation negatives, ca.1977

Appendix A: Descriptions of Selected Photographic Essays

Lisa (Rochester, N.Y., 1969-72)

Payne worked on this photo essay about an active, young, blind girl while a graduate student at the Rochester Institute of Technology. He photographed Lisa extensively at home, school, and play. Payne wanted to record her relationships, and there are many images of Lisa with family, friends, and teachers. Payne submitted images from this essay to Life in 1971, but was told the project lacked drama.

Hospital Pictures (Rochester, N.Y., 1971-72)

Payne began this project in Jan. 1971 as an examination of the characteristics of the staff and patients of a large, modern hospital. He had planned to photograph two hospitals, but eventually restricted his essay to one neurosurgeon, Dr. Duke, a resident physician associated with Strong Memorial Hospital. Payne felt that his early photographs in this series were too sentimental, and later began to document aspects of the impersonal nature of the doctor-patient relationship.

Focus Gallery (San Francisco, Calif.) exhibited these photographs as Hospital Pictures in Mar. 1972. This essay was published as "Neurosurgeons in Action" in the July 1973 issue of Physician's World. The Center for Creative Photography (Tucson, Ariz.) exhibited the photographs in 1977.

High School Youth (San Francisco, Calif., 1973-75)

Payne received an NEA grant of \$3,900 in 1973 to do a photographic essay on adolescents in high school. This series includes images of teenagers at school, home, and at leisure. There is no evidence that this work was ever exhibited or published, though Black Star, a New York photo agency, expressed interest after hearing of the NEA award.

Tammy (San Francisco, Calif., 1973-76)

This project is thought to have grown from Payne's essay on high school youth. Tammy was a high school student and belly dancer from San Francisco, Calif. Numerous photographs show Tammy bathing, dressing, eating, dating, relaxing, socializing, exercising, and dancing. Tammy was exhibited at the Center for Creative Photography (Tucson, Ariz.) Jan.-Mar. 1984. There is no evidence of publication.

American Snapshots (California, 1976-77)

In 1976, Payne and Ken Graves were awarded a NEA grant to document American life. They sought photographs which required no captions or descriptions. From thousands of snapshots, they chose 112 which were eventually published and later exhibited as American Snapshots.

Miscellaneous smaller projects (1969-76)

Payne worked on many smaller projects from 1969-76. These included essays on the Drumgooles, a poor black family in Rochester, N.Y.; senior citizens; a local zoo; childless couples; a traveling home-care nurse (The Nurse's Story); a Berkeley, Calif. women's art show; "The House as Symbol", for Design and Environment; and the Women's Dress for Greater Freedom demonstration in 1972.

Appendix B: Index to Selected Projects

American Snapshots

Papers: project files (AG49:1/4)

Photographic materials: transparencies (AG49:22/6); dye transfer materials (AG49:23/7,8)

High School Youth

Papers: project files (AG49:1/5)

Photographic materials: contact sheets (AG49:4); negatives (AG49:16); transparencies (AG49:21, 22/4)

Hospital Pictures

"Neurosurgeons in Action"

Papers: project files (AG49:1/6); printed materials (AG49:1/12)

Photographic materials: contact sheets (AG49:2, 3)

"The House as Symbol"

Papers: correspondence

Photographic materials: contact sheets (AG49:3); negatives (AG49:14)

Lisa

Papers: correspondence; project files (AG49:1/7)

Photographic materials: contact sheets (AG49:2, 3); negatives (AG49:8,9,10,11,12,20,21);
transparencies (AG49:22/2)

Nurse's Story

Papers: correspondence

Photographic materials: contact sheets (AG49:3); negatives (AG49:13, 14)

Strippers

Papers: project files (AG49:1/8)

Photographic materials: contact sheets (AG49:2); negatives (AG49:7,8,11); transparencies
(AG49:21,22/1)

Tammy

Papers: project files (AG49:1/10)

Photographic materials: contact sheets (AG49:4,5); negatives (AG49:18,19,20);
transparencies (AG49:21,22/5)

Appendix C: Fine Prints located at Annex

Box P32/3: Hospital Series, 1970-72; all untitled

81:204:002 81:204:012

81:204:003 81:204:013

81:204:004 81:204:017

81:204:006 81:204:018

81:204:008 81:204:019

81:204:009 81:204:021

81:204:010 81:204:022

81:204:011 81:204:023

Box P32/4: Hospital Series, 1970-72; all untitled

81:204:030 - 81:204:049

Box P32/5: Hospital Series, 1970-72; all untitled

81:204:50 - 81:204:170

Box P32/6: Hospital Series, 1970-72; duplicates

81:256:000

Box P32/7: Tammy, A Series on a High School Girl, 1973-76; all untitled

81:253:001 81:253:010

81:253:002 81:253:013

81:253:003 81:253:015

81:253:004 81:253:016

81:253:005 81:253:018

81:253:006

Box P32/8: Tammy, A Series on a High School Girl, 1973-76; all untitled

81:253:021 - 81:253:061

Box P32/9: Tammy, A Series on a High School Girl, 1973-76; duplicates

81:257:000

Box P32/10: Strippers Series, 1968-70

81:254:001 - 81:254:039; all untitled

81:265:018; untitled

81:255:001 - 81:255:025; duplicates

Box P32/11: Lisa, Blind Girl, 1969-72

81:258:001 - 81:258:060; all untitled

81:259:001 - 81:255:025; duplicates

Box P32/12: American Snapshots, 1977

81:260:001 - 81:260:043; published American Snapshots
(black-and-white); see book for titles

81:260:044 - 81:260:046; published American Snapshots
(dye transfer); see book for titles

AG 48 Mitchell Payne

Box P32/13: American Snapshots, 1977

81:261:001 - 81:261:053; unpublished American Snapshots; untitled

Box P32/14: American Snapshots, 1977

81:262:000; duplicates

Box P32/15: High School, 1973-75

81:263:001 - 81:263:050; untitled

81:264:001 - 81:264:020; duplicates

Box P32/16: Miscellaneous photographs, 1969-75; all untitled

81:265:000

Box P32/17: Miscellaneous photographs, 1969-75; duplicates

81:266:000