

Center for Creative Photography

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Finding aid for the
Esta Nesbitt Archive, 1966-1983

AG 60

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Creator

Nesbitt, Esta (1819-1975)

Abstract

Reprography art and accompanying documents, 1966 – 1983, of Esta Nesbitt (1918 – 1975), fashion illustrator, teacher, and photographer. Includes motion pictures, notebooks, diaries, photographs, correspondence, and other materials regarding her exhibitions and performances, especially “Walk-Up Tape-On,” 1969, “Everyman,” 1969, “Electrostatics,” 1972, and, less extensively, “Xerography-Extensions in Art,” 1973. There are periodicals and catalogs on or about her, and several portraits of her. Not included in this collection are her illustrations for fashion and children’s literature, information regarding her teaching career, and her experiments with reprography art.

Quantity/ Extent

3 linear feet

Language of Materials

English

Biographical/ Historical Note

Esta Nesbitt was born in New York City on 19 November 1918. She was educated at several institutions including Traphagen School, the Art Student’s League, Columbia University, and New York University. She was a fashion illustrator for over two decades, contributing drawings to such popular publications as Harpers Bazaar, Mademoiselle, and the New York Times Magazine. She began exhibiting her works around 1966. She taught at the Parsons School of Design in New York City from 1964 – 1974. She began exploring the aesthetic and artistic possibilities of reprography art in the early 1970s. She died 30 November 1975 in New York City.

Scope and Content Note

Reprography art and accompanying documents, 1966 – 1983, of Esta Nesbitt (1918 – 1975), fashion illustrator, teacher, and photographer. Includes motion pictures, notebooks, diaries, photographs, correspondence, and other materials regarding her exhibitions and performances, especially “Walk-Up Tape-On,” 1969, “Everyman,” 1969, “Electrostatics,” 1972, and, less extensively, “Xerography-Extensions in Art,” 1973. There

are periodicals and catalogs on or about her, and several portraits of her. Not included in this collection are her illustrations for fashion and children's literature, information regarding her teaching career, and her experiments with reprography art.

The first series contains biographical materials, which includes photographs of Nesbitt as well as periodicals with Nesbitt references. The second series contains exhibitions-related materials, such as exhibition catalogs from 1966-1969 and 1971-1983. It also houses notes, maps, charts, motion picture film, transparencies, and photographs representing Nesbitt's "Walk Up Tape-On" performance. Furthermore, box one has information regarding her "Xerography—Extensions in Art" performance, including correspondence, notes, the press release, and catalog. Box two consists of the description, invitation, and prints from Nesbitt's "Everyman" performance, while box three contains materials on the records of "Electrostatics" and Transcapasas "stair pattern", and box four houses three transcapsagraphic books from 1971.

Arrangement

Series 1: Biographical material, 1970-1974 (Box 1)

Series 2: Exhibitions, 1966-1983 (Boxes 1-4)

Subseries 1: "Walk-Up Tape-On"

Subseries 2: "Xerography – Extensions in Art"

Subseries 3: "Everyman"

Subseries 4: "Electrostatics"

Names and Subject Terms

Nesbitt, Esta

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

This collection was a gift of Saul and Meryl Nesbitt to the Center for Creative Photography in 1983.

Preferred Citation

Esta Nesbitt Archive, 1966-1983. AG 60. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

Processed 1985 by Roger Myers.

Finding aid updated by Meghan Jordan in May 2016.

Container List

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1970 - 1974

Quantity: 2 folders. Arrangement: by record type

- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| Box 1 | 1 | Photographs of Esta Nesbitt, ca. 1970 - 1972 |
| | 2 | Periodicals with Nesbitt references, (3 issues), 1972; 1974 |

Series 2: Exhibitions, 1966 – 1983

Quantity: 3 linear feet. Arrangement: by exhibition

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| Box 1 | 3 | Exhibition catalogs, 1966 – 1967 |
| | 4 | Exhibition catalogs, 1968 – 1969 |
| | 5 | Exhibition catalogs, 1971 – 1983 |
| | | <u>Walk-Up Tape-On</u> |
| | 6 | Descriptive note, 1969 |
| | 7 | Flow charts and city map, 1969 |
| | 8 | Super-8 motion pictures of performance, (6 films), 1969 |
| | 9 | Kodachrome transparencies, (66 slides), 1969 |
| | 10 | Ektachrome transparencies, (5 slides), 1969 |
| | 11 | Sound track notes, 1970 |
| | 12 | Notebooks (42 photos of originals), 1969 |
| | 13-16 | Xerox prints on Amalphi paper, (114 prints), 1971 |

- 17 "Accrual" books documenting the work, (3 vols.), 1969 – 1971
- 18 Photographs, black-and-white, (101 photos), 1969
- 19 Receipt, 1973
 - "Xerography – Extensions in Art"
- 20 Correspondence, 1970 – 1972
- 21 Writings on xerography, (photocopies), 1971
- 22 Notes for Xerox Exhibition Books I and II, (photocopies), 1971 – 1972
- 23 Press release, catalog, cards, photograph, 1971
 - "Everyman"
- Box 2
 - 1 Description, 1969
 - 2 Invitation to performance, 1969
 - 3 Prints from a 3M machine, manipulated, toned, (66 images), 1969
 - "Electrostatics"
- Box 3
 - Transcapasas "stair pattern", 1972 – 1973
 - Xerographic series on linen, 1972 – 1973
 - Chair on Porch
 - House and Wagon
 - The Farm and Silo
 - The Farm and House
 - Transparencies of the installation, (20 slides), 1972 – 1973
- Box 4
 - Transcapsagraphic books:
 - Lumos:75*, 1971
 - Cabala 99*, 1971
 - Light Times*, 1971