

Finding aid for the

RALPH GIBSON COLLECTION AG 37

**Center for Creative Photography
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721-0103**

For further information about the archives at the Center for Creative Photography, please contact the Archivist: phone 520-621-6273; fax 520-621-9444.

Description

Papers, photographic materials, audio-visual materials, and memorabilia, 1959 - , of Ralph Gibson (1939 -), photographer and publisher. Included is correspondence with photographers, museums, universities, publishers, friends, and others relating to a wide variety of activities; activity files containing biographical information, business receipts, clippings, date books, writings, interviews, lectures, and other printed materials on Gibson and his involvement with Lustrum Press and the Sex and Drugs Band; exhibition files containing announcements and catalogs of one-person and group shows; publication materials for published and unpublished books by Lustrum Press including *Tropism* (1987), *Nude: Theory* (1979), *Days At Sea* (1974), *Deja Vu* (1973), *Somnambulist* (1970), and *Light Years* (1996); limited numbers of negatives, contact sheets, work prints and transparencies by and of Gibson; audiotapes of guitar improvisations and interviews between Gibson and other photographers; publications containing articles about him; and memorabilia pertaining to Gibson and Lustrum Press. The collection is still active.

52.5 linear feet

Provenance

Gibson began depositing material at the Center in 1977. Part of the collection became a gift in 1985. Additions to the collection are made several times a year.

Restrictions

Any personal correspondence less than twenty-five years old is closed to research. Access to the following is restricted: recommendations and evaluations by or about Gibson; one medical report about Gibson. Permission to view must be obtained from Gibson.

Copyright to all texts and images by Ralph Gibson is held by the artist.

Languages

English, French, German, Swedish

Organization of the collection

Correspondence

Series one: Correspondence, 1965 - . Includes letters, cards, and telegrams received by Gibson from friends, acquaintances, business associates, museums, galleries, foundations, and admirers of his work. The bulk of this series begins in the 1970s. His earlier correspondence is no longer extant. This series indicates the extent of Gibson's involvement with his chosen medium in America and Europe. Included in these letters are business correspondence addressed to Gibson, relating to the operations and publications of Lustrum Press.

Activity files

Series two: Activity files, 1959 - . Contains materials of many sorts -- awards, biographical, business, periodical clippings, interviews -- related to Gibson's personal and professional activities including Lustrum Press and Sex and Drugs Band. Restricted material in this series includes a medical report and some personal recommendations by and about Gibson.

Exhibitions

Series three: Exhibitions, 1970 - . Contains announcements, checklists, and other printed materials relating to national and international one-person and group exhibitions by Gibson and other artists.

Lustrum Press publications and design material

Series four: Lustrum Press publications and design materials, 1970 - . Contains book mechanicals, folded and gathered signatures, duotone reproductions of photographs, press pages, galley, dummies and maquettes, and a few finished books. Extensive documentation exists for

these published and unpublished titles: The Somnabulist, Days at Sea, Deja-Vu, Nude: Theory, and Susan Sleeps and Dreams Her Myths, all by Gibson; Dark Light by Michael Martone; and Sunday by Erica and Elizabeth Lennard. Lustrum Press often published works by younger artists who had not been previously published. There is a small amount of printed materials which could not be linked with any of the extant titles. Not all publications of Lustrum Press are represented here. Many of these earlier editions, such as Larry Clark's Tulsa, are now out of print.

Photographic materials

Series five: Photographic materials, ca.1964 - . Color photographs, photographs by other photographers, portraits of Gibson, contact sheets, press prints, graphic arts, work prints, mounted prints, negatives, and transparencies. This work largely reflects Gibson's projects in the 1960s and 1970s including commercial, artistic, and personal work. There are thirty-six black and white photographs, mostly by little-known photographers; and sixty-four portraits of Gibson.

Audio-visual materials

Series six: Audio-visual materials, ca.1975 - . Consists of 1/4 in. reel-to-reel magnetic audio tapes, 1/8 in. cassette tapes, one microcassette, and one 16 mm. color motion picture. The reel-to-reel tapes are mostly recordings of improvisations and practice sessions featuring Gibson on the electric guitar. There is little or no information on the tapes concerning dates, places, or other individuals who are recorded on the tapes. There is one interview with Gibson discussing his work and aesthetics, but the tape is somewhat distorted with wow and flutter. The cassettes contain interviews by Gibson in 1978 with many leading photographers including Aaron Siskind, Duane Michals, Robert Heinecken, Harry Callahan, Judy Dater, Lisette Model, and others. Although not all tapes were audited, the interviews usually express practical and aesthetic viewpoints of the respective artists. The motion picture was not screened for content.

Memorabilia

Series seven: Memorabilia, ca.1970 - . Includes two tee-shirts and several miscellaneous articles such as a credit card, a placecard, stickers, and a button with a printed slogan.

Publications

Series eight: Publications, 1965 - . Includes a monograph and periodicals which contain articles and reproductions by, on, or about Ralph Gibson, his work, reviews of his exhibitions, profiles of Lustrum Press, and other similar matters. Of interest in this series are publications incorporating some of Gibson's commercial work in the late 1960s. Of special interest is a copy of Nexus: A Monthly Review (September 1963) with Gibson's photo essay "Ja, das Meer is blau, so blau," and a copy of The Strip: A Graphic Portrait of Sunset Boulevard (1966), designed by Roger Kennedy and photographed by Gibson. There are also posters and other printed materials about his participation in workshops and lectures filed in oversize boxes.

Unprocessed Materials

Miscellaneous papers and publications received after the 1985 donation.

INVENTORY OF THE COLLECTION

Series: Correspondence

Arrangement: Chronological

Quantity: 3.75 linear feet

- AG37:1 Correspondence, 1965-76
- AG37:2 Correspondence, 1977-81
- AG37:3 Correspondence, 1982-83, 1985-86 [see R/M 1726]
- AG37:4 Postcards, unused

Series: Activity files

Arrangement: Alphabetical by record type, then chronological

Quantity: 1.25 linear feet

- AG37:5 Announcements - other artists, 1975-83
 - Awards, 1960s
 - Business receipts, 1969
 - Business receipts, 1969
 - Business receipts, 1969
 - Business receipts, 1970-71
 - Business receipts, 1971
 - Business receipts, 1971
 - Business receipts, 1972-81
 - Clippings, 197?
- AG37:5 Clippings, 1970-71
 - Clippings, 1972-74
 - Clippings, 1975-77

Clippings, 1978-83
Date book, 1977-79
Equipment list, 1977-78
Exhibitions: Gibson as juror, 1979-81
Interviews with Gibson, 1973-80
Lectures, workshops, 1970-73
Lectures, workshops, 1974-78
Lectures, workshops, 1979-83
Legal agreements and contracts, 1969-77
Lustrum Press: book proposals, letter drafts, agreements, notes, 1970-78
Lustrum Press: cards, 1970s
Lustrum Press: manuscripts, 1970s
Miscellaneous notes, 1970s
Miscellaneous receipts and invoices, 1969-81
Miscellaneous sketches, 1970s
Passports, 1964,70,76
Reference, 1960s-80s
Restricted, 1959-83
Sex and Drugs Band, 1970s
Sex and Drugs Band, 1970s
Student thesis of T. Dugan, 197?
Writings by Gibson and unidentified others
[many fragments]

Series: Exhibitions

Arrangement: Chronological

Quantity: 0.75 linear feet

AG37:6 Exhibitions : One-person, 1970- ; Group, 1972- ; Other artists, 1970s

Series: Lustrum Press publication and design material

Arrangement: Alphabetical, by author

Quantity: 3 linear feet

AG37:7 The Somnambulist, 1970
50 repro. prints, mounted
1 mechanical of text
15 sets of folded and gathered signatures
8 duotone repros. of front cover photograph
2 books, 1st. ed.
2 dummies, one with handwritten notes

Deja-Vu, 1973
2 folded and gathered signatures
6 press pages

AG37:8 Days at Sea, 1974
1 press sheet
Folded and gathered signatures
1 page of text

Susan Sleeps and Dreams Her Myths, 197?
1 book dummy

Nude: Theory, 1979
Printer's proofs
2 sets of folded and gathered signatures
1 read set of galleys
text

Sunday, by Erica and Elizabeth Lennard, 1973
Folded and gathered signatures

Dark Light, by Michael Martone, 1973
Finished book without cover
Folded and gathered signatures

Unidentified
28 sets of offprints
1 maquette of 6 page layout
1 maquette of 10 page layout
1 reduced layout

Series: Photographic materials

Arrangement: By type or subject

Quantity: 6 linear feet

AG37:9 Misc. commercial, color, 8 prints, 1960s-70s
Photos by others, black-and-white, 36 prints,
1960s-70s
Portraits of Gibson, black-and-white and color,
74 prints, 1960s-70s
Contact sheets, black-and-white, 25 sheets,
1960s-70s
Press prints [Orion Press], black-and-white,
11 prints, 1970s
Graphic arts materials, [for Quadrants exhibition], black-and-white, 2 pieces, 1976
Personal photographs, 17 prints
Installation views

AG37:10 Work prints, black-and-white, 92 prints, 1960s-70s

Ralph Gibson Collection, Center for Creative Photography

Architectural details, color, 11 rolls, ca.1976

AG37:11 Work prints [some stamped or signed], Black-and-white, 131 prints, 1960s-70

AG37:12 Work prints, black-and-white, 21 prints, 1960-70s

Mounted prints [some stamped or signed], black-and-white, 18 prints, 1960s-70s

AG37:13 Mounted prints [some stamped or signed], black-and-white, 38 prints, 1960s-70s

AG37:14 Negatives, 35 mm., black-and-white, 20 rolls; color, 11 rolls, 1970s

AG37:15 Transparencies, 35 mm., color, 70 rolls, 1964-76

Series: Audio-visual materials

Arrangement: By record type

Quantity: 1 linear foot

AG37:16 1/4 in. reel-to-reel audio tapes [16 tapes], 1970s

Jazz improvisation; Leonard Cohen; Dead Flowers; Ralph Moog; Gene Smith; Lustrum Band; Mitote and Encounter with Mescalito on one guitar by Felipe Gayo; test tape with Tony Barsha; unlabeled (Gibson playing guitar; one interview with him)

1/8 in. cassette audio tapes [30 tapes], 1970s

Including interviews with: George Tice; Neal Slavin; Aaron Siskind; Duane Michaels; Robert Heinecken; Ken Josephson; Helmut Newton; Harry Callahan; Lisette Model; Manuel Alvarez Bravo; Frank Gohlke; Charlie Harbett; Hans Namuth; Mr. Flattau; Louis Baltz; Doug Prince; Frank Di Perna; John Thornton, Judy Dater; Cole Weston; and a lecture at the Museum of Fine Arts (Houston, Tex.) by Ralph Gibson

Microcassette audio tape, 1 tape, 1977

[unidentified, Houston, Tex.(?)]

AG37:17 16 mm., color motion picture, 1970s [unidentified]

Series: Memorabilia

Arrangement: By item

Quantity: 0.5 linear feet

AG37:17 Tee-shirt with type: Lustrum, 1970s

Tee-shirt with photo: Gibson doing a hand stand, 1970s

Miscellaneous articles:

MasterCard; matchbook; placecard; sticker; button with printed slogan

Series: Publications

Arrangement: Chronological

Quantity: 6 linear feet

- AG37: [*] Publications, 1965-
- AG37: [*] Publications [oversize]
- AG37:26 CCP Overby Collection [information on prints by Gibson given to CCP by Overby]

Series: Unprocessed Materials

Arrangement: New materials received from Gibson are sorted into basic categories such as correspondence, publications, videotapes and boxed as they come in. No overall organization or indexing has been done.

Quantity: 27 BOXES

- AG37:27-28 New acquisitions
Correspondence, 1985-1986
Publications
Exhibition announcements
Writings by other people (portfolio texts, etc.)
- AG37:29 New acquisitions
Papers, announcements, correspondence, etc.
- AG37:30-31 New acquisitions
Correspondence, publications, announcements,
clippings and papers, 1987-88. Includes corrected
text for Tropism.
- AG37:32 New acquisitions
Correspondence, publications, audiotapes and other
exhibition and workshop information.
- AG37:33-34 New acquisitions
Correspondence, 1980-1989, clippings,
announcements, greeting cards and miscellaneous
papers.
- AG37:35-53 New acquisitions
Correspondence, clippings, ephemera, videotapes,
publications, and miscellaneous personal papers.

SELECTIVE INDEX TO CORRESPONDENCE

(Note: This index is selective, incomplete, and does not include unprocessed materials.)

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(End of the Finding Aid)