

Guide to the Freda Leinwand Collection SC07

Finding aid prepared by Heather Lember

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Barnard Archives and Special Collections

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Summary Information

Repository	Barnard Archives and Special Collections
Creator	Leinwand, Freda
Title	Freda Leinwand Collection
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1967-1988
Date [inclusive]	1947-2007
Extent	15.0 Linear feet ; 8 records boxes, 2 oversize boxes, 5 bankers boxes
Physical Location	This collection is stored offsite and advance notice is required for access. To use this collection, please contact the Barnard Archives and Special Collections at 212.854.4079 or archives@barnard.edu .
Language	English
Abstract	The collection consists of the photographs, posters, books, and t-shirts of the photographer, Freda Leinwand.

Preferred Citation

Freda Leinwand Collection, 1947-2007; Box and Folder; Barnard Archives and Special Collections, Barnard Library, Barnard College.

Biography

Freda Leinwand was a photographer noted for documenting the Women's Liberation Movement in the 1970s and 1980s. Leinwand was one of the original tenants of the West Village's Westbeth Artist Housing in New York City, where she lived until her death in 2012. Many of her photographs depict the Women's Literary Salons that were often held at Westbeth.

Although she spent much of her time photographing the Women's Movement, Leinwand made her living taking photographs for textbooks, and expressed a particular interest in depicting women working in "non-traditional" jobs. Prior to her work as a photographer, Leinwand worked as a film editor for 20th Century Fox and MGM Telestudios, and went on to pursue photography at both Columbia University and the New School, where she studied with Ralph Hattersley, Joseph Breitenbac, and Marion Palfi.

Sources:

http://www.publicartinla.com/womens_salons/

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nytimes/obituary.aspx?pid=158308625#fbLoggedOut>

<http://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/schlesinger-library/blog/freda-leinwand>

Collection Scope and Content Summary

This collection consists of photographs, posters, books, and t-shirts of photographer, Freda Leinwand. Many of the photographs depict the Women's Liberation Movement and Women's Literary Salons that took place in New York City in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Women's Literary Salon was founded in 1975 by Marilyn Coffey, Erica Duncan, Karen Malpede, and Gloria Orenstein with the purpose of presenting readings, art, and performances created by women to an audience of women scholars, artists, and writers. In addition to the aforementioned Salon founders, many notable figures are depicted in Leinwand's photographs. These women include Judy Chicago, Barbara Deming, Audre Lorde, Meridel Le Sueur, Adrienne Rich, Susan Schwalb, Merlin Stone, Carole Rosenthal, Alida Walsh, Nina Yankowitz, and Susan Yankowitz.

The remainder of the photography and poster collection is comprised of photographs Leinwand took for textbooks and images of her travels to Puerto Rico, Mexico, Ireland, California, and the Arizona desert. In her textbook photography, Leinwand expressed a particular interest in depicting women at work, specifically those employed in jobs commonly understood at the time to be "non-traditional" women's work. In most cases the photographs are undated and unlabeled.

Freda Leinwand's book collection includes many seminal feminist texts, photography manuals, textbooks, and art books of photography. In most cases, the textbooks are those that include Leinwand's images.

Many of the photography books are compilations of women photographers, which also includes a number of issues of *Aperture* and *Photography Annual* magazines.

The t-shirt collection contains ten shirts printed with feminist slogans. There are images of women wearing similar shirts included in the collection.

The complete collection of photographs and Leinwand's personal papers are held at the Radcliffe Institute's Schlesinger Library in Cambridge, MA.

Collection Arrangement

The records are arranged in three series. The series arrangement of the records is as follows:

Series 1, Photographs and Posters, 1967-1988

Series 2, Books, 1947-2007

Series 3, T-shirts, undated

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Publication Rights

Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the donor and copyright holder, Kim Erle. Upon her death copyright will be transferred to the President and Fellows at Harvard College.

Reproductions Restrictions

Permission to reproduce material from the collection must be requested from the donor and copyright holder, Kim Erle. Upon her death copyright will be transferred to the President and Fellows at Harvard College.

Acquisition Information

Photography collection donated to the Archives by Kim Erle. T-shirt, poster, and book collection donated to the Archives by Karin Leinwand.

Processing History

This collection was processed and the finding aid written by Heather Lember in June, 2013.

Descriptive Rules Used: Finding aid adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Finding aid written in English.

Related Materials

Related Collections

Freda Leinwand's personal papers and her complete photography collection is held at Radcliffe Institute's Schlesinger Library: <http://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/schlesinger-library/blog/freda-leinwand>

Additional information on Women's Literary Salons, which includes Freda Leinwand's photographs, is located at the Women's Literary Salons Archive: http://www.publicartinla.com/womens_salons/

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Feminism
- Feminist theory
- Photography
- Second-wave feminism
- Women photographers

Collection Inventory

Box

1-9

**Series 1 Photographs and Posters, 1967-1988 1967-1988 4.25 Linear feet 8 archives
boxes 1 flat box**

Scope and Contents note

Box 2, folder 23 contains photos of dedication ceremony of Women's Rights National Historical Park, Seneca Falls, NY

Box 3 contains images from the Women's Salons. Those pictured include:

Daisy Aldan, Phyllis Birkby, E.L. Broner, Judy Chicago, Diane Churchill, Marilyn Coffee, Betsy Damon, Katya Delakova, Erica Duncan, Sarah Lechner, Meridel Le Suer, Karen Malpede, Robin Morgan, Gloria Orenstein, Carole Rosenthal, Susan Schwalb, Virginia Scott, Sharon Spencer, Merlin Stone, Alida Walsh, Nina Yankowitz, and Susan Yankowitz

Box 3, folder 5 contains images of women wearing Stella Adelaid t-shirts with feminist slogans

Box 5 contains a large collection of images from Women's Liberation demonstrations which includes:

1980s Demonstration Against Playboy
International Women's Day, March 12, 1977
Women's Strike, August 26, 1970
Women Against Porn, October 20, 1979
Women's Movement Demonstration Supporting Iranian Women, March 15, 1979
ERA Demonstration, August 27, 1977

Box 9 contains large format photographs from the Women's Salons and a collection of posters. The photographs are mostly unlabeled. The labeled images depict Kate Millett and Susan Griffin.

Books, 1947-2007

Box 9, folder 6 contains "Organization for Equal Education of the Sexes" Posters

Series 2 Books, 1947-2007 1947-2007 6.0 Linear feet 5 boxes

Box
11-15

Series 3 T-shirts 1.0 Linear feet 1 flat box

Box
10