



SFMOMA Research Library
151 Third Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
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Finding Aid to the Curatorial Records, 1959-1978

Collection Number: ARCH.ADM.011

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Finding Aid written by: Jessica Lemieux

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection Title

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Curatorial records, 1958-1978

Collection number

ARCH.ADM.011

Creator

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. This collection includes records of this same body under its earlier name, San Francisco Museum of Art (name changed in 1975).

Extent

2 linear feet (2 cartons)

Repository

SFMOMA Research Library
151 Third Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Abstract

The Curatorial collection consists of materials relating to the daily duties of SFMOMA's curators and curatorial assistants before the formal establishment of curatorial departments. Includes correspondence from several museum staff, most significantly from curator John Humphrey.

Language

Records are primarily in English.

Physical location

Collection is housed in SFMOMA offsite storage locations.

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Access and use restrictions

Collection is available for use. Some materials are restricted for confidentiality or condition. Contact SFMOMA Research Library.

Publication information

All requests for permission to publish should be directed to the Head Librarian, SFMOMA Research Library.

Preferred citation

[Identification of item], [box year and folder title], Curatorial 1958-1978, Administrative Records, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Archives.

Access points

Topical Subjects

Art appreciation--Study and teaching--California--San Francisco
Art museum curators
Art museums--Collection management--California--San Francisco
Art museums--Educational aspects
Art museums--Employees
Art museums and community--California--San Francisco
Museums--Curatorship

Corporate Names

San Francisco Museum of Art
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art--Archives
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art--History--Sources
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art--Records and correspondence

Humphrey, John

Related materials

SFMOMA Archives Office of the Director Records, 1935-1958
SFMOMA Archives Office of the Director Records, 1959-1965
SFMOMA Archives Office of the Director Records, 1966-1972
SFMOMA Archives Exhibition Records

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition

Institutional records generated by SFMOMA or collected by SFMOMA staff in the performance of work duties.

Level of description

Records are described at the carton level. Some records are described at the folder or item level.

Processed by

Jessica Lemieux, 2008.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Curatorial collection consists of materials relating specifically to the daily functions of the curators in the years leading up to the organization of a formal curatorial department. Documents the growth of the museum's curatorial staff, and the evolving role of Curator John Humphrey over his tenure at the museum. Humphrey's correspondence reveals his active role in exhibitions and his decision to concentrate solely on photograph at the end of his career at the museum. In addition to Humphrey's responsibilities, this series also documents the more general role of the curatorial assistants, and includes inquiries from the general public.

The collection is divided into two series, based on the original arrangement of the records. The Correspondence and Administrative series contains correspondence and materials related predominately to collection development, research requests, and the organization of exhibitions. The Photographs series contains photographs documenting artworks, artists, and installations.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES 1: CORRESPONDENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE, 1958-1978

Carton 1; Carton 2, Folders 1-17

Files are arranged alphabetically. Correspondence is arranged in alphabetical order from 1967-1969, and in reverse chronological order for all other years.

Includes correspondence, notes, and forms generated by curators, curatorial assistants and other museum staff, created in a period of increasing curatorial independence from the director's office, but before curatorial departments were formally founded. Bulk of the material was created by John Humphrey, longtime Curator. Correspondence is also included by Suzanne Foley, Karen Tsujimoto, Ellen Ditzler, and Katherine (Church) Holland. Files relate to organizing exhibitions, managing the museum's permanent collection, lectures, educational programs, and founding a center for photography in San Francisco. Files depict John Humphrey's transition from general curator to his later focus on photography. Includes correspondence with artists and the staff of other museums.

SERIES 2: PHOTOGRAPHS, 1959-1962

Carton 2, folders 18-28

Files are arranged chronologically.

Contains photographs and notes documenting artworks being considered for exhibition, and images of artists and exhibition installations used for publicity.

CONTAINER LIST

SERIES 1: CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTES, 1962-1978

Container	Folder	Contents	Date
Carton 1	1	Correspondence: Curatorial Assistant	1974 June-Dec
Carton 1	2	Correspondence: Curatorial Assistant	1974 Apr-May
Carton 1	3	Correspondence: Curatorial Assistant	1974 Jan-Mar
Carton 1	4	Correspondence: Curatorial Assistant	1973 Oct-Dec
Carton 1	5	Correspondence: Curatorial Assistant	1973 July-Sept
Carton 1	6	Correspondence: Curatorial Assistant	1973 Apr-June
Carton 1	7	Correspondence: Curatorial Assistant	1973 Jan-Mar
Carton 1	8-10	Correspondence: Curatorial Assistant	1972
Carton 1	11	Correspondence: Curatorial Assistant	1971
Carton 1	12	Correspondence: Curatorial Assistant	1970
Carton 1	13	Correspondence: Curatorial Assistant (A-F)	1969
Carton 1	14	Correspondence: Curatorial Assistant (G-Z)	1969
Carton 1	15	Correspondence: Curatorial Assistant (A-L)	1968
Carton 1	16	Correspondence: Curatorial Assistant (M-Z)	1968
Carton 1	17	Correspondence: Curatorial Assistant/Exhibition Secretary	1967
Carton 1	18	Correspondence: Galleries (Artist File Responses)	1964-1966
Carton 1	19	Correspondence: Internal	1965-1966
Carton 1	20	Correspondence: John Humphrey	1978 July-Dec
Carton 1	21	Correspondence: John Humphrey	1978 Jan-June
Carton 1	22	Correspondence: John Humphrey	1977
Carton 1	23	Correspondence: John Humphrey	1976
Carton 1	24	Correspondence: John Humphrey	1975
Carton 1	25	Correspondence: John Humphrey	1974
Carton 1	26	Correspondence: John Humphrey	1973 July-Dec
Carton 1	27	Correspondence: John Humphrey	1973 Jan-June
Carton 1	28	Correspondence: John Humphrey	1972 Sept-Dec
Carton 1	29	Correspondence: John Humphrey	1972 Jan-Aug
Carton 1	30	Correspondence: John Humphrey	1971
Carton 1	31	Correspondence: John Humphrey	1970 July-Dec
Carton 1	32	Correspondence: John Humphrey	1970 Jan-June
Carton 1	33	Correspondence: John Humphrey (A-K)	1969
Carton 1	34	Correspondence: John Humphrey (L-Z)	1969
Carton 1	35	Correspondence: John Humphrey (Chronological)	1969 Jan-Mar
Carton 1	36	Correspondence: John Humphrey (A-Z)	1968
Carton 1	37	Correspondence: John Humphrey (A-K)	1967
Carton 1	38	Correspondence: John Humphrey (L-Z)	1967
Carton 2	1	Correspondence: Jean Raine (Artist)	1965-1967
Carton 2	2	Correspondence: Miscellaneous	1974-1976
Carton 2	3	Correspondence: Miscellaneous	1967-1969
Carton 2	4	Correspondence: Miscellaneous	1966 July-Dec
Carton 2	5	Correspondence: Miscellaneous	1966 Jan-June

Carton 2	6	Correspondence: Miscellaneous	1965
Carton 2	7	Correspondence: Miscellaneous	1964
Carton 2	8	Correspondence: Miscellaneous	1963
Carton 2	9	Correspondence: Stein Exhibition	1970
Carton 2	10	Correspondence: Stein Exhibition - Lenders Receipts	1970-1971
Carton 2	11	Correspondence: Stein Exhibition - Transportation In	1970
Carton 2	12	Correspondence: Stein Exhibition - Transportation In	1971
Carton 2	13	Correspondence: Stein Exhibition - Transportation Out	1971-1972
Carton 2	14	Correspondence: Unanswered	1967-1969
Carton 2	15	New Loan Forms	1968
Carton 2	16	Personnel	1974-1977
Carton 2	17	Photographers	1966

SERIES 2: PHOTOGRAPHS, 1958-1962

Container	Folder	Contents	Date
Carton 2	18	Photographs: Museum Publicity	undated
Carton 2	19	Photographs: Unidentified Sculpture	undated
Carton 2	20	Photographs: Sculptures by Sidney Gordin	undated
Carton 2	21	Photographs: Paintings by Ruth Armer, Ralph Ducasse, Carl Morris - Gallery Views, Proofs	1958
Carton 2	29	Photographs: Sketches by Richard Neutra - Animals	1959
Carton 2	23-24	Photographs: Sketches by Richard Neutra - Cities and Buildings	1959
Carton 2	25	Photographs: Sketches by Richard Neutra - Human Beings	1959
Carton 2	26-27	Photographs: Sketches by Richard Neutra - Landscape	1959
Carton 2	28	Photographs: Works by Gordon Onslow-Ford	1962