

Finding Aid to the Cypress Papers

(#2001-09)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Cypress papers

Collection Number: 2001-09

Physical Description: 7.5 linear feet (6 cartons)

Creator: Cypress (Glick, Susan Rosenthal)

Date (inclusive): 1943-1998

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Cypress (Susan Rosenthal Glick), 1943-1997, was a working-class, disabled Jewish writer, photographer, and political activist who alternately identified as lesbian and bisexual. The collection contains Cypress' art, photography, writing, and journals, as well as various personal documents, subject files, and biographical material compiled by her friends.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Cypress papers (2001-09), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research, except for three folders relating to Cypress' medical condition, her mother's medical condition, and her Social Security benefits, which have been restricted until 2047, fifty years after Cypress' 1997 death. (Her mother's exact date of death is unknown, but it is known that Cypress survived her.)

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Acquisition Information:

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Adrienne Lauby in 2001.

Processing Information:

Finding Aid created by Isaac Fellman in 2019. This collection was processed before donation by a group of Cypress' friends; the group also created a biographical guide and catalog, which is included in Carton 1. Due to rehousing, some aspects of this catalog are no longer accurate, and its container list has been superseded by the one in this finding aid.

This finding aid uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

Biographical/Organizational History Note: Cypress (Susan Rosenthal Glick), 1943-1997, was a working-class, disabled Jewish writer, photographer, and political activist who alternately identified as lesbian and bisexual. From early adulthood, she lived on Social Security due to a mental health diagnosis described at different points in the collection as depression, schizophrenia, and a generic emotional disability. She devoted her life to activism, subsistence gardening, and creativity. She was active in the women's back-to-land movement in the 1970s and 1980s and in the movement for the legalization of cannabis, as well as being a founding member of the Berkeley Women's Refuge. Cypress traveled widely and was a longtime resident of Oakland and Sonoma County; she died of breast cancer in 1997.

Scope and Content: The collection contains Cypress' art, photography, writing, and journals, as well as various personal documents, subject files, and biographical material compiled by her friends.

Indexing Terms:

Lesbians

Bisexual women

Container Listing

Carton 1: Biographical material written by Cypress' friends; personal and art photographs; t-shirts; postcards hand-colored by Cypress, audiotapes, and small personal effects.

Carton 2: Photographs (prints, contact sheets, negatives, and slides), two hemp bags

Carton 3: Journals, manuscripts, and photographs

Carton 4: Journals

Carton 5: Fiction and essay manuscripts; small amount of journal material; collection of plastic bags

Carton 6: Scrapbook materials, including various clippings; legal documents, including an informal will granting copyright to Cypress' literary executors; materials related to Cypress' final illness, care, death, and memorials; biographical notes and memorial writing by her friends; subject files on cancer, Judaism, reggae, and other interests; correspondence; and friends' and family's addresses. Contains restricted folders.