

Finding Aid to Roz Joseph Photographs

(#2010-08)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Roz Joseph photographs

Collection Number: 2010-08

Physical Description: 7 linear feet (6 cartons, matted art)

Creator: Roz Joseph

Date (inclusive): 1975-1991

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Roz Joseph (1926–2019) was a San Francisco-based photographer who in the mid-1970s photographed the pageantry and activism of the city's diverse drag cultures at Gay Freedom Day parades, Halloween celebrations, Imperial Court coronations and drag and costume balls. The collection consists of a total of 63 matted color photographic prints, 7 notebooks of slides, interviews and manuscript materials, and various ephemera.

Preferred Citation:

Roz Joseph Papers (#2010-08), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

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Acquisition Information:

The collection was originally donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Roz Joseph in December 2010, with multiple accretions since that date, including a 2022 gift from Ricky Keller after Joseph's death.

Processing Information:

Finding Aid created by Theodore Bysshe Hardgrove in 2023.

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 Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves.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: Roz Joseph was born Rosalind Malamud on June 30, 1926, in the Bronx. She received a bachelor's degree in education in 1947 from City College of New York, where she also pursued postgraduate courses in art and photography. In 1948, she married advertising professional and writer Elliott Joseph. The couple lived in Paris from 1950 to 1951, then returned to New York. While continuing her work as a photographer, Joseph also developed a career in higher education, ultimately serving as executive assistant to the chair of the City College of New York Psychology Department. Joseph began documenting drag queens in June 1975 at San Francisco's annual Gay Freedom Day Parade, and continued to document drag and Imperial Court culture through 1984. (Source: GLBT Historical Society exhibit, "Reigning Queens, The Lost Photos of Roz Joseph," curated by Joseph Plaster).

Scope and Content: Roz Joseph (1926–2019) was a San Francisco-based photographer who in the mid-1970s, photographed the pageantry and activism of the city's diverse drag cultures at Gay Freedom Day parades, Halloween celebrations, Imperial Court coronations, and drag and costume balls. The collection consists of a total of 63 matted color photographic prints, 7 notebooks of slides, interviews and manuscript materials, and various ephemera. Subjects include Halloween on Polk Street, Tavern Guild events, Gay Freedom Day (early Pride) parades and festivals from approximately 1975-1978, and other subjects. Also included is one postcard of Joseph's 1984 showing at Paradox Gallery titled "Gender Bender". GSSO linked terms: http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/GSSO_008194; http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/GSSO_001443. The collection also contains the manuscripts of the unpublished photography book "Golden Gays".

Indexing Terms:

LGBTQ

Gay men

Gender nonconformity

Drag

Imperial Court System

Nightlife

Sex work

San Francisco Bay Area (Calif.)

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