

Finding Aid to the Frank Pietronigro Papers

(#2018-50)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Frank Pietronigro Papers

Collection Number: 2018-50

Physical Description: 38 linear feet (24 cartons, one extra-large oversize box, two medium oversize boxes).

Creator: Frank Pietronigro

Date (inclusive): 1973-2017

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Frank Pietronigro is an interdisciplinary artist best known for his “drift paintings,” created in zero gravity during parabolic flight. Pietronigro is co-founder and project director of the Zero Gravity Arts Consortium, which advocates for artists’ access to spaceflight technology. The collection contains extensive artwork, as well as organizational materials from art festivals, exhibits, and the 2006 International Space Development Conference (ISDC), for which Pietronigro was co-chair of the Space Art Track. It also contains slides, ephemera, notebooks, books, clothing, material from Yuri’s Night celebrations (commemorating the anniversary of Yuri Gagarin’s pioneering spaceflight), and audiovisual materials.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Frank Pietronigro Papers (#2018-50), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

Copyright to material has been transferred to the GLBT Historical Society. All requests for reproductions and/or permission to publish or quote from material must be submitted in writing to the GLBT Historical Society Archivist.

Acquisition Information:

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Frank Pietronigro in 2018.

Processing Information:

Finding Aid created by Theodore Bysshe Hardgrove, Sy Auerbach, and Isaac Fellman 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 Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves.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: Frank Pietronigro is an interdisciplinary artist best known for his “drift paintings,” created in zero gravity during parabolic flight. Pietronigro is co-founder and project director of the Zero Gravity Arts Consortium, which advocates for artists’ access to space; currently, its efforts are focused on parabolic flight, with an eventual aim to open the International Space Station and other orbiting facilities to artists.

Scope and Content: The collection contains extensive artwork, as well as organizational materials from art festivals, exhibits, and the 2006 International Space Development Conference (ISDC), for which Pietronigro was co-chair of the Space Art Track. It also contains slides, ephemera, notebooks, books, clothing, material from Yuri’s Night celebrations (commemorating the anniversary of Yuri Gagarin’s pioneering spaceflight), and audiovisual materials. The collection had a strong original order upon arrival at the archives; in many cases, Pietronigro’s original folders were included as is, and retain their original titles.

The folders in the container list have been transcribed up to carton 6, and summarized thereafter. For further details, or for access to Pietronigro’s larger works, please contact the GLBT Historical Society archivists.

Indexing Terms:

LGBTQ

Gay men

Art

Photography

San Francisco Bay Area (Calif.)

Container Listing

Carton 1

- 1:1 Travel Slides: Hawaii, Tahoe, Paris, with lover Todd, misc. nature, undated, 2004
- 1:2 Travel and Nature Slides, 2003 - 2004

- 1:3 Nature Master Slides, floral prints, and negatives, undated, 1996 - 2000
- 1:4 Nature Master Slides, floral print negatives, photos of SF, undated, 2000
- 1:5 Slides of artwork, 1976 - 1997
- 1:6 Slides of artwork, trip to Alcatraz, art show, 1988 - 1996
- 1:7 Slides of artwork, originally labeled 'MW', 1987 - 2000
- 1:8 Slides of artwork, originally labeled, 'PR' and 'WP', 1993
- 1:9 Photography of artwork, teen services health care pamphlets, undated
- 1:10 Slides of SF, trip to unknown location, birthday party, undated, 2001 - 2002

Carton 2

- 2:1 1981 Arts Festival pins and balloons, rolodex contacts, arts fest planning guide, program, undated, 1981 - 1984
- 2:2 Art in Park Ballet, contacts, Arts Commission Festival budget, correspondence, Bay Area Reporter article and volunteers, 1984 - 1985
- 2:3 Arts Festival volunteers, job assignments, bulk mailing stats, forms, 1984
- 2:4 Bulk Mailing, undated
- 2:5 Arts Commission Festival exhibit locations, county jurors, artist logs, maps, 1984
- 2:6 Artist logs organized by county and personal ad, 1984
- 2:7 Arts Festival exhibition coordinators, correspondence on contacts for satellite exhibits, artist log, 1984
- 2:8 SF Arts Festival juror application procedures, forms, artist logs, correspondence, 1984
- 2:9 Arts Festival architecture contacts, affiliated artist groups, Gorilla Foundation, art parade, undated, 1985
- 2:10 Robotics and Creativity, undated
- 2:11 Children's Area, undated
- 2:12 SF Arts Festival information sheets and forms, awards program, mailing list, final report, 1984 - 1987
- 2:13 SF Arts Festival Clippings, 1984
- 2:14 Art in the Park, Castro Street Fair, Women's Street Fair Correspondence, PSA, events list, 1982 - 1984
- 2:15 Art in the Park, SFPD correspondence, press releases, schedule, 1982 - 1984
- 2:16 Art in the Park press clippings, announcements, program, 1983
- 2:17 Castro Street Fair program, Art in the Park program, correspondence, schedule, musicians photos and info, 1985
- 2:18 Art in the Park program dummy, schedule, performance info, staff contact list, map, 1983
- 2:19 Art in the Park sculpture correspondence, 1982
- 2:20 Art in the Park development, fundraising correspondence, 1982 - 1983

- 2:21 Art in the Park development, 1983
- 2:22 Art in the Park table applications, operating budget, program, 1983
- 2:23 Japan Airlines proposal, Art in the Park applications, correspondence, 1983-1986
- 2:24 Window Displays, circa 1980s
- 2:25 Documentation, Photographer, 1982
- 2:26 Art in the Park Correspondence, 1982 - 1983
- 2:27 Art in the Park Programs, 1983
- 2:28 Balloon Info, 1982
- 2:29 Advertising and Buttons, 1982

Carton 3

- 3:1 Art Concepts, Exhibition Descriptions, undated, 1988 - 1996
- 3:2 Collage Material, artwork, sale agreement, originally titled 'Terry Manages', 1999
- 3:3 Hey Faggot, 1995
- 3:4 Body of Christ, undated
- 3:5 Swen, undated
- 3:6 Kes - To Cut, undated
- 3:7 Heads, undated
- 3:8 Leather - Sick Screen, undated
- 3:9 Externalizations, undated
- 3:10 Loft Design, undated
- 3:11 Wedding Liberty Project, undated
- 3:12 Exitus Furoris, undated
- 3:13 A Game of Chance I, undated
- 3:14 A Game of Chance II, undated
- 3:15 The Good News, undated
- 3:16 News Cast Project, undated
- 3:17 CGI-9, undated
- 3:18 Murals - Philadelphia Recreation, 2003
- 3:19 Patent Drawings, 2001
- 3:20 Filtration Column Device Drawings, 2001
- 3:21 Fluid Extraction, 2001
- 3:22 Thermally Tolerant Support Structure, 2002
- 3:23 Patent Set #4, 2002
- 3:24 Patent Set #5, circa 2002
- 3:25 Colvin, Laurent, circa 2002
- 3:26 8 Cinematic Film, 2003
- 3:27 T. Marasco - Mall, 2003
- 3:28 Marasco Business car, circa 2003
- 3:29 Birimisa - Looking for Mr. America, 2003

- 3:30 Shortell Commission, 1999
- 3:31 Townsend Exhibit, circa 1990s
- 3:32 American Environmental Services - design and topography, 1987
- 3:33 Harned Project, 1992

Carton 4

- 4:1 Weightless flight pamphlets, International Space Development Conference badges, National Science Society publications, "Moves in the Infinite Absolute" project, 2005-2006
- 4:2 Space projects correspondence and notes, ticket, 2005-2006
- 4:3 ISDC 2008 admin
- 4:4 ISDC, program content
- 4:5 ISDC, timeline
- 4:6 ISDC, legal [illegible]
- 4:7 ISDC, budget
- 4:8 ISDC, development proposal, 2005
- 4:9 ISDC, space art [illegible]
- 4:10 Gala, ISDC CMU, space art [illegible]
- 4:11 Volunteers, ISDC
- 4:12 ISDC proposal, space art track, registration, correspondence, notes, project flight art descriptions (originally labeled "ISDC parabolic flight")
- 4:13 ISDC, parabolic documentary/flight
- 4:14 ISDC, flagging, Gilbert Baker correspondence, 2006
- 4:15 ISDC, webcast, data flux
- 4:16 Space and Track presentations, submissions, and correspondence, 2006
- 4:17 ISDC, Tracks space art
- 4:18 ISDC, Film/video screening
- 4:19 ISDC, exhibit
- 4:20 Merchandising, ISDC
- 4:21 Space settlement calendar [illegible]
- 4:22 ISDC politics [illegible]
- 4:23 ISDC, PR
- 4:24 ISDC, international outreach
- 4:25 ISDC, personal
- 4:26 ISDC, CMV studio seminar
- 4:27 ISDC, travel
- 4:28 Lorelei, follow-up
- 4:29 [illegible], follow-up
- 4:30 Lowry, follow-up
- 4:31 [illegible] follow-up

- 4:32 ISDC, artist proposal peer review
- 4:33 ISDC opening remarks drafts, correspondence, notes, schedule. Originally labeled “ISDC Archives.”
- 4:34 Space art declaration, [illegible], 3 ways, 2006
- 4:35 Kitsou DuBois
- 4:36 Women in space, undated
- 4:37 ISDC space art track overview, correspondence, contact list

Critique of Patriarchal Reason, Arthur Evans, with artwork by Frank Pietronigro

Face: An Exhibit of Queer Expression Through Self-Portraiture

Photo album featuring outdoor art, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and other subjects

ISDC06: Exploring New Worlds conference tote bag, 2006

Note from Pietronigro on piece of plastic bag, concerning items he was unable to find before donation

Plastic bag containing plastic wig and lipstick, labeled “Galaxica hair, appeared IX only @ ISDC 2006.”

Carton 5

“The Potential Contributions of Queer Culture on the Future of Space Exploration.” 2008

- 5:1 China Summer, 2016
- 5:2 Twin Peaks Eastside Neighborhood Alliance (TPNEA), 2013
- 5:3 Art in a Different Light Benefit, undated
- 5:4 Johnston Tax Group Show, 2014 March 24-2016 March 18
- 5:5 Joli Bijou Salon, 2015
- 5:6 Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA) 30, 2014
- 5:7 Mural 2900 19th Street, 2014
- 5:8-17 Masterworks Multimedia, circa 1999
- 5:18 Hawaii Real Estate Information and Correspondence, 2005-2009
- 5:19-20 Adolf and Esther Gottlieb Foundation, 2014
- 5:21 64th International Astronautical Congress in Beijing, China presentation “Space Wishes” paper draft, 2013
- 5:22 64IAIAC, Beijing, Travel, 2013
- 5:23 Margaret Fisher performance article, Mitchell Johnston, Painting Monograph, 2023 World AIDS Day Vigil, Artzone 461 postcards, drawings, 2006-2014
- 5:24 Kalani Honua, Artist in Residency, Application, 2012
- 5:25 Occupy SF, Castro, December 3rd 2011
- 5:26 Free Enterprise, Sweeney Gallery CMP, California Museum of Photography, 2013
- 5:27 Wedding Library Parade, 2010

5:28 Basement, San Francisco Art Institute, 2003
 5:29 Space Exhibit, Toby Kamps, Alex Baker 2006-2007
 5:30 NASA History Division, Internship Application, 2006
 5:31 Space Soon, London, World Space Culture, September 2006
 5:32 ISDC - Documentary Screening, 2007
 5:33 ISDC - Dallas, May 2007
 5:34 ISDC, Space Settlement Presentation Involving Arts in Space, May 2007
 5:35 ISEA Symposium, San Jose, August 2006
 5:36 ISDC, Dallas Administration, May 2007
 5:37 Charles Wolfe obituary and Memorial program, David Connor Dashiell's 'Queen
 Mysteries' exhibition pamphlet, 'Univerge Within' pamphlet, 2005
 5:38 Web Castro, 2000
 5:39 Poster - PR, 1996
 5:40 Slides of Studio, and piece 'Equality and Justice for All,' press release, flier, 1996
 5:41 Visual AIDS - PR Poster, circa 1996
 5:42 Merchant - PR, 1996
 5:43 'Equality and Justice for All' cost, order form, press releases, release forms, 1996
 5:44 Various Business cards, National AIDS Awareness Catalog, 50/50 Magazine
 poster project financials, correspondence, periodical, 1995-2009
 5:45 'Equality and Justice For All' Poster Project Greeting Cards and poster
 production, circa 1996

Carton 6

6:1 Yuri's Night at NASA's Ames Center and 'Space Wishes' Postcards, 2017
 6:2 Yuri's Video, 2007
 6:3 Originally labeled 'Yuri's Archives', 2007
 6:4 IAC, Glasgow Scotland, 2008
 6:5 Less Remote, 2008
 6:6 Pasadena Museum of California Art, 2009
 6:7 AZAM, 2009
 6:8 Yuri's Night Art Installation, 2007
 6:9 Yuri's Night Flight, 2007
 6:10 Yuri's Night Bay Area '08 - Archives, 2008
 6:11 YNBA08 - Volunteers Admin., 2008
 6:12 YNBA08 360, 2008
 6:13 YNBA08 - ZGAC Flight, 2008
 6:14 YNBA08 - Art Installations, 2008
 6:15 NEA - Moon Arts Proposal, August 2010
 6:16 YNBA08 - Video Production, STEAM Screen, 2008

6:17 YNBA08 - ISEE, TAE Earth, 2008
6:18 Space Art Institute, France, 2008
6:19 International Space Arts Workshop 4, 2013
6:20 ISAW4 - Participants, 2013
6:21 ISAW4 Program, 2013
6:22 ISAW Layout Logistics, 2013
6:23 ISAW4 - Development, 2013
6:24 ISAW4 - Administration Timeline - Budget - Org. Chart, 2013
6:25 ISAW - Expositions, May 2013
6:26 ISAW4 - Hotels, May 2013
6:27 XCOR / Space Wishes Development, 2013
6:28 "Space Wishes" - Space Art project development and proposal drafts, 2012-2014
6:29 Space Wishes Concert, circa 2013
6:30 XCOR Flight, 2016
6:31 Space Wishes - Budget, 2013
6:32 App Design AAV, Space Wishes, 2013
6:33 Flight Operations Systems - Space Wishes XCOR, circa 2013
6:34 XCOR Space Wishes (Engineering?), 2013
6:35 Space Yoga

Carton 7:

Exhibits administration documents, negatives, newspaper clippings - some of which are related to Gay Identity and Pride. Lawsuit against Pride Parade Committee. Late 1980's - early 1990's.

Carton 8:

Framed prints, cassette tapes, and fliers related to 'Hey Faggot!', Angels of Alcatraz, and untitled castration piece. Mid-1990's

Carton 9:

Archived Notebooks and Kalani Honua writings on Pietronigro. Notebooks document love life, travel, sketches, and everyday events. 1993-2017.

Carton 10:

Archived Notebooks. Notebooks document love life, travel, sketches, and everyday events. Late 1990's-2000's.

Carton 11:

Intergeneration Art Show Project - "Building Community Across Ages through Art." Early 2000's - early 2010's.

Carton 12:

38th Annual SF Arts Festival final reports, 1985, work with Discovery Channel 1988-1992, administrative and promotional documents on Intergeneration Festival 2000-2002.

Carton 13:

SF Arts Commission Festival and “Art in the Park,” correspondence and planning documents. 1984-1985.

Carton 14:

Arts Commission Festival, 1984-1985.

Carton 15:

Articles from gay newspapers and journals, Rink Foto correspondence, documents about NASA art project: Research Project #33, documents pertaining to Leonardo (International Society for Arts, Sciences, and Technology) and San Francisco Art Institute partnership, 1988-2006

Carton 16:

Miscellaneous VHS tapes, miscellaneous NASA exhibit, miscellaneous files on art conferences, exhibits, and festivals, 1984-2016

Carton 17:

Art in the Park, 1982-1983
Appointment Calendars, 1984-2009
“Journal for Psychoactive Drugs,” 1999
The Official Magazine for SF Pride, 2000
Discovery Channel Documents, 1988-1992
Miscellaneous articles on art
Miscellaneous art and notes for personal use, 1982-2010

Carton 18:

Art in the Park, 1982-1983,
Appointment calendars, 1979-2014
Unknown event in Golden Gate Park, 1982

Carton 19:

“Salt” art installation, G.I. Joe figurines, graphic design blocks, undated

Carton 20:

Intergeneration: Building Queer Community photos, documents, VHS tapes, flyers, and large letter stencils, 2001

Carton 21:

VHS, DVD, and cassette collection, circa 1983-2003

Carton 22:

Personal ephemera including birthday cards, contents of photo albums, and photographic slides, circa 1980-2014

Carton 23:

Miscellaneous postcards,

Miscellaneous cassette tapes and floppy disks, 1997-2002

Electronic equipment

Booklets for Intergeneration: Building Queer Community Across the Ages Through Art, 2002-2003

Carton 24:

Certification, file on Gilbert Baker collaboration, miscellaneous t-shirts and uniforms for space project, circa 2006

Large Box:

Art folio with prints, 1993-1994

Large journals with sketches and letters, 1973-1988

Oversize notes and posterboard decorations from Intergeneration Event, 1999-2002

Styrofoam ball installation with instructions for display

Oversize Box 1:

Early concept art, circa 1980s

3-D completed etching with mixed media,

overflow from Box 17 (including Frontiers Magazine)

Oversize Box 2:

Historic newspapers (ie. marriage equality, Obama inauguration),

Fliers for Bay Area drag and queer clubbing events, 1988-2015