
Summary Information

Call number: C1591
Repository: Princeton University Library. Special Collections. Manuscripts Division
One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA
Size: 4.0 linear feet
4 boxes
Language(s) of Material: English
Abstract: Consists of photographer Margaretta K. Mitchell's working files on the life and work of Ruth Bernhard (1905-2006), a German-born American photographer known for her black-and-white still lifes and female nudes. The working files contain research materials, drafts, and recordings and transcripts of interviews for Mitchell's biography of Bernhard, Ruth Bernhard: Between Art and Life (2000); drafts of Mitchell's essays that appeared in Ruth Bernhard's book The Eternal Body (1986); as well as correspondence, proofs, financial documents, and publicity materials related to both projects.

Location: This collection is stored offsite at the ReCAP facility.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary Information</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biography/History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrangement</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access and Use</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition and Appraisal</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Materials</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing and Other Information</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Headings</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contents List</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contents List</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Margaretta K. Mitchell is a professional and fine art photographer, author, and educator based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She holds degrees from Smith College and the University of California, Berkeley. As a professional photographer, Mitchell photographs people, gardens, interiors and other assignments, and she exhibits her fine art photography internationally.

Throughout her career, Mitchell has drawn attention to 20th century women photographers, whose contributions had often previously been excluded from major exhibitions and reviews. In 1979, Mitchell published Recollections: Ten Women of Photography and curated a traveling exhibition under the same name, which opened at the International Center of Photography (ICP) in New York City. The book and exhibition showcased the work of ten living women photographers, among them Berenice Abbott and Ruth Bernhard. Mitchell continued her collaborative relationship with Ruth Bernhard for many years; she later composed the text for The Eternal Body (1986), Bernhard's first photographic monograph of nudes, and published the first biography of Bernhard, Ruth Bernhard: Between Art and Life (2000), which was based on her extensive interviews with the artist and her colleagues.


Description


A majority of the files relate to Mitchell's 2000 biography of Bernhard, Ruth Bernhard: Between Art and Life. These consist of research materials, drafts, galleys, jacket and page proofs, correspondence, contracts, financial documents, and publicity materials. The research materials include 16 audiocassette tapes containing sound recordings of Mitchell's extensive series of interviews with Bernhard and her associates, including Michael Kenna, Avery McGinn, David Holman, Gwen Evans, and Saïd Nuseibeh. The interviews were conducted between 1997 and 1999 and provided much of the biography's content. These are accompanied by notes and transcriptions. There are also a few photographs and contact sheets of Ruth Bernhard and her friends as well as photographs of her work. Files on various individuals include correspondence with Mitchell regarding Bernhard or the book project, notes and stories submitted to Mitchell, and occasional photocopies of correspondence between Bernhard and her friends and fellow photographers. Mitchell also contributed text for Bernhard's 1986 book of photographs, The Eternal Body. Working files for this project include several drafts of Mitchell's essays "The Nude: Symbol and Light" and "Toward the Light: Biography of Ruth Bernhard," a copy of an autobiographical essay draft by Ruth Bernhard,
and related editorial correspondence, notes, announcements, and brochures. There are also a few
original letters to and from Ruth Bernhard throughout.

**Arrangement**

Materials are arranged into two file groups by book project. Within those file groups, original order
was maintained.

**Access and Use**

Access
Open for research.
For preservation reasons, physical access to original audiocassettes is restricted.
This material is stored off site. Please allow 24-48 hours for retrieval.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information
Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. No further photoduplication of copies of
material in the collection can be made when Princeton University Library does not own the original.
Inquiries regarding publishing material from the collection should be directed to RBSC Public Services
staff at rbsc@princeton.edu. The library has no information on the status of literary rights in the
collection and researchers are responsible for determining any questions of copyright.

**Acquisition and Appraisal**

Provenance and Acquisition
Appraisal
No materials were removed from the collection during 2018 processing.

**Related Materials**

Related Archival Material
Ruth Bernhard Papers (C1468)

**Processing and Other Information**
Subject Headings

- Bernhard, Ruth
- Mitchell, Margaretta
- Biographers -- United States -- 20th century.
- Photographers -- United States -- 20th century -- Interviews.
- Photography of the nude -- 20th century.
- Photography, Artistic -- 20th century.
- Still-life photography -- 20th century.
- Women photographers -- United States -- 20th century -- Interviews.
- Audiocassettes -- 20th century.
- Correspondence -- 20th century.
- Drafts -- 20th century.
- Interviews -- 20th century.
- Proofs -- 20th century.
- Sound recordings -- 20th century.
- Photography
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Bernhard: Between Art and Life, 1952-2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions for Ruth Bernhard, 1999 July 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Bernhard Interviews Notes, 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes - Used, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Princeton Collection, 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcription of Interview with Ruth Bernhard, 1997 November 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcription of Interview with Ruth Bernhard, 1997 December 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcription of Interview with Ruth Bernhard, 1998 January 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Bernhard Telephone Notes, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcription of Interview with Ruth Bernhard, 1997 August 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcription of Interview with Ruth Bernhard, 1997 August 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcription of Interview with Ruth Bernhard, 1997 October 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviews of Ruth Bernhard Book, Between Art and Life, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press Release and Notes for Talks for Ruth Bernhard Book, Between Art and Life, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Bunnell, 1999-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afterword to Ruth Bernhard Book by Peter Bunnell, circa 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voices, 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Porter Copyright Page, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research, Books, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price Rice, 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lists of Shows, Workshops, and Awards, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Baird, 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Bernhard and Edward Weston Letters and Cards, 1952-1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcribe Tapes Mim Eisenberg / Receipts, 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruther Bernhard Princeton Master Class, St. Mary's, 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and Treasure Program, 1999 November 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and Treasure Program, 1999 November 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ruth Bernhard Nintieth Birthday Portrait, 1996 August 19

Description: Use for PR-1996 Exhibition/Ann Harlow (Curator) St. Mary's College

Ruth Bernhard File Materials, Peninsula Advertising Photographers Association, Women's Caucus for Arts, 1996

Ruth/East Princeton Visit, 1996 October-1996 December

Jane Staw, 1999 August 21

Ruth Bernhard Timeline, undated

Acknowledgments, 2000 March 27


Ruth Bernhard Book Contract, 1996-1997

Edward Weston and Ruth Bernhard Correspondence, 1999

San Francisco Roundtable, 1999

Gustav Adolf Schreiber, undated

Trudi, 2000

Jane Totten, 1999 August

Readers, 1999

Joan E. Biren, 1999

David Holman, 1999 June 29

Gwen Evans, 1999 October 3

Hal Eastman, 1999 October

Mick Briscoe, 1999

Margo Davis, 1999

G. Harding (Stoll), 1999

Mary Ann Helmholtz, undated

Debra Heimerdinger, 1999

Michael Kenna, 1999

Gary Mellinger, Christine Burgoyne, Sue Thorson, Students at Coupeville, 1999

Avery McGinn, 1999-2000

Saïd Nuseibeh, 1999

Helen Nestor, 1999
Scott Nichols, 1999
Box: 1 Folder: 55
Jason, 1999 April 2
Box: 1 Folder: 56
Joyce Pieper Model "In the Box", 1999
Box: 1 Folder: 57
John Sexton, 1999-2000
Box: 1 Folder: 58
Jack Welpott, 1992-1989
Box: 1 Folder: 59
Minor White, 1976
Box: 1 Folder: 60
Lotte Jacobi, 1979
Box: 1 Folder: 61
Avedon, 1995
Box: 1 Folder: 62
Ruth Bernhard Letters to Wynn Bullock, 1974
Box: 1 Folder: 63
Ruth Bernhard Letters to Ansel, 1966-1983
Box: 1 Folder: 64
Recent Years, undated
Box: 1 Folder: 65
Debra Lande Chronicle (Book), 1995
Box: 1 Folder: 66
Ruth Bernhard/The Eternal Body Chronicle Books, 1994
Box: 1 Folder: 67
Box: 1 Folder: 68
Chronicle Books Fall / Winter 200 Catalog / Earnings, 2000
Box: 1 Folder: 69
Ruth Bernhard 94th Birthday Party, 1999
Box: 1 Folder: 70
Ruth Bernhard, 1995-1998
Box: 1 Folder: 71
Fritz and Julie - Germany, undated
Box: 1 Folder: 72
Letters and Students Clippings, 1999-2000
Box: 1 Folder: 73
Lucian Bernhard, undated
Box: 1 Folder: 74
Virginia Butler, 1999
Box: 1 Folder: 75
William Leblond, Senior Editor Chronicle Books, 1995
Box: 1 Folder: 76
Ruth Bernhard Announcements, 1999
Box: 1 Folder: 77
Collage, undated
Box: 1 Folder: 78
Margaretta K. Mitchell Interview of Ruth Bernhard, 1997 October 3
Box: 1 Folder: 79
Photo Permissions, 1991-2001
Box: 1 Folder: 80
Interview Permissions, 2000
Box: 1 Folder: 81
Center for Creative Photography / Leslie Calmes / Ruth Bernhard / Weston Letters, 2000
Box: 1 Folder: 82
Friends of Photography, 2000 March 21
Box: 1 Folder: 83
List, Ruth Bernhard, Mailing People Involved, 2000
Box: 1 Folder: 84
Letters in Response to Ruth Bernhard Book, 2000-2001
Box: 1 Folder: 85
PR Events for Ruth Bernhard Book, 2000
Alan Rapp, Editor of Chronicle Books, Post Print Process/Book Council, 2000
December 3, 2000 Book Party, 2000
TV Kron, 2000 November 7
PR Ruth Bernhard Book/Brenda Tucker, 2000
Author's Questionnaire, 2000
Bookstores Ruth Bernhard Book, 2000
Recollections, 1994-1997
First Draft, 1998 August 8
Draft 2, 1999 February 9
Ruth Bernhard Notes / Captions, undated
Ruth Bernhard Draft, 1999 February 19
Ruth Bernhard Draft 2, 1999 March 20
Between Art and Life Introduction Corrections, 1999
Text and Voices, 2000
Dust Jacket, 2000
Designers Messages Ruth Bernhard Book, 1999-2000
Chronicle Editor Process, 1998-2000
Captions, 2000
Shawn Hazen, Julia Flag of Chronicle Books, 2000
Art Log, undated
Draft, 1999 September 6
Partial Draft, undated
Jacket Proofs, Page Proofs, and Galleys, 2000 March-September
Interview Recordings, 1997-1999

Description: Consists of recorded interviews with Ruth Bernhard, Michael Kenna, Avery McGinn, David Holman, Gwen Evans, and Saïd Nuseibeh. 16 audiocassette tapes, plus 1 empty case.

Access:
For preservation reasons, physical access to original audio and visual media in a variety of magnetic and optic formats is restricted. The Special Collections does not have playback equipment and facilities, and all original media, especially in obsolete formats, must be digitally remastered or converted in accordance with prevailing preservation standards in order to
be safely accessed. Subject to curatorial approval, patrons may request duplicates of such original media, but will be responsible for both the cost of digital conversion and the cost of the duplicate, payable in advance. Public Services staff handles all such requests. Depending on the nature of the media, this process can take several months.

The Eternal Body, 1983-1987

Text 2 Essays Ruth Bernhard Nudes, 1986 January 15
Box: 2 Folder: 14

Final Nude / Featherstone Edit, 1986
Box: 2 Folder: 15

Final Version Ruth Bernhard / Letter CW, 1986
Box: 2 Folder: 16

Ruth Bernhard 1st Draft Book of Nudes, 1985
Box: 2 Folder: 17

Ruth Bernhard Book Introduction / Carol Williams, 1983-1987
Box: 2 Folder: 18