

Claire Copley Gallery records 2014.M.2

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Special Collections

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Summary Information

- Repository:** Special Collections
- Creator:** Claire Copley Gallery
- Title:** Claire Copley Gallery records
- ID:** 2014.M.2
- Dates:** 1968-2011, bulk 1973-1977
- Extent:** 9 Linear Feet (13 boxes, 1 flatfile folder)
- Request Materials:** Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the [catalog record](#) for this collection. Click here for the [access policy](#).
- Language:** Collection material is in English
- Abstract:** The records of one of the first Los Angeles galleries to show the work of conceptual artists such as Terry Allen, Michael Asher, Daniel Buren, Joseph Kosuth, and William Leavitt. The collection includes artist files containing correspondence, ephemera, and comprehensive photographic documentation of each exhibition.

Preferred Citation

Claire Copley Gallery papers, 1968-2011 (bulk 1973-1977), The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, 2014.M.2

<http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2014m2>

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Biographical/Historical Note

Claire Copley Gallery was one of the first Los Angeles art galleries to show some twenty artists now considered pioneers of Conceptual Art, whose works now form parts of major museum collections around the world.

The daughter of artist, dealer, and collector William Copley, Claire Copley founded her own gallery to showcase the work of emergent international artists of her generation, including Americans Michael

Asher, Terry Allen, Joseph Kosuth, Allen Ruppersberg, and William Leavitt; Europeans Jan Dibbets, Bas Jan Ader, Ger Van Elk, and Daniel Buren; the Japanese artist On Kawara; and Argentine David Lamelas. The installations, done in collaboration with the artists, were innovative and elegant, as was the related ephemera. Though in operation for a relatively short duration, the gallery was a key venue in the formation of the Los Angeles art scene in the 1960s and 1970s, along with the galleries of Eugenia Butler, Rolf Nelson, Nick Wilder, and Riko Mizuno. It was one of three galleries profiled in the Pacific Standard Time exhibition at the Sam Francis Gallery of the Crossroads School in 2011 titled *She Accepts the Proposition: Women Gallerists and the Redefinition of Art in Los Angeles, 1967-1978*.

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Scope and Content of Collection

The collection, comprised of artist files, with a small amount of material relating to gallery management and accounting, offers a comprehensive view of the work of important conceptual artists in the first stage of their careers. The artist files often contain professional yet friendly correspondence with Claire Copley regarding details of exhibition installation and planning, theoretical discussions of the artwork, and personal news. Project proposals, sketches, clippings of reviews, and announcements are often present. There is comprehensive and expert photographic coverage of each exhibition, and of each artwork in a given installation, generally in three formats: black and white photographs, negatives, and slides, with the occasional color print. Clippings reveal the lack of understanding that the exhibitions met with, a highlight of which was a police action against a Daniel Buren exhibition that extended to the gallery exterior, an event for which there is also photo-documentation in the archive.

The work of artists who were not represented by the gallery but whose work comprised part of the gallery's inventory or simply part of the gallery's broader art context, such as Ed Ruscha, John Baldessari, and Bruce Nauman, appears generally in slides in alphabetical sequence within the binders of slides and negatives; however, Louise Lawler, Gilbert & George, Schley and Adler, and Duane Zaloudek have mixed materials folders as well. Ken Feingold is the only artist who showed in the gallery who has no material in the archive.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series: Series I. Gallery artists, 1969-2010; Series II. Other artists, 1969-1981; Series III. Assorted, 1974-2011.

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Administrative Information

Access

Open for use by qualified researchers.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Information

Acquired from Claire Copley in 2014.

Processing History

Processed and cataloged by Annette Leddy in 2014.

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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

This collection relates to the William and Noma Copley Foundation records (accession no. 880403), in that Claire Copley is the daughter of William Copley, and there is some overlap between the artists documented in the two archives.

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Controlled Access Headings

Contributor(s)

- Allen, Terry, 1943-
- Asher, Michael
- Buren, Daniel
- Copley, Claire

- Kosuth, Joseph
- Leavitt, William

Subjects - Topics

- Art galleries, Commercial -- California -- Los Angeles
- Art, American -- California -- Los Angeles -- 20th century
- Conceptual Art -- United States -- 20th century

Genres and Forms of Materials

- Black-and-white negatives
- Black-and-white photographs
- Compact discs
- Photographs, Original
- Slides (photographs)

Collection Inventory

Series I. Gallery artists, 1969-2010, undated 7.41 Linear Feet (11 boxes, 1 flatfile folder)

Scope and Contents:

Files contain correspondence, primarily between the artists and Claire Copley, announcements, project plans, installation sketches, black and white photographs, slides, and occasional color photographs of exhibitions and individual works.

Arrangement:

Arranged in alphabetical order by the artists' last names.

Title/Description	Containers	
Ader, Bas Jan, 1975-2010		
Mixed materials	Box 1	Folder 1
Slides and negatives	Box 5	
Compact disc of photographs	Box 9	Item D1
Allen, Terry, 1974-1977, undated		
Mixed materials	Box 1	Folder 2-4
Slides and color photographs	Box 5	
Compact disc of photographs	Box 9	Item D2
Posters (2)	Flatfile 1	
Asher, Michael, 1974-1977		
Mixed materials	Box 1	Folder 5

Slides and negatives	Box 5	
Buren, Daniel, 1974-1977		
Mixed materials	Box 1	Folder 6-7
Slides and negatives	Box 5	
Calloway, Loren, 1975-1977		
Mixed materials	Box 2	Folder 1
Slides and negatives	Box 5	
Copley, Billy, 1975-1977, undated		
Mixed materials	Box 2	Folder 2-3
Slides and negatives	Box 5	
Dibbets, Jan, 1975-1977		
Mixed materials	Box 2	Folder 4
Slides and negatives	Box 5	
Fulton, Hamish, 1973-1977		
Mixed materials	Box 2	Folder 5
Slides and negatives	Box 5	
Horton, Lyn, 1974-1975		
Mixed materials	Box 2	Folder 7
Slides and negatives	Box 6	
Korman, Harriet, 1973-1977		
Mixed materials	Box 2	Folder 8
Slides and negatives	Box 6	
Joseph Kosuth, 1974-1977		
Mixed materials	Box 2	Folder 9-10
Slides and negatives	Box 6	
Lamelas, David, 1973-2006		
Mixed materials	Box 3	Folder 1
Slides and negatives	Box 7	
Leavitt, William, 1969-1976		
Mixed materials	Box 3	Folder 3
Slides and negatives	Box 7	
Le Va, Barry, 1974-1977		

Mixed materials	Box 3	Folder 4-5
Slides and negatives	Box 7	
Le Witt, Sol, 1975-1977, undated		
Mixed materials	Box 3	Folder 6-7
Slides and negatives	Box 7	
Lodato, Peter, 1975-1977, undated		
Mixed materials	Box 3	Folder 8
Slides	Box 7	
McCollum, Allan, 1973-1977, undated		
Mixed materials	Box 3	Folder 9-10
Slides and negatives	Box 7	
On Kawara, 1977		
	Box 8	
Ruppersberg, Allen, 1974-1976		
Mixed materials	Box 3	Folder 11
Color photograph	Box 8	
Salle, David, 1977, undated		
Mixed materials	Box 3	Folder 12
Slides and negatives	Box 8	
Sorenson, Don, 1974-1976		
Mixed materials,	Box 4	Folder 1
Slides and negatives	Box 8	
Train, Michael, 1973		
	Box 4	Folder 2
Van Elke, Ger, 1973-1977		
Mixed materials	Box 4	Folder 3
Color photographs and negatives	Box 8	
Wegman, William, undated		
	Box 4	Folder 5
Weiner, Lawrence, 1974-1977		
Mixed materials	Box 4	Folder 6
Slides and negatives	Box 8	
Wells, Lynton, 1975-1976		
Mixed materials	Box 4	Folder 7
Slides and negatives	Box 8	

Duplicate ephemera, 1974-1977	Box 11
	Box 12
	Box 13
Unidentified negatives, undated	Box 8

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Series II. Other artists, 1968-1981, undated 0.5 Linear Feet (4 folders; circa 75 slides)

Scope and Contents:

Material relating to the work of artists who were not part of the gallery's roster of artists but whose work comprised part of the gallery's inventory or simply part of the gallery's broader art context

Arrangement:

Arranged within the alphabetical sequence of manuscripts or slides.

Title/Description	Containers	
Duchamp, Marcel, 1968	Flatfile 1	
<i>Scope and Contents:</i>		
Special edition (mock) <i>New York Times</i> commemorating the artist.		
Gilbert & George, 1973-1974		
Mixed materials	Box 2	Folder 6
Slides	Box 5	
Lawler, Louise, 1978	Box 3	Folder 2
Schley, Van and Billy Adler, 1974, undated		
Mixed materials	Box 4	Folder 4
Color photograph	Box 8	
Zaloudek, Duane 1981	Box 4	Folder 8
<i>Scope and Contents:</i>		
An artist Copley wrote about after the gallery closed.		
Assorted slides, 1968-1977, undated		
<i>Arrangement:</i>		
In alphabetical order by artist's last name within the slide binders.		
<i>Scope and Contents:</i>		
From one to twenty-seven slides of work by the following artists: John Baldessari, Robert Barry, Frederick Barthelme, Hilda Becher, Larry Bell, Mel Bochner, Alighiero Boetti, George Brecht, Chris Burden, Victor Burgin, Ian Burn, Christo, Hanne Darboven, Walter		

DeMaria, Jim Dine, Marcel Duchamp, Dan Flavin, Gilbert & George, Dan Graham, Han Haacke, Michael Heizer, Eva Hesse, ___Hines, Douglas Huebler, Robert Irwin, Janis Kounellis, Christine Kozlov, Bruce Nauman, Dennis Oppenheim, Robert Rauschenberg, Ed Ruscha, Richard Serra, Robert Smithson, Keith Sonnier, Bernar Venet, Michael Walls, Doug Wheeler.

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Series III. Assorted business files, 1974-2011, undated 1.17 Linear Feet (2 boxes)

Scope and Contents:

Material pertaining to the operation of the gallery and its closing.

Arrangement:

Arranged in rough chronological order.

Title/Description	Containers	
Mixed materials, 1974-2011, undated	Box 4	Folder 9-15
<p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> Including inventories, sales records, stationery, and press releases from <i>She Accepts the Proposition</i>.</p>		
Negatives of unidentified gallery event, undated	Box 8	
Compact disc of gallery photographs, undated	Box 9	Item D3
Wooden box used for filing negatives, undated	Box 10	

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