



NATIONAL MUSEUM *of* WOMEN *in the* ARTS

Susan DeRenne Coerr Papers, 1939–2007

Biography

Susan DeRenne Coerr (1939-2007) was born into an international life in New York City, her father an American diplomat and her mother a native of Mexico. She spent much of her youth abroad, and graduated from a boarding school in Pennsylvania at age nineteen. She received a B.A. and a M.A. in Fine Art, the former from Carleton College in Minnesota, the latter from the University of Maryland. Her concentration was Printmaking, and she spent her immediate post-graduation years working on her career as an artist and teaching art classes. Throughout her life she went by the name Susie; however, she preferred to use the name DeRenne in various professional situations and publications.

In the early 1970s she moved to San Francisco full-time, where she began a ten year stint as registrar at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. During this time she co-founded the Northern California Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art where her involvement culminated with her serving as president for the national organization. In 1984 Coerr became a member of the American Society of Indexers, and was very active with the local chapter until her death in 2007. During this time she indexed many art, business, humanities and education publications.

Chronology

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| 1939 | Susan DeRenne Coerr is born in New York City to Wymberly and Janet Stanton Hill Coerr. |
| 1958 | Coerr graduates from the George School in Newton, Pennsylvania. |
| 1962 | Coerr graduates from Carleton College in Northfield, MN, with a B.A. in Fine Art. |
| 1963-1966 | Coerr attends the University of Maryland and receives an M.A. in Fine Art with a concentration in Printmaking. |
| 1968 | Coerr receives a Standard Teaching Credential from San Francisco State College. |
| 1973-1983 | Coerr works at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco as Art Collections/Exhibitions Registrar. |
| 1975 | Coerr co-founds the Northern California Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art. |
| 1975-1978 | Coerr serves as the Northern California Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art newsletter editor. |

- 1976-1979** Coerr serves on the Women's Caucus for Art National Advisory Board.
- 1980-1982** Coerr serves as the Women's Caucus for Art National President.
- 1984-2007** Coerr is a member of the American Society of Indexers, and is active in the Golden Gate Chapter during this time.
- 2007** Coerr dies in San Francisco on September 15th.

Scope and Content

The *Susan DeRenne Coerr Collection* consists of a variety of materials relating to Coerr's professional life and interests. Many materials relate to her direct involvement with the Women's Caucus for Art, as well as her interest in developing an index related to women in the arts.

While her collection was started before the founding of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, notations can be found on various materials earmarking them for the museum. Significant portions of the collection are periodicals and exhibition announcements pertaining to female artists. Many letters, clippings, photographs and printed matter constitute the collection as well. The collection ranges in dates from 1972 to 2004, with the bulk of materials dating between 1978 to 1985. This collection is divided into eight series:

Series I: Women's Caucus for Art, 1975-1998 and undated

Sub-Series: National Materials

Sub-Series: Chapter/Regional Materials

Sub-Series: Annual Conference Materials

Series II: Correspondence, 1974-2004 and undated

Series III: Monographs, 1973-1987

Sub-Series: Exhibition Monographs

Sub-Series: Other Monographs

Series IV: Exhibition Announcements, 1972-1991 and undated

Series V: Periodicals, 1974-1993

Series VI: Project Materials, 1972-1995 and undated

Sub-Series: Art Resources

Sub-Series: General Women's Resources

Sub-Series: Logistical Materials

Series VII: Photographs, c. 1982-1990 and undated

Series VIII: Other Printed Matter, 1979-1993 and undated

Series Descriptions

Series I: Women's Caucus for Art, 1975-1998 and undated

This series consists of materials relating to the Women's Caucus for Art at the chapter, regional and national levels.

Series II: Correspondence, 1974-2004 and undated

This series contains correspondence between Susan DeRenne Coerr and fellow artists, organizations, and others. The series is arranged at the folder level by surname of correspondent or by organizational name. The series also contains correspondence from Robert F. Johnson, Judith Stein, Lee Anne Miller, Ann Harris and K. Dickinson.

Series III: Monographs, 1973-1987

The majority of this series is made up of exhibition monographs that contain works by female artists, as well as other types of monographs. The series is divided into two sub-series and then arranged by title.

Series IV: Exhibition Announcements, 1972-1991 and undated

This series contains informational materials pertaining to exhibitions, and includes postcards, posters, and press releases. These are organized chronologically by year.

Series V: Periodicals, 1974-1993

This series consists of periodicals relating to art and/or women's issues. There are arranged by title.

Series VI: Project Materials, 1972-1995 and undated

This series contains materials Coerr collected for reference for her work projects, including clippings, pamphlets and other bibliographies. The series is divided into three sub-series: Art Resources, General Women's Resources, and Logistical Materials. The sub-series entitled Logistical Materials includes a copy of the 1976 research grant application Coerr submitted for her project *Art by Women: An Index of Works in Public Collections*.

Series VII: Photographs, c. 1982-1990 and undated

The series includes 29 loose photographs. The folder entitled National Women's Caucus for Art Conference, New Orleans, contains photocopies that were made of photographs that were originally used in loose scrapbook pages.

Series VIII: Other Printed Matter, 1979-1993 and undated

This last series contains a variety of miscellaneous printed materials, such as book marks, blank calendar books and lecture notes. These are organized by descriptive title.

Provenance

The collection was bequeathed to the museum by its creator a few years prior to her death. The collection was added to by friends and family and then repacked and shipped to the museum in three boxes by Lois Shumaker. Supporting documentation for this custodial history can be found in the collection dossier housed in the museum archives.

**Conditions Governing
Physical Access**

The collection is open for research use upon appointment. Lint-free gloves must be used when handling photographs. All materials are in good condition with minimal fading or brittleness. Researchers wishing to obtain photocopies of the collection must consult the archivist.

Materials are in English.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply to any portion of the collection.

Processing

The collection was received in 3 boxes prepared by Lois Shumaker, a friend of Susan DeRenne Coerr. The collection was received in very good condition. During processing, all paper clips were removed as were the large majority of staples. Photographs that were mounted on paper were unattached. All materials were separated into eight series and placed in acid-free folders. The collection is housed in ten acid-free manuscript boxes located in the Library and Research Center.

Citation Format

Citations to this collection should read in the following manner:

The Susan DeRenne Coerr Collection. Special Collections, Library and Research Center, National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Descriptive Standards

The collection was processed in 2008 by Elizabeth Lane using descriptive standards set out in *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*, Society of American Archivists: Chicago, 2004.

The following monograph was consulted in the preparation of the box inventory: Makepeace, Chris, *Ephemera*. Gower Publishing Co.: Hants, 1985.

Box Inventory

SERIES I: WOMEN'S CAUCUS FOR ART, 1975-1998

Sub-Series: National Materials

Box 1

- 1980 WCA National Officers, 1980
- 1980-1982 WCA Functional Structure, 1980
- "At National," c. 1980
- Clippings, 1976-1981
- Explanation of WCA Computer Membership Roster, 1981

Forum: On Bay Art, Criticism, Undated
Invitation to Prospective Advertisers, 1980
Membership Information, Undated
Membership Information Brochure, c. 1998
National Membership Card, c. 1980
Newsletter Recipients, c. 1981
WCA Awards Honor Roll 1979-1982, 1982
WCA- Annual Honoree Awards Guidelines 1980-82, c. 1982
WCA Informational Postcard, c. 1981
WCA Publication Booth Invoice, c. 1981
Women's Caucus for Art Newsletter, 1978 3F
Women's Caucus for Art Newsletter, 1980 2F
Women's Caucus for Art, 1996
WCA 1997-98 Board of Directors, 1997
Women's Studies and the Arts Order Form, c. 1981
Women's Studies and the Arts Review, c. 1981

Sub-Series: Chapter/Regional Materials

New Jersey Chapter – New Perspectives for Women in Art in New Jersey, 1982
Northern California Chapter – Art Beat, 1997
Northern California Chapter - A Collection of Essays, 1979
Northern California Chapter – Membership Directory, 1980
Northern California Chapter Newsletters, 1977 + 1981
Northern California Chapter – Press Releases, c. 1975 + 1980
Northern California Chapter – W.A.V.E. Planning Meeting Announcement, 1986
Northern California Chapter – WCA Curated Exhibition Mailer, 1985
Ohio Chapter – Human Fantasy: Five Views, 1980
Richmond Chapter – Newsletter, 1987
Richmond Chapter – Now You See Us...Womens Visibility Event II, Undated
Southeastern Region – Southern Exposure, Undated
Southern California Chapter – Women Artists: Past and Present, 1985
Washington Area Chapter – Label: Women, 1979

Sub-Series: Annual Conference Materials

New Orleans, LA – Conference Information Mailers, 1980
New Orleans, LA – Conference Registration Form, 1980
New Orleans, LA – Women's Caucus for Art Honors: Albers, Bourgeois, Durieux, Kohlmeyer, Krasner, 1980
New York, NY – Conference Posters, 1982
New York, NY – WCA Honor Awards: Mary Adams, Maria Enriquez de Allen, Beverly Pepper, Faith Ringgold, Rachel Rosenthal, Charlotte Streifer Rubinstein, 1994
New York, NY – Fifth Annual Honor Awards Ceremony Invitation, 1983
San Francisco, CA – Conference Information Packet, 1981

San Francisco, CA – Conference Materials, 1981
 San Francisco, CA – WCA Awards Materials, 1981
 San Francisco, CA – Women’s Caucus for Art Honors Ruth Bernhard, Adelyn Dohme Breeskin, Elizabeth Catlett, Sari Dienes, Claire Falkenstein, Helen Lundenberg, 1981
 Seattle, WA - WCA Honor Awards: Ruth Asawa, Shifra M. Goldman, Nancy Graves, Gwen Knight, Agueda Salazar Martinez, Emily Waheneka, 1993
 Washington, D.C. - Clipping, 1991
 Washington, D.C. - Gallery and Tour Guide Map, 1979
 Washington, D.C. – WCA Honor Awards: Theresa Bernstein, Mildred Constantine, Otellie Loloma, Mine Okubo, Delilah Pierce, 1991
 Washington, D.C. – Women’s Caucus for Art Honors Bishop, Burke, Neel, Nevelson, O’Keefe, 1979

SERIES II: CORRESPONDENCE, 1974-2004

Box 2

Afterimage [Helen M. Brunner], 1981
 Anderson, Rosemary [International Women Artists Archive], 1982
 Auchincloss, Eva [Women’s Sports Line Foundation], 1981
 Bay Area Women’s Philharmonic [Elizabeth Min], 1981
 Blanc, Pauline, 1978
 Bullock, Will, 1979
 Chicago, Judy, c. 1979
 City and County of San Francisco [George Agnost], 1984
 Cusenza, Anna, 1974
 Des Moines Art Center [Peggy Patrick], 1981
 Downtown Cultural Center [Greta Gunderson], 1982
 Ehrens, Susan F., 1982
 → Robert F. Johnson
 Encyclopedia of Associations, 16th Edition, 1980
 Federation of Organizations for Professional Women, 1980- 1981
 Franklin, Margaret [Women’s Art Collective of Honolulu], 1980
 Frym, Gloria, 1978
 Ganz, Sheila, 1978
 → Judith Stein
 Gettysburg College [Carol L. Newman de Vegvar], 1982
 Gillespie, Dorothy, 1974
 Gillespie, Frances Cohen, Undated
 Greenwald, Caroline, 1977
 → Lee Anne Miller
 Helicon Nine [Pinky Case], 1979
 → Lee Anne Miller
 Howard, David, 1986
 Internal Revenue Service, 1977
 Iris Center: Women’s Counseling and Recovery Services [Thelma Brown], 1993

J. Daniel Bell and Company [Cheryl Chatfield and Lisa Monico], 1981
 Keightley, Patricia John, 1974
 Kurtz, Elaine, 1980
 La Duke, Betty, 1980
 Lagario, Irene [Monterrey Peninsula Herald], 1982
 Lark, Sylvia, 1977
 Martyl, 1976
 McInnes-Hayman, Sasha, 1982
 National Association of Women Artists, Inc., 1977
 Project on the Status and Education of Women [Bernice R. Sandler and Mark H. Curtis], 1981
 Provis, Dorothy, 1981
 Rosencranz, Armin [The Pioneer Fund], 1981
 The Rowland Company, Inc. [Alison Davis, The Chimere Woman], 1981
 San Francisco Women's Rugby Club [Donna DeMatteo], 1981
 Serious Business Company, 1977
 → Ann Harris
 Sheila, 1983
 Unidentified, 1977-1981
 Vida Gallery [Diane Stemper], 1985
 Vilips, Kathryn L., 1981
 → K. Dickinson
 Women's Way [Lynda Hyland-Johnson], 1981
 Women's Art Journal [Elsa Honig Fine], 1981
 Women's Caucus for Art, 1997, 2001 + 2004 3F
 The Women's Film Coop, 1976

SERIES III: Monographs, 1973-1987

Sub-Series: Exhibition Monographs

Box 3

93rd Annual Exhibition, National Association of Women Artists, 1982
Addie Herder: Collage Constructions, 1983
Agnes Hahn Brodie, 1980
Alice Hutchins: Form in Flux 1967-1982, 1982
Art World 4, 1980
Beatrice Wood: A Retrospective, 1973
Bertha Leonard: Wall and Ceiling Paintings, 1983
Beverly Pepper: New Work 1981-1982, 1982
Caerulea, Ruins and Restoration, 1977
Carole Caroompas: A Survey 1972-1983, 1983
Catherine Burgess: Recent Sculpture, 1980
Concentrations II: Ann Lee Stautberg, 1981
Concentrations III: Betsy Muller/ Andrea Rosenberg, 1981
Concentrations V: Judith Murray, 1982
Concentrations VII: Deborah Butterfield, 1982

Contemporary New Zealand Realist Paintings, 1979
Degikup, Washoe Fancy Basketry 1895-1935, 1979
The Dinner Party – Judy Chicago, 1979
Dorothy Eisner: Paintings, Drawings and Collages, 1980
Edith Bry, A Retrospective, 1983
Elizabeth Nourse, 1859-1938: A Salon Career, 1983
An Exhibition of Six Painters: Marilyn Propp, Jerry Wray, Diane Lawrence, Mary Virginia Brandon, Donald Batman, Philip Maslin, 1977
Feminist Art: Process and Product, 1980
Françoise Bujold, 1982
The Golden Age of Ballet Design: Watercolors and Sculpture from the Spreckels Dance Collection, 1976
I-80 Series: Michelle Stuart, 1981
In Her Image: The Great Goddess In Indian Asia and the Modern Madonna in Christian Culture, 1980
Images 1980: An Exhibition of Alabama Women Artists, 1980
Jan Wurm, 1983 + 1985 2F
Jane Piper: Paintings, 1983
The Katherine Schmidt Shubert Bequest and a Selective View of Her Art, 1982
Landscape Drawings by Martyl, 1976
Lila Katzen: Sculpture Returns to the Garden, 1982
Lorrie Goulet at Kennedy Galleries, 1980
Marilyn Levine: A Decade of Ceramic Sculpture, 1981
Martha Armstrong: Recent Paintings, 1984
Martha Armstrong: Recent Work, 1983
Miriam Schapiro- A Retrospective: 1953-1980, 1980
Molly Luce: Eight Decades of the American Scene, 1981
Nora Speyer: Paintings and Drawings, 1982
Paintings and Sculpture, 1979

Box 4

Paintings by Carolyn Plochmann, 1981
The Paris Hat 1885-1910, 1983
Patricia Johanson: Fair Park Lagoon, Dallas and Color-Gardens, 1983
Patricia Johanson: Interpretive Drawings for Architecture and Landscape, 1987
Patricia Johanson: Landscapes, 1969-1980, 1981
Susan Headley Van Campen: Recent Watercolors, 1984
Vanessa Bell 1879-1961: A Retrospective Exhibition, 1980
Western Associations of Art Museums Catalog of Exhibitions, 1981
Women Artists Living in Brooklyn, 1977
Women from Berlin: The Exchange Show, 1980
Women's Art: Miles Apart, 1982
Women's Work/11 Women Artists, 1974
Yolanda d'Augsburg: Esculturas 1980-1981, 1981

Sub-Series: Other Monographs

Alice Baber, 1975

Bandboxes and Shopping Bags, The Smithsonian, 1978
Continuum: An Autobiography at Thirty, Carol Stetser, 1979
Jóhanna Boga Tower-Pictures, 1982
The Open Door, Xnadu, 1979
A Performance, Ida Applebroog, 1979
Pyramiderna, Margaretha Åsberg, 1979
Role Conflict and the Accord: The Artist and Humanist in the University, Janet A. Novotny, 1981
Voices of Women: 3 Critics on 3 Poets on 3 Heroines, ed. Cynthia Navaretta, 1980
Women Achievers: A Series of Dialogues from the Womangement Process: Marjorie R. Levine et al., 1977

SERIES IV: Exhibition Announcements, 1972-1991

Box 5

Exhibition Announcements, Undated
Exhibition Announcements, 1972
Exhibition Announcements, 1976
Exhibition Announcements, 1976-1979
Exhibition Announcements, 1977
Exhibition Announcements, 1978
Exhibition Announcements, 1979
Exhibition Announcements, 1980
Exhibition Announcements, 1980-1983
Exhibition Announcements, 1981 2F
Exhibition Announcements, 1982 2F
Exhibition Announcements, 1983 2F
Exhibition Announcements, 1984
Exhibition Announcements, 1985
Exhibition Announcements, 1986
Exhibition Announcements, 1987
Exhibition Announcements, 1988
Exhibition Announcements, 1989
Exhibition Announcements, 1991

SERIES V: PERIODICALS, 1974-1993

Box 6

Afterimage, 1981 + 1983 2F
Art Workers News, 1974
Artists Equity Association News, 1978
The Birth Project Newsletter, 1982
Breakthrough, 1980
Calyx, 1979 + 1980 2F
Camera Obscura, 1991

Center for the Visual Arts Newsletter, 1982 + 1983 2F
Chrysalis, 1977 +1979 2F
College Music Society Report, 1976
CounterPROOF, 1979
Criteria, 1978
The Currier Gallery of Art Bulletin, 1978
Feminist Studies, 1980 2F

Box 7

Format, 1979
Frontiers, 1979
Healthworks for Women: Mount Zion Medical Center, 1987
Helicon Nine, 1981 + 1984 3F
Heresies, 1979-1982 4F
Image: The Magazine of the San Francisco Examiner, 1992
KNOW News, 1975
Lilith, 1989
The Longest Revolution, 1977
National Women's Political Caucus San Francisco Chapter Newsletter, 1981
The New Art Examiner, 1977
New Directions for Philanthropic Fundraising, 1993
New Directions for Women, 1987 + 1988 2F
Notes: Program in Sex Roles and Social Change, 1980-1981
NTFP News [National Task Force on Prostitution], 1979
On Campus with Women, 1981
On the Issues, 1985
Organization of Women Architects & Design Professionals Newsletter, 1981 + 1982
Program on Women, 1980
Re-entry Women's Newsletter, 1981
Reports (Miscellaneous), 1975-81

Box 8

San Francisco Women Artists Bulletin, 1978
Sculptor's News Exchange, 1980
Signs, 1975 + 1976 2F
Spinning Off, 1978 + 1979 2F
This is WICS, 1980 + 1981 2F
Time, 1982
UAAC/WC Newsletter [Universities Art Association of Canada/Women's Caucus], 1982
Warm Journal, 1983
Washington Women's Art Center, 1977, 1981 + 1982 3F
The WEB Newsletter, 1977 + 1978 2F
White House News on Women, 1980
Wisconsin Women in the Arts, 1977
Women Image Now, 1980 + 1984 2F
Woman's Art Journal, 1980-1981 + 1983 3F

The Women's Salon Newsletter, 1977 + 1978 2F
Women's Way, 1981
The Women Artists Group News, 1978
Women Artists News, 1978 + 1980-1981 4F
Women Artists Newsletter, 1975-1977 3F
WomenNews, 1980 + 1983
Women's Collection Newsletter, 1989
Women's Concerns, 1981
The Women's Foundation Newsletter, 1984 + 1988-1989 2F
The Women's Graphic Center Newsletter, 1982
WomynLovers, 1981

SERIES VI: Project Materials, 1972-1995

Sub-Series: Art Resources

Box 9

Art and Art-Related Items for Purchase, 1972-1988 2F
 Bibliographies, 1975-1980 2F
 Book/Monograph Listings, c. 1977-1989
 Clippings, 1972-1979
 Clippings, 1980-1982
 Clippings, 1983-1987
 Clippings, 1988-1989
 Clippings, 1990
 Clippings, Undated
 Conferences, 1977, 1978 + 1986
 Directory, 1978
 Events, 1979-1982
 Films, 1978, 1981 + Undated
 Mailed-In Newsletter Submissions, 1980-1983
 Pamphlets, Undated
 Submission Requests, c. 1972-1995
 Subscriptions and/or Memberships, c. 1972-1981
 Workshops, Classes and Lectures, c. 1978-1989

Sub-Series: General Women's Resources

Box 10

Book/Monograph Listings, c. 1978-1991
 Clippings, 1975-1994
 Conferences, c. 1980-1985
 Events, c. 1980-1983
 Films, Undated
 Items for Purchase, c. 1978-1988
 Pamphlets, c. 1977-1984
 Resource Guides and Directories, c. 1977-1991 2F
 Subscriptions and/or Memberships, c. 1975-1992

Workshops, Classes and Lectures, c. 1980-1987

Sub-Series: Logistical Materials

Notes, Undated

Project Ephemera, c. 1975

Research Grant Application, c. 1976 + 1981 2F

Resumes, c. 1980-1982

SERIES VII: Photographs, c. 1982-1990

Eleanor Tufts, Undated

“In Praise of Women Artists ’82,” Undated

Judith Stein and Miriam Schapiro, 1990

National Women’s Caucus for Art Conference, New Orleans, 1980

SERIES VIII: Other Printed Matter, 1979-1993

Bookmarks, Undated

California Senate Bill No. 603, 1983

Contemporary Women Artists Datebook, 1989 + 1993

Greeting Card: Xnadu, 1979

Lecture Notes, 1980

Miscellaneous Informational Materials, c. 1979-1983

Postcards, Undated

Proposal to Marin Museum, 1984

Women’s History Week Proclamation, 1982