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

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

   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.

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**


**Box Inventory**

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

**Sub-Series: National Materials**

**Box 1**

1980 WCA National Officers, 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 York, NY – Conference Posters, 1982
New York, NY – Fifth Annual Honor Awards Ceremony Invitation, 1983
San Francisco, CA – Conference Information Packet, 1981
San Francisco, CA – Conference Materials, 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. – 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
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
- Art World 4, 1980
- Beatrice Wood: A Retrospective, 1973
- Bertha Leonard: Wall and Ceiling Paintings, 1983
- Caerulea, Ruins and Restoration, 1977
- 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
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
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
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

Sub-Series: Other Monographs
Alice Baber, 1975
Bandoxes 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 Womanagement 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
Arts 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
The Women’s Salon Newsletter, 1977 + 1978  2F
Women’s Way, 1981
The Women Artists Group News, 1978
Women Artists Newsletter, 1975-1977  3F
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
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