

Finding Aid to the Judy Chicago Visual Archive Archives of Women Artists

Finding Aid Prepared by: Emily Moore (April, 2020)
Visual Archive Collection Processed by: Kaitlyn Snover (November 2018)

Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center
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Table of Contents

Overview	2
Administrative Information	3
Biographical Note.....	5
Scope and Content Note	6
Organization and Arrangement Information	6
Names and Subject Terms	7
Container Inventory	7
Series 1: Contact Sheets and Negatives, 1-446 ; Art Contact Sheets and Negatives; Personnel Contact Sheets (<i>The Dinner Party</i> , 1976-1978).....	7
Series 2: Embroidering Our Heritage copy prints	8
Series 3: Artwork Slides.....	8
Series 4: Lectures	13

Overview

Repository Information:

National Museum of Women in the Arts,
Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center
1250 New York Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
Email: Irc@nmwa.org
Phone: 202-783-5000

Title:

Judy Chicago Visual Archive

Provenance:

Gift of Judy Chicago, May 8, 2017

Collection Dates:

Inclusive Dates: circa 1940s-1978, 2015, undated

Physical Description:

Visual Archive: 6.17 linear feet (13 binders, 4 document boxes, 1 photo storage box)

Summary:

Consisting of photographic negatives, contact sheets, and copy prints documenting and related to the career of Judy Chicago's piece, this collection will grow by accretion. As of November, 2018, the collection includes slides of Chicago's early artwork, physical and digital copies of her lectures, and items related to *The Dinner Party* (1974-1979).

Finding Aid URL:

<https://nmwa.org/learn/library-archives/archives-women-artists/manuscripts/judy-chicago-visual-archive-finding-aid>

Administrative Information

Access Information:

Unrestricted

Preferred Citation:

[Item],[Date], [Series], [Subseries], Judy Chicago Visual Archive, Archives of Women Artists, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center.

Publication and Photocopies Note:

Permission from the National Museum of Women in the Arts required for publication and reproduction of original materials. Photocopies of original materials can be made for a fee and at the discretion of the library director.

Related Materials Note:

Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center (LRC) Collection

The LRC holds more than 100 resources related to Judy Chicago, including rare books, vertical files, monographs and exhibition catalogs. Users are encouraged to consult the LRC catalog at www.nmwa.kohalibrary.com

Books about Judy

Fields, Jill. Entering the picture: Judy Chicago, the Fresno Art Program, and the collective

visions of women artists. New York: Routledge, 2012. (N7630 .F45 E58 2012)

Gardenfeld, Alex and Stephanie Seidel, eds. Judy Chicago: a reckoning. Miami, Florida: Institute of Contemporary Art, 2019. (MON N44 .C48 2019a)

Gerhard, Jane F. The Dinner Party: restoring women to history. New York: The Monacelli

Press, 2014. (MON N44 .C48 2014)

Levin, Gail. Becoming Judy Chicago: a biography of the artist. New York: Harmony Books,

2007. (MON N44 .C48 2007a)

National Museum of Women in the Arts. Judy Chicago: new views. New York: Scala Arts

Publishers, 2019. (MON N44 .C48 2019)

Books by Judy

Chicago, Judy. Institutional time: a critique of studio art education. New York: Monacelli Press, 2014. (MON N44 .C48 2014a)

Chicago, Judy. Through the flower: my struggle as a woman artist. Garden City, NY: Anchor Books, 1982. (MON N44 .C48 1982)

Chicago, Judy. Women and art: contested territory. New York, NY: Watson-Guptill Publications, 1999. (N7630 .C45 1999)

Digital Resources and External Collections

[The Judy Chicago Art Education Collection, Pennsylvania State University](https://judychicago.arted.psu.edu/)¹

[The Judy Chicago Collection, Schlesinger Library, Harvard](https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/schlesinger-library/collection/judy-chicago)²

[The Judy Chicago Research Portal](https://judychicagoportal.org/)³

Processed by:

Kimberly Colbert, August 2017, Kaitlyn Snover, November 2018, Emily Moore June 2020

Processing Note:

All materials have maintained their original arrangement and titles. More processing will be necessary as additional materials are acquired.

Biographical Note

Born Judy Cohen in Chicago, Illinois, in 1939, Chicago attended the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of California, Los Angeles. Chicago's early work was Minimalist, and she was part of the landmark *Primary Structures* exhibition in 1966 at The Jewish Museum in New York. She turned to feminist content in the late 1960s. At this time she changed her last name to Chicago, the location of her birth.

Believing in the need for a feminist pedagogy for female art students, Chicago began the first Feminist Art Program at California State University, Fresno, in 1970. The following year, with artist Miriam Schapiro, she co-founded the Feminist Art Program at California Institute of the Arts, Valencia. *Womanhouse* (1972), a collaborative installation the two artists created with their students, transformed an abandoned building into a house representative of women's experiences.

Chicago is perhaps best known for her iconic *The Dinner Party* (1974–1979), which celebrates women's history through place settings designed for 39 important women. The monumental, collaborative project incorporates traditional women's crafts such as embroidery, needlepoint, and ceramics.

Chicago's work has continued to address themes from women's lives with *The Birth Project* (1980–1985) and *The Holocaust Project* (1985–1993). She is a prolific lecturer and writer, and she has taught at Duke and Indiana Universities and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her numerous awards include grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Getty Foundation and four honorary doctorates. She

¹ <https://judychicago.arted.psu.edu/>

² <https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/schlesinger-library/collection/judy-chicago>

³ <https://judychicagoportal.org/>

currently resides with her husband, photographer Donald Woodman, with whom she collaborates on artistic and teaching opportunities.

Scope and Content Note

The Judy Chicago Visual Archive will grow by accretion to represent the span of Chicago's artistic career. As of this writing (April, 2020) the collection includes materials related to the installation artwork, *The Dinner Party*, slides of artwork from Chicago's childhood to early career, and lectures on topics such as feminism, Judaism, and art. All series in the collection have been completed except for Subseries 3, Artwork, as this series will continue as more boxes of slides are acquired in the future.

Series 1: Contact Sheets and Negatives, 1-446; Art Contact Sheets and Negatives; Personnel Contact Sheets

This series consists of contact sheets and negatives spanning from 1976-1978. The contact sheets and negatives include images of resources collected to create the installation and photos of the people and labor involved in to the creation of this work.

Series 2: Embroidering Our Heritage Copy Prints (226 prints)

Included in series 2 is a set of 226 5 x 7 black and white copy prints used in prepress for the 1980 book, *Embroidering Our Heritage: The Dinner Party Needlework*, by Chicago and Susan Hill. These photos document the needlework and workers in the studio as well as reproduce reference images related to needle work and textiles gathered during the research phase of the project.

Series 3: Artwork (319 slides)

Series 3 is currently a growing collection and consists of artwork slides dating from the 1940s to 1972, focusing mainly on Chicago's work from the 1960s.

Series 4: Lectures

This series consists of 44 lectures about Chicago's artistic career and projects such as *The Dinner Party* and *The Holocaust Project*. The majority of these lectures include images and/or slide show presentations along with the lecture notes, some of which are handwritten or annotated most likely by Chicago's own hand. Each lecture also has corresponding CDs of the lecture.

Organization and Arrangement Information

The materials were organized in the order as received and applied to the materials in the upper right corner of the contact sheet. Series 1 materials were pre-arranged in a numerical order, so that was followed for the processing of the materials. The Personnel Contact Sheets did not have a set numerical order, but was broken up into sections based upon departments, so that arrangement was continued. Series 2 consists of 226 5 x 7" (chiefly) black and white photo copy prints prepared for the production of

Embroidering Our Heritage, a book devoted to the needle work of *The Dinner Party*. These are arranged according to numbers on the prints which correspond to their appearance in the final publication. Series 3 is currently made up of one binder box holding 321 slides, categorized thematically and generally or specifically by date as they were originally arranged upon arrival to NMWA. The lectures of Series 4 were undated, save for two dated in April of 2015, so they were arranged alphabetically by lecture title.

The Personnel Contact Sheets (Binder Box 6) are assemblages cut from contact sheets which arrange individual frames by category, as opposed to the full contact sheets which replicate the original order of the film strips. They are arranged into the following sections and in the quantities noted:

Personnel: 19 pages
Needlework: 31 pages
Documentation: 5 pages
Fastening: 1 page
Floor: 3 pages
Moarovia Ceramic Tiles: 1 page
Research: 3 pages
Publications: 1 page
Graphics: 1 page
Meetings: 16 pages
Resources:
Technical: 3 pages
Mock-Up: 5 pages
Ceramics: 10
Building/Woodwork: 3 pages

Names and Subject Terms

Chicago, Judy, 1939 –
Feminism
Feminist movement
Feminist educational thinking
Feminist Art Workers

Container Inventory

Series 1: Contact Sheets and Negatives, 1-446 ; Art Contact Sheets and Negatives; Personnel Contact Sheets (*The Dinner Party*, 1976-1978)

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Box Contents</u>
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Binder Box 1	Contact Sheets and Negatives 1-99
Binder Box 2	Contact Sheets and Negatives 100-199
Binder Box 3	Contact Sheets and Negatives 200-299
Binder Box 4	Contact Sheets and Negatives 300-399
Binder Box 5	Contact Sheets and Negatives 400-446
Binder Box 5	Contact Sheets and Negatives 2 ¼ size
Binder Box 6	2 ¼ Size Art Contact Sheets and Negatives
Binder Box 6	Personnel Contact Sheets

Series 2: Embroidering Our Heritage copy prints

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Box Contents</u>
1	Embroidering Our Heritage copy prints

Series 3: Artwork Slides

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Box Contents</u>
Binder Box 1	<i>Early Work, circa 1940s-1972</i> Childhood Work: 12 Slides Early Work 1963: 20 Slides Early Work 1964: 13 Slides Early Work 1965: 30 Slides Early Work 1966: 9 Slides Early Work 1967: 33 Slides 1968 Dome Drawings: 16 Slides 1968 Donut Drawings: 12 Slides 1968 Dome Paintings: 16 Slides 1968 Small Dome Sculptures: 18 Slides 1968 Large Dome Sculptures: 21 Slides Star Cunts: 25 Slides Optical Shapes: 12 Slides Pasadena Lifesavers: 34 Slides Fresno Fans: 26 Slides Flesh Gardens: 18 Slides Untitled Section: 4 Slides

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Box Contents</u>
Binder Box 2	<i>Porcelains and Early Feminist Work, 1972-1976</i> Small Porcelain: 31 slides, 3 installation slides Giving and Taking: 1 slide Sex From the Inside Out: 8 slides Various Porcelain Works Installed circa 1975: 24 slides Six Views from the Womantree: 7 slides

Broken Butterflies: 6 slides, 9 installation slides
 Did You Know Your Mother Has A Sacred Heart?: 4
 slides, 10 installation slides
 Tender Buttons: 11 slides, 2 installation slides
 1972 misc.: 12 slides
 Through the Flower: 14 slides
 Butterfly Test Plates: 12 slides
 1973 misc.: 4 slides
 Great Ladies: 12 slides, 17 installation slides
 Reincarnation Triptych: 10 slides, 3 installation slides
 Compressed Women Who Yearn to Be Butterflies: 6
 slides, 4 installation slides
 The Rejection Quintet: 6 slides, 4 installation slides
 Clitoral Secrets: 5 slides, 2 installation slides
 Studies for Butterly Vagina Erotica: 5 slides, 4
 installation slides
 1975-6 misc.: 3 slides

Box #
 Binder Box 3

Box Contents
The Dinner Party, 1974-1979
 Primordial Goddess: 30 slides
 Fertile Goddess: 29 slides
 Ishtar: 16 slides
 Kali: 32 slides
 Snake Goddess: 26 slides
 Sophia: 24 slides
 Amazon: 29 slides
 Hatshepsut: 42 slides
 Judith: 19 slides
 Sappho: 24 slides
 Aspasia: 21 slides
 Boadicea: 33 slides
 Hypatia: 44 slides

Box #
 Binder Box 4

Box Contents
The Dinner Party, 1974-1979
 Marcella: 16 slides
 Saint Bridget: 23 slides
 Theodora: 41 slides
 Hrosvitha: 49 slides
 Trotrula: 30 slides
 Eleanor of Aquitaine: 69 slides
 Hildegard: 34 slides

Petronilla de Meath: 37 slides
Christine de Pisan: 32 slides
Isabella d'Este: 36 slides
Elizabeth Rex: 46 slides
Artemisia: 31 slides

Box #
Binder Box 5

Box Contents
The Dinner Party, 1974-1979
Anna van Schurman: 45 slides
Anne Hutchinson: 40 slides
Sacajawea: 47 slides
Caroline Herschel: 73 slides
Mary Wollstonecraft: 78 slides
Sojourner Truth: 44 slides
Susan B. Anthony: 50 slides
Elizabeth Blackwell: 55 slides
Emily Dickinson: 66 slides

Box #
Binder Box 6

Box Contents
The Dinner Party, 1974-1979
Ethel Smyth: 40 slides
Margaret Sanger: 48 slides
Natalie Barney: 56 slides
Virginia Woolf: 80 slides
Georgia O'Keeffe: 54 slides

Box #
Binder Box 7

Box Contents
The Dinner Party, 1974-1979
Installation Views: 43 slides
Entry Banners: 40 slides
Heritage Floor: 161 slides

Box #
Binder Box 8

Box Contents
The Dinner Party, 1974-1979
Ceramic Goddesses: 30 slides
Drawings, Notes and Sketches: 25 slides
Permanent Housing: 10 slides
Letter Studies: 35 slides
Embroidering Our Heritage: 53 slides
Heritage Floor: 61 slides
Process Slides: 233 slides
San Francisco Tapestry Workshop: 117 slides

<u>Box #</u> Binder Box 9	<u>Box Contents</u> <i>The Dinner Party</i> , 1974-1979
<u>Box #</u> Binder Box 11	<u>Box Contents</u> <i>The Birth Project</i> , 1980-1985
<u>Box #</u> Binder Box 13	<u>Box Contents</u> <i>The Birth Project</i> , 1980-1985 Birth Tear: 91 slides Birth Joy: 8 slides Birth: 55 slides Birth Quilts: 51 slides Birth Crochet: 9 slides Birth Goddess: 43 slides The Crowning: 90 slides
<u>Box #</u> Binder Box 14	<u>Box Contents</u> <i>The Birth Project</i> , 1980-1985 Childbirth in America: 119 slides Birth Figures 1-4: 22 slides Birth Garments: 85 slides Birth Trinity: 194 slides
<u>Box #</u> Binder Box 15	<u>Box Contents</u> <i>The Birth Project</i> , 1980-1985 Misc.: 124 slides Birth Garment Drawings and Creation Drawing: 29 slides Birth Images and Misc. Studies: 22 slides Shadow Drawings and Misc. 1980s: 25 slides <i>PowerPlay</i> , 1982-1987 Three Faces of Man, Pissing on Nature Drawings and Misc. Drawing: 16 slides In the Shadow of a Handgun: 13 slides Driving the World to Destruction: 16 slides Rainbow Man and Misc. Drawings and Studies: 21 slides Malehead: 11 slides Misc. Drawings: 35 slides Studies for Doublehead and Woeman: 12 slides PowerPlay: 123 slides Doublehead: 56 slides Woe/Man: 61 slides

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Box Contents</u>
Binder Box 16	<i>The Holocaust Project, 1985-1993</i> 613 slides
<u>Box #</u>	<u>Box Contents</u>
Binder Box 17	<i>The Holocaust Project, 1985-1993</i> 588 slides
<u>Box #</u>	<u>Box Contents</u>
Binder Box 18	<i>The Holocaust Project, 1985-1993</i> 400 slides <i>Resolutions: A Stitch in Time</i> 280 slides
<u>Box #</u>	<u>Box Contents</u>
Binder Box 19	<i>Resolutions: A Stitch in Time</i> 298 slides <i>Jewish Related Works</i> 91 slides <i>Cat Related Works</i> 137 slides <i>Delta of Venus</i> 28 slides <i>What If Women Ruled the World?</i> 62 slides <i>Gift Drawings</i> 15 slides
<u>Box #</u>	<u>Box Contents</u>
Binder Box 20	<i>Cast Drawings</i> 12 slides <i>My Accident</i> 26 slides <i>Coast to Coast Cancer</i> 12 slides <i>Thinking About Trees</i> 32 slides <i>Reverence for Life</i> 26 slides <i>Autobiography of a Year</i> 144 slides <i>Los Lunas Hill</i>

20 slides

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Box Contents</u>
Binder Box 21	<i>Toby Heads and Mugs</i> 111 slides <i>Heads Up</i> 94 slides <i>Misc. 2000-Present</i> 388 slides

Series 4: Lectures

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
1	"Art as Power"
1	"Awakening Through Art"
1	"Creating Art from a Feminist Perspective"
1	"Dinner Party: A Journey Into History, The"
1	"Dinner Party as Vision, The"
1	"Dry Ice"
1	"Erotica"
1	"Face to Face with Frida Kahlo"
1	"Feminist Art in the 21st Century"
1	"From China Painting to Glass Painting: A Brief Review of a Long Career"
1	"From the Seventies to the Nineties: An Artist's Revolution"
1	"Georgia Tech Lecture"
1	"Getty Lectures"
1	"Giving Birth to a New Vision"
2	"Holocaust Project"
2	"Holocaust Project: From Darkness into Light, The"
2	"HOT STUFF: Dealing with Hot Subject Matter"
2	"Is it Politics or is it Art?"
2	"Judy Chicago Overview I"
2	"Judy Chicago Overview II"
2	"Judy Chicago's Style"
2	"Louisville Presentation: Five Decades" - April 14, 2015
2	"Louisville Presentation: Visioning Charette, International Honor Quilt" - April 15, 2015
2	"New Zealand Lectures"
2	"Pomona Talk with Younger Self"
2	"Power of Art: Why the Dinner Party Should Be Preserved, The"
2	"Red Binder"
2	"Representation and the Holocaust I"
2	"Representation and the Holocaust II"

2	"Rethinking Curriculum in Art"
3	"Short Holocaust Project Overview"
3	"Still Here After All These Years"
3	"Surveying Judy Chicago: A Career Overview"
3	"Susan B. Anthony: Queen of the Dinner Party"
3	"This Isn't Politics You Jerk, It's Art"
3	"Thread as Brushstroke" - Short Version
3	"Thread as Brushstroke" - Long Version
3	"Through the Flower and Breaking the Cycle of Women's Art"
3	"What Does Feminism have to do with the Holocaust?"
3	"Why the Holocaust? The Holocaust Project Exhibition Overview"
3	"Wing It Overview with Glass Work"
4	"Woman, Artist, Jew"
4	"Women and Art: Contested Territory"
4	"Women Moving Millions"