

**Museum of Photographic Arts
The Edmund L. & Nancy K. Dubois Library**

**Lynn G. Fayman Archive, 1938-2011 (bulk 1949-1969)
Collection 2013.002
Finding Aid**

Descriptive Summary

Title: Lynn G. Fayman archive, 1938-2011 (bulk 1949-1969)

Collection number: 2013.002

Creator: Fayman, Lynn G., 1904-1968

Extent: 2 boxes (1 linear foot); 4 clamshell boxes; one flat box.

Abstract: Lynn G. Fayman (1904-1968) was a photographer in San Diego, California. The collection consists of his personal papers, including lecture notes, biographical material, and limited correspondence; slides, negatives and transparencies; photographic prints; and film.

Repository: Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101

Physical Location: Stored on-site at the Museum of Photographic Arts.

Biography/History:

Lynn G. Fayman was born in 1904 in Kansas City, Missouri and trained as a landscape architect at Kansas State College. Fayman's interest in photography began in 1928 while he was abroad studying landscape design in Europe. In 1943, Fayman enrolled in a photography course at the Art Center School in Los Angeles, where he studied under Edward Kaminski. Immediately upon completion of the course, he relocated to San Diego, California, and worked as a photographer for Ryan Aeronautical Company. Fayman was a founding member of the San Diego artists' collective Allied Craftsmen, and an active participant in the local La Jolla art community, where he established a photography studio. He was initially interested in color photography, experimenting with light, color filters, transparencies, and everyday objects to create abstract color slides. In 1949, Fayman began utilizing the newly available Kodak Flexichrome Process, a multi-step method of making full color prints or transparencies from black-and-white negatives through the hand application of colored dyes. His Flexichrome prints were widely exhibited throughout the 1950s. An amateur filmmaker, he exhibited his abstract film *Color in Motion (No. II): The Red Spot* at the Cannes Film Festival in 1954, and was further recognized in 1955 by the Photographic Society of America's Motion Picture Division. Fayman lectured

extensively on themes of abstract art appreciation, the history of photography, and creative photography, employing color slide presentations featuring his series of original abstracts. From 1962 to 1964, he collaborated with Helen Palmer and Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss) on three children's books with photographic illustrations. In 1964, Fayman began studying black and white photography more extensively, creating his notable "Three Leaves" series. He served for 24 consecutive years on the Board of Trustees at the La Jolla Art Center (now the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego) and was recognized as a Fellow of the Photographic Society of America in 1959. He died in 1968.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of 2 boxes of personal papers, 999 slides, thousands of negatives and transparencies, photographic prints, and original films. Of particular interest are Fayman's lecture notes; correspondence with Helen Palmer and Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss), with whom he collaborated on photographic book illustrations in the 1960s; and the slide collection, organized by series and fully cataloged and digitized. The collection also contains color transparencies from Fayman's 1956 trip to Europe, where he photographed some celebrities (including Audrey Hepburn, Sophia Loren, and Gene Kelly) in addition to the architecture of Dusseldorf and Monaco.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged in 4 series: Series I. Papers (1938-2011). Series II. Photographs (circa 1920-1974). Series III. Slides, negatives, and transparencies (circa 1949-1968). Series IV. Film (circa 1951-1955).

Indexing Terms:

Fayman, Lynn G., 1904-1968—Archives.

Photographers—United States—Archival resources.

Photography, Artistic.

Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego

Genres and Forms of Material:

Color slides

Photographic prints

Artists' films

Related Material:

Additional original photographic prints and artworks by Lynn G. Fayman are in the collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego.

Administrative Information

Access:

Open for research by appointment only. Contact the Edmund L. and Nancy K. Dubois Library for information.

Publication Rights:

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Preferred Citation:

Lynn G. Fayman archive, 1938-2011 (bulk 1949-1969), Museum of Photographic Arts, Edmund L. and Nancy K. Dubois Library, Accession no. 2013.002.

Acquisition Information:

Gift of Danah Fayman, 2013.

Processing History:

Laurel McPhee Dougherty processed the papers, cataloged the slides and photographic prints, and wrote the finding aid in 2014.

Container List

Series I: Papers (1938-2011)

- 1:1** Art Institute of Light, 1938-1949 (7 items)
Materials on the "Art of Light." Includes two Lumia publications, color filters.
- 1:2** Lectures, circa 1951-1966 (ca. 35 items)
Lecture notes, biographical material, programs, and lecture reviews. Topics include abstract art (see correlating slide series WS 1-20), creative photography, and the history of photography.
- 1:3** Santa Barbara Museum of Fine Arts exhibition review, 1952 (1 item)
- 1:4** Arts Alliance of San Diego, "An Evening With the Arts", 1952 (3 items)
- 1:5** Calif. Legion of Honor Palace exhibition announcement, 1952 (1 item)
- 1:6** Art Center, La Jolla, circa 1951-1960 (13 items)
Lecture and Flexichrome exhibition notes; reviews; Feb-Mar 1960 Bulletin.
- 1:7** Fresno State College, 1952, 1969 (4 items)
- 1:8** Awards, 1954-1959 (ca. 12 items)
California State Fair Medallion, "Into the Wind," 1954. Cannes Film Festival, Diploma of Participation, 1954. PSA, Motion Picture Division, "Ten Best," 1955. PSA Fellow certificate, 1959.
- 1:9** Lynn G. Fayman, "Is this creative photography?" *Popular Photography* (May 1956), (2 items)
Article about Fayman's photography and methods; fan mail from Cuba.
- 1:10** Biographical materials, circa 1956-1969 (4 items)
- 1:11** Flexichrome, circa 1954-1969 (6 items)
Article by Fayman, "How to make Flexichrome full color prints," *Popular Photography* (September 1956). Lecture and exhibition notes. Flexichrome manual (photocopy).
- 1:12** Danah Fayman, "First Lady of Sorrento," *San Diego & Point Magazine* (Sep. 1959), (1 item)

Article on Grace Baker Diffendorf, with photography by Lynn Fayman.

- 1:13** Fine Arts Gallery of San Diego, 1959, 1967 (3 items)
Exhibition brochure and reviews.
- 1:14** Phoenix Art Museum exhibition review, circa 1960 (1 item)
- 1:15** "The art of living in La Jolla," *California Review* (5:1965), 1965 (2 items)
Two-page feature on Lynn Fayman, including reproductions of Fayman's texture studies and Flexichrome image "Hoofprints in Mud."
- 1:16** Helen Palmer and Ted Geisel correspondence, 1962-1966 (ca. 20 items)
Letters and related materials regarding Fayman's photography for Helen Palmer's books: *I Was Kissed by a Seal at the Zoo*; *Do You Know What I am Going to Do Next Saturday*, and *Why I Built the Boogle House*. See Box AB-4 for negatives.
- 2:1** Helen Palmer books, 1962-1964 (3 items)
- 2:2** San Diego State College Fine Arts Gallery exhibition, 1964 (5 items)
- 2:3** Lynn G. Fayman Gallery dedication at La Jolla Museum of Art, 1966 (4 items)
- 2:4** Obituaries, 1968 (3 items)
- 2:5** La Jolla Museum of Art 1969 exhibition, 1969 (16 items)
See Box AB-5, Folder 5 for reference prints utilized in planning the exhibition and catalog.
- 2:6** La Jolla Museum of Art 1969 exhibition catalogs, 1969 (10 items)
- 2:7** Laura Colby, 1974 (3 items)
Articles and publicity regarding Ms. Colby, Danah Fayman's daughter. See Box AB-5, Folder 8 for original photographs by Bob Scott.
- 2:8** Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego exhibition review, 1980 (1 item)
- 2:9** Amon Carter Museum of American Art correspondence, 2011 (2 items)
Letters from John Rohrbach, Senior Curator of Photographs, to Danah Fayman.
- 2:10** Mingei International Museum, "Craft Revolution" exhibition, 2011 (5 items)

2:11 Slide index notebook, circa 1965 (1 item)

2:12 Slide reference notebooks, undated (2 items)

Series II: Photographic Prints (circa 1920-2001)

AB-5:1 Texture studies (Eucalyptus trees), circa 1965 (19 items)
Item numbers 2013.002.1000-.1012, .1014-.1019

AB-5:2 Beach prints, circa 1960, 2001 (15 items)
Item numbers 2013.002.1020-2013.002.1030; .0797b; .0797c; .0833b; .0883c.

AB-5:3 Burlap tent prints, circa 1965 (3 items)
Item numbers 2013.002.1031-2013.002.1033

AB-5:4 Miscellaneous prints, circa 1949-1968, 2001 (9 items)
Item numbers 2013.002.1034-.1040; .1013, .0021b

AB-5:5 La Jolla Museum of Art 1969 exhibition reference prints, 1969 (11 items)
Includes print of "Tree Texture II."

AB-5:6 Portraits and publicity photographs, circa 1940-1968 (27 items)

AB-5:7 B&W reference prints, circa 1949-1968 (35 items)

AB-5:8 Family photographs, circa 1920-1974 (9 items)

Series III: Slides, negatives, and transparencies (circa 1949-1968)

AB-1 Cataloged color slides, circa 1949-1968 (480 items)
Item numbers 2013.002.0001-.0480
Includes the following series: Flexichrome; Wayne State Lecture: Abstract Art - What Is It?; Abstracts: Abstract Seconds and References; Motifs in Nature; Architecture; Thumbtacks; Flowers and Foliage; Animals; Mexico; New Mexico; Washington.

AB-2 Cataloged color slides, circa 1949-1968 (518 items)
Item numbers 2013.002.0481-.0999
Includes the following series: Flexichrome; Desert; Original Abstracts; Reflections; Ocean; Beach; Patterns & Textures; Abstracts: Copies; Still Life.

AB-3 Negatives and transparencies, circa 1949-1968

Negatives and transparencies from a variety of photographic series and projects, including: "Freeway"; "Junkyard"; "Three Leaves"; "Sorrento"; "Textures"; "Trees"; "Landscapes"; "Lines"; "Games"; and portraits of Fayman. Includes color transparencies from Fayman's 1956 trip to Europe with Henry Gris, with images of Dusseldorf, Monaco, and celebrities such as Dany Robin, Francois Arnul, Gene Kelly, Audrey Hepburn, Sophia Loren, Silvana Mangano, Vera-Ellen, and others.

AB-4 Negatives from Helen Palmer book illustration projects, 1962-1964

Black and white negatives from *I Was Kissed by a Seal at the Zoo*; *Do You Know What I am Going to Do Next Saturday*, and *Why I Built the Boogle House*.

Series IV: Film (circa 1951-1955, 2010)

Digital Betacam, 2010 (5 items)

San Diego State University profile *The Art of Lynn Fayman*; two versions of *Color in Motion*; Piano Score 84 Renee La France; *Color in Motion (No. II): The Red Spot*. Some of these items have been digitized.

Reels, circa 1951-1955 (7 items)

Greensleeves; *The Red Spot* work print; *The Red Spot #1*, revised, with piano score by Renee La France; *Color in Motion copy #1*; Miscellaneous Fayman originals; *The Red Spot* complete with credits and Cannes orchestral score; San Diego State University profile *The Art of Lynn Fayman*.