
Jocelyn Saidenberg
BAMPFA Film Library
2004
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: BAMPFA Film Library
creator: National Center for Experiments in Television
creator: KQED-TV (Television station : San Francisco, Calif.)
creator: Beck, Stephen, 1950-
creator: Hallock, Don
creator: Howard, Brice
creator: Sears, Loren
creator: Kyger, Joanne
creator: Olson, Charles, 1910-1970
Identifier/Call Number: PFA.MSS.001
Physical Description: 2 storage cartons2.5 linear ft.
Language of Material: Collection materials are in English
UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive Film Library and Study Center
Conditions Governing Access
The Collection is open for research.
Accruals
Accruals are not expected.
Biographical / Historical
The National Center for Experiments in Television (NCET) was an unusual artists' research center initially affiliated with San Francisco's public television station, KQED. Initiated in 1967, the NCET sought an answer to a simple but hitherto overlooked question: Can artists work with the medium of television? Under the guidance of director Brice Howard, the NCET developed the concept of "videospace," an expressive realm that shunned the conventions of theater and cinema. In videospace, the electron served as raw material, and the monitor's surface of phosphors as a lively canvas. In 1975, the NCET closed its doors due to lack of financial support, leaving behind a groundbreaking body of works that redirected video technology toward unconventional visual modes. NCET members, artists from various disciplines including composers, visual artists, writers, choreographers and others, collaborated to create explorations in the artistic possibilities of television. They created approximately 120 videoworks and approximately 15 research papers dealing with aesthetic concerns that had important political and social implications, making connections among the disparate fields of psychology, social anthropology and moving image making. Several of the members participated in the Television: Art and Technology Meeting in Asilomar, California in 1973 where they presented papers.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], National Center for the Experiments in Television records.{PFA-MSS-001}. UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, University of California, Berkeley.
Scope and Contents
This collection comprises reports, researchpapers, correspondence, artist files, meeting transcripts, and other papers relating to the National Center for Experiments in Television. Also contains secondary source materials and materials relating to the BAMPFA exhibition about the NCET, Videoscape, in 2000.
Separated Materials
All videocassettes from the collection have been separated to the BAMPFA film and video collection. Posters relating to the collection are included in the BAMPFA Film Library and Study Center's poster collection.
Conditions Governing Use
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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Experimental films--United States
Video art--California
National Center for Experiments in Television
National Center for Experiments in Television
KQED-TV (Television station : San Francisco, Calif.)
Beck, Stephen, 1950-
Hallock, Don
Howard, Brice
Sears, Loren
Kyger, Joanne
Olson, Charles, 1910-1970

Series 1. Correspondence 1969-1975, undated

Physical Description: 1 folder
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.
Scope and Contents
This series comprises correspondence materials written by members of the NCET and others closely related. Included are lengthy, significant letters from Brice Howard.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Howard, Brice

Box 1, Folder 1
General correspondence 1969-1975, undated

Physical Description: 1 Folder


Physical Description: 12 folders
Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by author.
Scope and Contents
This series contains publications, research papers and reports written by members of the NCET and their colleagues. Their research relates to issues about the communication, television and artistic production and their social and political implications.

Box 1, Folder 2

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 1, Folder 3

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 1, Folder 4

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 1, Folder 5

Physical Description: 1 folder
| Box 1, Folder 6, Folder 7 | Howard, B. Videospace. (Unpublished draft). 1968  
Physical Description: 2 folders |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Kaplan, G. Innovations in television. San Francisco: NCET. 1972  
Physical Description: 1 folder |
Physical Description: 1 folder |
Physical Description: 1 folder |
Physical Description: 1 folder |
Physical Description: 1 folder |
Physical Description: 1 folder |

**Series 3. Artist Papers 1968-1988, undated**
- Physical Description: 2 folders
- Arrangement
  - Arranged by artist name.
- Scope and Contents
  - This series comprises papers from three artists who participated in the NCET programs: Joanne Kyger, William Rosenquist, and Loren Sears. Included are resumes, notes, news clippings, and a facsimile of Joanne Kyger's poem, "Places to Go[,]" published in 1970 by Black Sparrow Press.

| Box 1, Folder 14 | Joanne Kyger and Loren Sears 1968-1970, undated  
Physical Description: 1 folder |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | William Rosenquist 1968-1988, undated  
Physical Description: 1 folder |

**Series 4. Meeting Transcripts 1967-1968, undated**
- Physical Description: 1 folder
- Arrangement
  - Arranged chronologically.
- Scope and Contents
  - This series comprises a small and incomplete sample of NCET technical meetings. Included are transcriptions of meetings that involved many of original members of the NCET, notably Charles Olson and Joanne Kyger.
Box 1, Folder 16

Meeting Transcripts 1967-1968, undated
Physical Description: 1 folder

Series 5. Reviews and clippings 1968-1987
Physical Description: 1 folder
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.
Scope and Contents
This series comprises newspaper and magazine articles written about NCET projects and participants.

Box 1, Folder 17

Reviews, articles and news clippings 1968-1987
Physical Description: 1 folder

Physical Description: 1 folder
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.
Scope and Contents
This series comprises posters, pamphlets and other ephemera items from the collection. Other posters from the collection have been separated and are part of the BAMPFA poster collection holdings.

Box 1, Folder 18

Ephemera 1970-1975, undated
Physical Description: 1 folder

Physical Description: 1 folder
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.
Scope and Contents
This series comprises press releases from San Francisco MoMA and KQED announcing NCET exhibitions and programs.

Press Releases 1970-1973