
Teresa Soleau
Descriptive Summary

Title: Mizuno Gallery records


Number: 2010.M.84

Creator/Collector: Mizuno Gallery

Physical Description: 2.9 Linear Feet (4 boxes)

Repository:
The Getty Research Institute
Special Collections
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles 90049-1688
reference@getty.edu
URL: http://hdl.handle.net/10020/askref
(310) 440-7390

Abstract: The Mizuno Gallery occupies an important place in the history of postwar art in Los Angeles as a venue for contemporary art from 1967 to 1984. The archive includes gallery ephemera, postcards, letters, installation shots and other photographs documenting gallerist Riko Mizuno's close relationship with the artists she exhibited, and with collectors and other art world personalities. The most extensively represented artists are Vija Celmins, Billy Al Bengston, and Henry Miller.

Request Materials: Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the catalog record for this collection. Click here for the access policy.

Language: Collection material is in English

Biographical / Historical Note

A partial chronology of exhibitions held at Gallery 699 and Mizuno Gallery is available at:

Riko Mizuno operated the Mizuno Gallery from 1967-1984. The gallery occupies an important place in the history of art in postwar Los Angeles as a venue for contemporary artists such as Chris Burden, Mike Kelley and Billy Al Bengston. Mizuno was born in Tokyo in 1932. In the mid 1950s, she arrived in Los Angeles assisted by a family friend who also knew Nelbert Murphy Chouinard, of the Chouinard Art Institute where Mizuno enrolled as a ceramics student. While there, she met many other student artists, such as Stephan von Huene and Ed Ruscha. In 1966, encouraged by Guy Williams' wife, Mary, Mizuno took over the space formerly occupied by the Rolf Nelson Gallery and opened Gallery 669. The first exhibition at Gallery 669 was of Henry Miller's watercolors. The following year, Eugenia Butler joined Mizuno as co-director of the gallery, but soon left to found her own gallery. Mizuno then renamed the gallery Mizuno Gallery. During the ten years Mizuno occupied that particular space, she exhibited historical figures associated with the Ferus Gallery, including Ken Price, Ed Moses, Larry Bell, Robert Irwin, and Billy Al Bengston, and other major artists, such as Vija Celmins, Ay-O, Jack Goldstein, Alexis Smith, and Doug Wheeler. In addition, Chris Burden's early performance, Deadman, took place at her gallery in 1972, as did his first solo exhibition (1974). In 1976 Mizuno closed the gallery, and in 1978, reopened it in Little Tokyo. This was the site of Mike Kelley's first solo exhibition in 1981. Mizuno relocated again in 1983 to 454 N. Robertson Blvd. The gallery closed in 1984. Although Mizuno no longer works out of a public storefront, she continues to operate as a private dealer.

Access

Open for use by qualified researchers.

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Preferred Citation


http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2010m84

Acquisition Information

Gift of Riko Mizuno in 2010.

Processing History

In 2011 Teresa Soleau processed the collection and wrote the finding aid under the supervision of Andra Darlington.
Scope and Content of Collection
The Mizuno Gallery records contain correspondence, photographs, and printed ephemera, among other materials that document the operation of the gallery from its founding in 1967 until 1984. Of approximately 90 exhibitions at the gallery, two-thirds are represented in some way in this collection. There are also materials from artists whose work was never shown at the gallery. The collection is rich in materials from Billy Al Bengston, Vija Celmins and Henry Miller. There is original artwork by Billy Al Bengston, Vija Celmins, Raymond Saunders, Russell Tamblyn and H.C. Westermann.

The ephemera in Series I dates from 1967 to 1983 and includes invitations, postcards and posters from exhibitions held at Gallery 669 and Mizuno Gallery. The records in Series II date from 1967 to 2005 and include a sales log and guest book as well as photographs of the gallery. The artist files in Series III date from 1955 to 1988 and include postcards and letters to Riko Mizuno from the artists, newspaper and journal article clippings, invoices (for works of art), ephemera for exhibitions not at Mizuno Gallery, correspondence and slides, color and black-and-white photographs, transparencies and photograph negatives of openings, installations, and artists.

Arrangement

Subjects - Corporate Bodies
Mizuno Gallery
Gallery 669

Subjects - Topics
Artists -- 20th century -- Correspondence
Art dealers -- United States -- Correspondence
Art galleries, Commercial -- California -- Los Angeles

Genres and Forms of Material
Color photographs
Mail art
Black-and-white negatives
Printed ephemera
Clippings (information artifacts)
Color slides -- 20th century
Photographs, Original
Black-and-white prints (photographs)

Contributors
Celmins, Vija
Bengston, Billy Al
Mizuno Gallery
Miller, Henry
Mizuno, Riko

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet
Scope and Content Note
This series includes ephemera for shows that took place at Gallery 669 and Mizuno Gallery between 1967 and 1983. See also artist files for some related exhibition ephemera and duplicates of gallery ephemera.
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

box 1, folder 1  1960s, 1967-1969
Scope and Content Note
1960s ephemera includes a sign hand-made by Mizuno for the first exhibition at Gallery 669 of Henry Miller's watercolors (1967).

box 1, folder 2  1970s, 1970-1979
Scope and Content Note
1970s ephemera includes a drawing by Billy Al Bengston that served as an invitation for Candle Lit Show (1970), an exhibition announcement for Chris Burden's early performance, Deadman (1972) and a postcard for John Knight's 1973 show drawn over on both sides in ballpoint pen.

box 1, folder 3  1980s, 1980-1983
Scope and Content Note

box 4*, folder 1, 3, 5-6  Oversize, 1967-1973
Scope and Content Note
Oversize ephemera including two copies of a poster from the first exhibition at Gallery 669 of Henry Miller's watercolors (both signed by Miller (1967)) and two copies of a small poster from Ed Moses' first show at Gallery 669 (1967).

Series II. General gallery records, 1967-2005
Physical Description: 0.4 Linear Feet
Scope and Content Note
Business records and gallery documentation including installation photographs. See also individual artist files for openings and invoices.
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

box 1, folder 4  Gallery 669 guestbook, 1967
box 1, folder 5  Sales log, 1969-1973
box 1, folder 6  Gallery photographs, 1967-1979
Scope and Content Note
Includes a black-and-white photograph of Mizuno during installation of the Plagens show (1970s?) and a photograph of gallery storeroom featuring works by Celmins, Bell and Wheeler. Also includes facsimile photographs of images from a personal album of Riko Mizuno's of her with an AY-O piece and of the Henry Miller opening (1967), including a photograph of Sam Francis.

box 3, folder 1  Slides of 1983 gallery designed by Arata Isozaki, 1983
Scope and Content Note
Photography by Mas Kono.

box 1, folder 6  Receipt for black-and-white enlargements, 2005
Series III. Artists' files, 1955-1988, undated

Physical Description: 1.5 Linear Feet

Scope and Content Note
This series includes postcards and letters to Riko Mizuno from the artists, newspaper and journal article clippings, invoices (for works of art), ephemera for shows not at Mizuno Gallery, correspondence and slides, color and black-and-white photographs, transparencies and photograph negatives of openings, installations, and artists. See Gallery ephemera series for ephemera for shows that took place at Gallery 669 and Mizuno Gallery.

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically with various individuals and unidentified artists at the end.

Short entries:

box 2, folder 1
Allen, Terry, 1970-1971

box 2-3
Arnoldi, Charles, 1972-1983

box 2, folder 2
Papers and black-and-white photograph, 1972-1973
Scope and Content Note
Includes a black-and-white contact print of show at Mizuno Gallery (1972?).

box 3, folder 2
Color slide, 1983
Scope and Content Note
Interior installation view of 1983 group show at Mizuno Gallery. Artists featured: Sam Francis and Charles Arnoldi.

box 2, folder 3
AY-O, 1968
Scope and Content Note
See General gallery records series for guestbook from 1967 show at Gallery 669 as well as a facsimile photograph from a personal album of Riko Mizuno's depicting an AY-O work.

box 2, folder 4
Bachardy, Don, 1975
Scope and Content Note
Message written to Mizuno on postcard featuring Billy Al Bengston work from 1970.

box 2, folder 5
Bell, Larry, undated
Scope and Content Note
See General gallery records for photograph of storeroom with Bell's work.

box 2-3
Bengston, Billy Al, 1970-1980s

box 2, folder 6
Papers and back-and-white photographs, 1970-1978
Scope and Content Note
Includes photographs from 1970 show Tea Tables and Tapestries with Ed Moses at Mizuno Gallery.

box 3, folder 3
Color slides and color photographs, 1970-1980s
Scope and Content Note
Tea Tables and Tapestries with Ed Moses (Dec 1970), Candle Lit Show (Mar 1970) and gallery opening from the 1980s.

box 2, folder 7
Burden, Chris, 1973-1974
Scope and Content Note
Ephemera includes color photocopy of announcement for Burden's Through the Night Softly (1973).

box 2, folder 8
Card, Greg, 1970
box 2-3  **Celmins, Vija, 1969-1983**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
See General gallery records series for photograph of storeroom with Celmins' work.

box 2, folder 9-10  **Papers and black-and-white photographs, 1969-1983**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes ephemera from 1983 group show at Mizuno Gallery drawn on by Celmins, a set of small drawings by Celmins, and photographs from a 1973 show at Mizuno Gallery.

box 3, folder 4  **Medium format negatives, 1970s**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Photographs feature Celmins with 1970 untitled work (comb).

box 2, folder 11  **Chamberlain, John, 1969**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Photographs of works, possibly from 1969 show at Mizuno Gallery.

box 2, folder 12  **Cheng, Kai Bob, 1985-1988**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Ephemera from 1985 and 1988 shows presented by or in cooperation with Riko Mizuno.

box 2, folder 13  **Cooper, Ron, 1971-1972**
box 2, folder 14  **Coplans, John, 1969-1974**
box 2, folder 15  **Diebenkorn, Richard, 1981**
box 2-3  **Dill, Laddie John, 1973, undated**
box 2, folder 16  **Black-and-white photograph, 1973**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Photograph from 1973 show at Mizuno Gallery. Photograph by Frank J. Thomas.

box 3, folder 5  **Color photograph, undated**
box 2, folder 17  **Fine, Jud, 1972-1974**
box 2-3  **Freeman, Betty, 1974, undated**
**Papers, 1974**
box 2, folder 18  **Color photograph, undated**
box 3, folder 6  **Grinstein, Stanley, 1972**
box 2, folder 19  **Hopper, Dennis, 1965**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Photograph taken by Hopper of Robert Irwin's studio featuring a prop by Ed Moses (1965).

box 2, folder 21  **Irwin, Robert, 1965-1980**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes photographs from 1972 and 1974 shows at Mizuno Gallery. See also Dennis Hopper folder for photograph by Hopper of Irwin's studio featuring an Ed Moses prop (1965).

box 2, folder 22  **Isermann, Jim, 1981**
box 2, folder 23  **Jackson, Richard, 1976**
box 2-3  **Kauffman, Craig, 1975**
box 2, folder 24  **Papers and black-and-white photographs**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes a contact sheet with photographs from 1975 show at Mizuno Gallery.
Series III. Artists’ files, 1955-1988, undated


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- **箱3, 内7**  
  **Negatives and transparencies**  
  **Scope and Content Note**  
  From 1975 show at Mizuno Gallery. For contact sheet of negatives, see papers and black-and-white photographs (Box 2, Folder 24).

- **箱2, 内4**  
  - **Kelley, Mike, 1981-1982**  
    - **Black-and-white photographs, 1981**  
    **Scope and Content Note**  
    Photographs from 1981 show at Mizuno Gallery.

- **箱4* 内2**  
  - **Poster, 1982**  
    **Scope and Content Note**  
    Poster from a show with John Miller and JoAnn Verburg, Visiting Artists Exhibition, Minneapolis College of Art & Design, April 19-29, 1982.

- **箱2, 内6**  
  - **Knob, John, 1973-1974**  
    **Scope and Content Note**  
    Includes black-and-white photograph of 1973 show at Mizuno Gallery courtesy of Frank J. Thomas Archives.

- **箱2, 内7**  
  - **Lannan, Pat, 1975**  
  - **Lere, Mark, 1980**  
  - **Little, Penny, 1970**  
    **Scope and Content Note**  
    See Billy Al Bengston file for note signed by Little.

- **箱2, 内8**  
  - **Madsen, Loren, 1973**  
    **Scope and Content Note**  

- **箱2, 内9**  
  - **Mason, John, 1960**  
    **Scope and Content Note**  
    See Peter Voulkos file for photograph including Mason.

- **箱2, 内10**  
  - **Miller, Henry, 1955-1968**  
    **Scope and Content Note**  
    Includes photographs from 1967 opening at Gallery 669. See General gallery records series for guestbook from 1967 show and facsimile photographs of the opening from an album of Riko Mizuno’s.

- **箱2, 内11**  
  - **Miyake, Issey, 1974**  
  - **Moses, Ed, 1957-1980**  
    **Scope and Content Note**  
    See Dennis Hopper file for photograph by Hopper of Robert Irwin’s studio featuring a Moses prop (1965). See Billy Al Bengston files for photographs and slides of 1970 show Teatables and Tapestries. One photograph also includes Robert Delford Brown. Includes drafts for invitation to 1980 show at Mizuno Gallery.

- **箱2-3**  
  - **Novros, David, undated**  
    **Black-and-white photograph**  
    **Scope and Content Note**  
    Installation photograph of show at Mizuno Gallery.
Box 3, folder 8
- Color photograph

Box 2, folder 36
- Price, Ken, 1960s-1970

Box 2, folder 37
- Saunders, Raymond, 1971
  - Scope and Content Note
  - Includes a crayon and ink heart drawing by Saunders.

Box 2, folder 4
- Shinoyama, Kishin, undated

Box 2, folder 38
- Smith, Alexis, 1974
  - Scope and Content Note
  - Includes photograph from 1974 show at Mizuno Gallery.

Box 2, folder 39
- Speyer, James, 1971-1980

Box 2, folder 40
- Takemoto, Henry, undated
  - Scope and Content Note
  - One photograph includes Peter Voulkos. One photograph with sticker on from Lee Nordness Galleries: Untitled: ceramic: catalog #94.

Box 2, folder 41
- Tamblyn, Russell, 1973
  - Scope and Content Note
  - Includes original piece of mail art by Tamblyn.

Box 2, folder 42
- Voulkos, Peter, undated
  - Scope and Content Note
  - "Henry Takemoto" written on the back of all photographs. One photograph includes John Mason. See Henry Takemoto file for photograph including Voulkos.

Box 2, folder 43
- Westermann, H.C. 1975
  - Scope and Content Note
  - Includes envelope with original Westermann woodcut print on the back.

Box 2, folder 44
  - Scope and Content Note
  - See General gallery records for photograph of storeroom with Wheeler's work.

Box 2, folder 45
- Woelffer, Emerson, undated

Box 2, folder 46
- Wudl, Tom, 1972-1974

Box 2, folder 47
- Various, 1969-1983
  - Scope and Content Note
  - Includes correspondence from Maurice Tuchman, LACMA curator.

Box 2, folder 48
- Unidentified, 1969-1974