
Gene Weber slides, photographs and artifacts

Finding aid created by Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society staff using RecordEXPRESS

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Gene Weber slides, photographs and artifacts

Dates: 1945-1989

Collection Number: 1993-22

Creator/Collector: Weber, Gene

Extent: 3 cartons; 1 manuscript box; 4 oversize boxes; 1 item (8 linear feet)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

San Francisco, California 94105

Abstract: Photographic materials and artifacts belonging to Gene Weber, a documentary photographer who is best known for his images of San Francisco S/M, bondage, and leather culture. Majority of collection is composed of Weber's slides but also includes photographs and contact sheets, film, and a small amount of correspondence.

Language of Material: English

Access

Collection is open for research. Funding for processing this collection was provided by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Gene Weber slides, photographs and artifacts. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Acquisition Information

Gift of Louis Mulder in September 1994.

Biography/Administrative History

Gene Weber (1930-1992) was a photographer of San Francisco gay life during the 1970s and 1980s whose work documents many of his hobbies and interests, including travel, S&M, and San Francisco's leather community. Born in 1930 in Burbank, CA, Weber lived in the Bay Area for over 40 years, earning a B.A. degree from the University of California, Berkeley. By profession, Weber was a successful stockbroker, financial advisor, and tax consultant. He was also a frequent traveler, a gourmet cook, and a founding member of the Burgundy Wine Tasting Society. Weber was a gifted photographer whose documentary style captured the San Francisco S/M and leather communities throughout San Francisco in the 1970s and 1980s. His work was published in Drummer magazine, alongside such articles as "Famous Dungeons of San Francisco", "Body Casting", and the "Gay Sports" column featuring Weber's underwater fisting photos. Weber would often project these and similar works for men in his Upper Terrace San Francisco home, projecting slides at various speeds to create a fluid, movie-like experience from multi-media 35mm projections. In October of 1992, after living with AIDS for more than five years, Weber passed away at Fort Miley Veterans Hospital in San Francisco.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Gene Weber slides, photographs, and artifacts collection documents over 30 years of Gene Weber's photographic works, with an emphasis on capturing San Francisco-based gay life. His subjects range from travel and LGBT events to S&M and leather culture, revealing the diverse interests and hobbies of Weber throughout his life. The majority of this collection documents male S/M, bondage, and other sexual scenes. The collection is arranged into five series, according to the format of the material: artifacts; correspondence; film; photographs; and slides. Slides make up the majority of the collection and include both sexual and non-sexual subjects. Artifacts include a slide projector and two slide trays (with slides still in trays; not removed to preserve original order), likely used by Weber during intimate social gatherings. Original folder titles were retained, when available; loose or un-labeled material was described and provided a title by the Processing Archivist.

Indexing Terms

Gay pride parades

Leather lifestyle

Sadomasochism.

Photography

[Container List for Gene Weber slides, photographs and artifacts](#)

