Guide to the Barbara Morgan Photographs of Martha Graham and Company

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Guide to the Barbara Morgan Photographs of Martha Graham and Company

Collection number: MS-P64

Special Collections and Archives
The UCI Libraries
University of California
Irvine, California

Processed by:
Andre Ambrus

Date Completed:
2004

Encoded by:
Andre Ambrus

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Barbara Morgan photographs of Martha Graham and Company,
Date (inclusive): 1935-1940
Collection number: MS-P064
Creator: Morgan, Barbara Brooks, 1900- , photographer
Extent: 0.1 linear feet1 oversize folder
Repository: University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.
Irvine, California 92623-9557
Abstract: This collection comprises three images of Graham and five of her company in performance, all printed from the original negatives in Willard and Barbara Morgan Archives.
Language: English.
Access
Collection open for research.

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Preferred Citation
Barbara Morgan photographs of Martha Graham and Company. MS-P64. Special Collections and Archives, The UC Irvine Libraries, Irvine, California. Date accessed.

For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

Acquisition Information
Acquired, 2004, with funds from a National College Choreography Initiative grant to the UC Irvine Dance Department, and from The John and Elizabeth Stahr Library Fund.

Processing Information

Martha Graham, Choreographer
Martha Graham was an American dancer, instructor, choreographer, and director of the Martha Graham Dance Company. She was born in Allegheny, Pennsylvania in 1894. Her formative training was with Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn at the Denishawn School and Company in Los Angeles. Graham went on to teach at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., where she began to explore more experimental dance techniques. One of the most influential figures in modern dance, she created over 100 works, including solo, ensemble, and theatrical pieces. As a teacher Graham fostered the continuing evolution of modern dance through former company members such as Anna Sokolow, Merce Cunningham, and Paul Taylor. She died in 1991.
Barbara Morgan, Photographer
Barbara Morgan was an American photographer particularly well known for her work, both experimental and documentary, with modern dancers. She was born in Buffalo, Kansas in 1900. Though formally trained in painting and printmaking at the University of California, Los Angeles, Morgan developed an interest in photography after seeing an exhibit of Edward Weston's photographs. One of Morgan's early major undertakings as a photographer was her work with Martha Graham and the Martha Graham Dance Company during the years 1935-1940, which formed the basis for her book, Martha Graham: sixteen dances, published in 1941. Morgan's dance photographs were groundbreaking in their departure from "performance documentation" and helped to revolutionized dance photography. She died in 1992.

Scope and Content of Collection
This collection comprises three images of Graham and five of her company in performance, all printed from the original negatives in Willard and Barbara Morgan Archives. Images are black and white and range from 11 x 14 to 16 x 20 inches.

Arrangement
Photographs are arranged alphabetically by title of the choreographic work depicted.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Graham, Martha--Photographs.
Martha Graham Dance Company--Photographs.
Satyric festival song (Choreographic work : Graham)--Photographs. Penitente (Choreographic work : Graham)--Photographs. Every soul is a circus (Choreographic work : Graham)--Photographs. Steps in the street (Choreographic work : Graham)--Photographs. Modern dance--Photographs.

Genres and Forms of Material
Photographic prints--20th century.

Index Terms Related to this Collection
Willard & Barbara Morgan Archives.

Related Material
Related photographs and performance programs of Martha Graham and her company can be found in the following collections in Special Collections and Archives.

MS-P21, Dance Photograph Collection
MS-P26, Dance Program Collection

Box: FB-48 : 10
Every soul is a circus, 1940.
Physical Description: 1 photographic print.

Box: FB-48 : 10
El Penitente, 1940.
Physical Description: 1 photographic print.

Box: FB-48 : 10
Satyric festival song, 1935.
Physical Description: 1 photographic print.

Box: FB-48 : 10
Steps in the street, 1936.
Physical Description: 5 photographic prints.