Finding Aid of the Kitty Tsui Papers LSC.1949


UCLA Library Special Collections
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Online finding aid last updated 28 August 2017.
Title: Kitty Tsui papers
Identifier/Call Number: LSC.1949
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.4 linear feet (1 flat box)
Date (inclusive): 1975-1996
Abstract: Although born in Hong Kong in 1952, Kitty Tsui spent her childhood in California. She earned a degree in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. Her poetry and prose has been published in over 35 anthologies, and she has published three books. Tsui is also a competitive body-builder. She earned a bronze medal at the Gay Games in San Francisco in 1986 and a gold medal in Vancouver in 1990. This collection contains work by and about the poet, activist, and bodybuilder Kitty Tsui. Most of the materials contained are concerning her bodybuilder accomplishments and her regular sports writing featured in San Francisco news outlets.

Physical location: COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Creator: Tsui, Kitty

Conditions on Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Kitty Tsui Papers (Collection 1949). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
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Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Provenance unknown.
This collection is part of an outreach and collection-building partnership between the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives, the UCLA Center for the Study of Women (CSW), and the UCLA Library.

Processing Information

Biography
Although born in Hong Kong in 1952, Kitty Tsui spent her childhood in California. She earned a degree in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. Her poetry and prose has been published in over 35 anthologies including Chloë Plus Olivia (1994) and Lesbian Erotics (1995). She received the CLAGS 1995 Ken Dawson Award for research in gay and lesbian history and was also listed as one of the 50 most influential people in gay and lesbian literature by Lambda Book Report. She has been featured in three films, Women of Gold (1990), Framing Lesbian Fashion (1992), and Cut Sleeve (1992). Tsui is also a competitive body-builder. She earned a bronze medal at the Gay Games in San Francisco in 1986 and a gold medal in Vancouver in 1990. Tsui is the author of three books: The Words of a Woman who Breathes Fire, Breathless, and Sparks Fly. Breathless won the Firecracker Alternative Book Award at the ABA in Chicago in 1996. Her third book, Sparks Fly, was penned by her alter ego, Eric Norton, a gay leatherman in pre-AIDS San Francisco.

Scope and Content
This collection includes prose writings, correspondence, clippings, reviews, and poetry by Kitty Tsui. The majority of the collection consists of newspaper clippings from San Francisco area news outlets. The subject matter focuses on Kitty Tsui's sports writing and bodybuilding career.

**Organization and Arrangement**
Materials are maintained in their original order.

**Related Material**
Asian Pacific Islander Collection 1980-2001. The collection is housed in University of California, Santa Cruz Special Collections.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
June L. Mazer Lesbian Archive at UCLA.
June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives.
Tsui, Kitty -- Archives
Asian American women authors--California--Archives.
Women bodybuilders--California--Archives.

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**Box 1, Folder 1**
Program Guides 1988 June - 1993 April

General Physical Description note: magazine, bound program guides
Scope and Contents note
Guides, schedules, and summaries of gay pride parades, film festivals, and other events.

**Box 1, Folder 2**
Correspondence 1996 January 29

General Physical Description note: photocopies
Scope and Contents note
Photocopies of correspondence to the June Mazer Collection about Tsui's book *Breathless*.

**Box 1, Folder 3**
Poetry undated

General Physical Description note: photocopies, printed paper
Scope and Contents note
Hand-constructed mockup of chapbook *The Words of a Woman Who Breathes Fire* and photocopies of published works.

**Box 1, Folder 4**
Interviews 1982 April 17 -1991 November

General Physical Description note: newsprint, photocopies
Scope and Contents note
Printed interviews with various community news outlets concerning activism, bodybuilding, and poetry.

**Box 1, Folder 5**
Flyers circa 1980 November 22 - 1993 April 23

General Physical Description note: photocopies, flyers
Scope and Contents note
Flyers for bodybuilding championships, art and literature workshops, poetry readings, conferences, and other programs.

**Box 1, Folder 6**
Reviews 1980 October - Spring 1993

General Physical Description note: newspaper clippings
Scope and Contents note
Reviews of Tsui's poetry, prose, and performances from various news outlets and community newspapers.
Box 1, Folders 7-8

**Publications and news coverage 1975 September - 1993 June**

**General Physical Description note:** newspaper clippings

**Scope and Contents note**

Newspaper articles and publications that grapple with activism, media blackout, identity politics, and other issues within the LGBT community, some of which mention Kitty Tsui's work and are written by her for San Francisco-based news outlets. Also includes sports coverage, poetry, and event and athlete profiles. Folder 7 contains materials dating from August 1981 to September 1992. Folder 8 contains materials dating from September 1975 to June 1993.