Finding aid for the Dawn Wirth punk ephemera collection LSC.2377

UCLA Library Special Collections
Online finding aid last updated 2020 May 12.
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URL: https://www.library.ucla.edu/special-collections
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Title: Dawn Wirth punk ephemera collection
Creator: Wirth, Dawn, 1960-
Identifier/Call Number: LSC.2377
Physical Description:.2 Linear Feet(1 box)
Abstract: Dawn Wirth bought her first camera in 1976, a Canon FTb, with the money she earned from working at the Hanna-Barbera animation studio. She enrolled in a high-school photography class and began taking photos of bands. While still in high school, Wirth captured on film, the beginnings of an underground LA punk scene. She photographed bands such as The Germs, The Screamers, The Bags, The Mumps, The Zeros and The Weirdos in and around The Masque and The Whiskey a Go-Go in Hollywood, California. The day of her high school graduation, Wirth took all of her savings and flew to the United Kingdom where she lived for the next six months and took color photographs of The Clash before they came to America. Dawn Wirth's photographs have been seen in the pages of fanzines such as Flipside, Sniffin' Glue and Gen X and featured in the Vexing: Female Voices from East LA Punk exhibition at Claremont Museum of Art and at DRKRM. Gallery in Los Angeles, California for the Destroy All Music: The Masque and Beyond Photos from the Early LA Punk Scene 1977-1978 exhibition. The Dawn Wirth punk ephemera collection ranges in date from 1977-2008 with the bulk of the materials created between 1977-1978 and contains The Weirdos flyers and postcards, Punk Rock by Virginia Boston, 1988 The New Wave Punk Rock Explosion by Caroline Coon, a Blondie press kit, an issue of New Wave News, clippings, and the documentary Ghost on the Highway: A Portrait of Jeffrey Lee Pierce and The Gun Club.

Language of Material: English .
Storage Unit: 1
Storage Unit: 1-7
Conditions Governing Access
Open for research. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
CONTAINS PROCESSED AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS: Special equipment will be required for viewing. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

Conditions Governing Use
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Dawn Wirth punk ephemera collection (Collection 2377). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Custodial History
Dawn Wirth compiled the bulk of this collection from 1977-1978 when she was a senior in high school and immediately following her high school graduation while she was living in the United Kingdom.

Processing Information
Collections are processed to a variety of levels depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived user interest and research value, availability of staff and resources, and competing priorities. Library Special Collections provides a standard level of preservation and access for all collections and, when time and resources permit, conducts more intensive processing. These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards and best practices.

Processed by Kelly Besser in 2020 March. Audiovisual material processed by Allie Whalen in 2018 October.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 9284318
Biographical / Historical
Dawn Wirth bought her first camera in 1976, a Canon FTb, with the money she earned from working at the Hanna-Barbera animation studio. She enrolled in a high-school photography class and began taking photos of bands. Although the photography teacher told her that the work was "crap," she continued to follow her passion. "I was going to these punk shows; the music was exciting, new and different. I thought that taking pictures of the bands might be a lot of fun." Dawn captured on film, the beginnings of an underground LA punk scene.

Wirth shot, up close and in action, bands such as The Germs, The Screamers, The Bags, The Mumps, The Zeros and The Weirdos in and around The Masque and The Whiskey a Go-Go in Hollywood, California. In addition, Dawn snapped out-of-town bands such as Devo and Talking Heads and took color photographs of The Clash before they came to America. "I saved up all my money and flew to the United Kingdom the day I graduated from high school and lived there for six months."

Though she shot a few things in color, black and white was her preference. Dawn states, "I was influenced at the time by Alfred Stieglitz and George Hurrell." Dawn Wirth's photographs have been seen in the pages of fanzines such as Flipside, Sniffin' Glue and Gen X. Additionally, her work was featured in the Vexing: Female Voices from East LA Punk exhibition at Claremont Museum of Art and at DRKRM. Gallery in Los Angeles, California for the Destroy All Music: The Masque and Beyond Photos from the Early LA Punk Scene 1977-1978 exhibition with Louis Jacinto.

Source:

Scope and Contents

Arrangement
The collection is arranged according to the existing order of the materials.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Punk rock music
Punk rock musicians
Punk culture -- California -- 20th century
Wirth, Dawn, 1960- -- Archives