Descriptive Summary
Title: Molly Low Photograph Collection
Identifier/Call Number: MSS 0708
Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, California, 92093-0175
Languages: English
Physical Description: 2.6 Linear feet (1 archives box, 2 flat boxes and 12 mapcase folders)
Date (inclusive): 1984 - 1992
Abstract: Photographs, prints and negatives created by photographer Molly Low. The majority of the images are portraits from several projects including "Hidden Faces of La Jolla," "Teens at Risk," "Women in Recovery" and "Images of Aging."
Creator: Low, Molly
Publication Rights
Publication rights are held by the creator of the collection.
Preferred Citation
Molly Low Photograph Collection, MSS 708. Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego Library.
Acquisition Information
Biography
Molly Low began photographing in New York in 1970. She retired to San Diego in 1978 where she became more focused on learning and practicing photography. Her main focus was portraiture, creating several photographic series including "Images of Aging," "Hidden Faces of La Jolla," "Teens at Risk" and "Women in Recovery."
Scope and Contents of Collection
The Molly Low Photograph Collection contains contact sheets, negatives and gelatin silver prints, ranging in size from 8x8 in. to 16x20 in. The images, mainly portraits, span several series including "Images of Aging," "Hidden Faces of La Jolla," "Teens at Risk," "Women in Recovery," and "Story of a Marriage." With the exception of "Story of a Marriage," all original photographs feature captions which tell the story of the sitter in his or her own words.
Low's first portrait series, "Images of Aging," documents the lives of residents in retirement and nursing homes. "Story of a Marriage" depicts staged scenes of a couple involved in the various seasons and trials of married life. This series was completed in 1987 and consists of gelatin silver prints and negatives. "Hidden Faces of La Jolla: Portraits of Black San Diegans" records the dwindling African-American community of La Jolla in 1989 and 1990. Materials in this series include contact sheets, gelatin silver prints and negatives. The "Teens at Risk" project chronicles the progress of teenagers in the San Diego based Summit School Program, 1990-1991. Portraits of the program's probationary officers also feature in this series. Materials consist of contact sheets, gelatin silver prints and negatives. The series "Women in Recovery" was commissioned by the San Diego Department of Health Services in 1992 to inspire hope for recovery from alcohol and drug abuse. The portrait series was then exhibited around the county and published in a book, distributed to at-risk women. Materials include gelatin silver prints and negatives.
A small number of contact sheets, which appear unrelated to any of the above series, can be found in a folder labeled "Miscellaneous projects."
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Contact sheets
Gelatin silver prints
Negatives (photographic)
Portrait photography
Women photographers -- California -- San Diego -- 20th century
Women photographers -- New York (State) -- 20th century
Images of Aging 1984 - 1986
Contact sheets
Negatives
Prints
Story of a Marriage 1987
Prints
Hidden Faces of La Jolla 1989 - 1990
Negatives
Physical Description: Consists of foldered and matted prints
Teens at Risk 1991
Contact sheets
Prints
Women in Recovery 1992
Negatives
Prints
Physical Description: Consists of foldered and matted prints
Miscellaneous projects - Contact sheets 1989-1990, undated