

Fern Shaffer Papers 1982-2005, undated

Creator: Fern Shaffer (1944-)

Extent: 2 linear feet

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact WLArchives@luc.edu regarding use.

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None.

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Provenance: Material was donated by the creator to the Women and Leadership Archives (WLA) on April 4, 2011.

Processor: Kristin Emery, May 2012. Last updated January 2024.

Separations: 0.15 linear feet of duplicate and extemporaneous material was removed.

See Also: Other Artemisia artist collections at the Women and Leadership Archives and the Artemisia Records at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Biographical History

Fern Shaffer, born in 1944, is a Chicago-based artist, ritualist, educator, guest lecturer, and exhibitor who worked on a local, national, and international scale. Shaffer received her Bachelor of Arts from University of Illinois at Chicago in 1981, followed by several years of graduate studies at both UIC and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She obtained her Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Arts from Columbia College in 1991. Shaffer was the president of Artemisia Gallery from 1984 to 1991. Shaffer has participated in many conferences, residencies, and given lectures throughout her professional career. She has also taught art to young students and private clients.

Aside from her solo work, which consists mainly of paintings, Shaffer has been a part of a collaborative duo with photographer Othello Anderson since the mid-1980s. The pair's work documents the performance of rituals, done by Shaffer in shamanic costume, at different locations where the artists believe Earth needs healing. Shaffer performed the rituals and Anderson

photographed them. Most of Shaffer's other work also addressed environmental issues, the need for healing, and ritualistic performance. Shaffer and Anderson traveled to various locations world-wide to perform and document rituals and have exhibited their artwork in several countries. Their work has also been the subject of many authors writing about art and ritual in the 1980s and 1990s.

Scope and Content

This collection contains material related to Shaffer's professional career as an artist, ritualist, lecturer, and environmental advocate. The collection documents exhibits that featured Shaffer's work, professional activities she participated in, press coverage of her artwork, examples of her work, interactions with organizations in Colombia, collaborative efforts with Othello Anderson, Suzi Gablik, and Bayle Oakes, proposals for project, a residency at Roanoke College, and an award given to Shaffer by the Veteran Feminists of America. The collection is organized alphabetically except for audiovisual and oversize.

Series 1: Professional, 1982-2005, undated, Box 1

This series contains materials relating to Shaffer's career, including artist's statements, personal and professional correspondence, articles, interviews, and essays about Shaffer and Anderson, exhibit materials such as booklets and gallery cards, and material related to Shaffer's various lectures, residencies, and other professional activities. This series documents Shaffer and Anderson's participation in the Festival Internacional de Arte Ciudad de Medellin, a festival in Colombia that went awry. It also includes letters of recommendation written for Shaffer, and excerpts from books that feature Shaffer and Anderson's work.

Series 2: Audiovisual/Oversize, 1982-2000, undated, Boxes 2-4

This series contains photographs documenting Shaffer's artwork and some of her travels to Colombia. It also contains copies of a book cover that features Shaffer and Anderson's work, excerpts from a book that feature the pair, a gallery design suggestion done by Shaffer, and copies of a news feature on them from a Colombian newspaper. Box 4 is available for researcher use only. See "Usage Restrictions" above for further detail.

Subjects:

Fern Shaffer (1944-)
Othello Anderson
Art--Environmental aspects
Artemisia Gallery
Environmentalism
Eco-feminism
Ritual
Ritual in art

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
		<i>Fern Shaffer Papers 1982-2005, undated</i>	
		Series 1: Professional, 1982-2005, undated	
1	1	Artist's Statements	1983-1991, undated
1	2	Centro Colombo Americano	1991-2000, undated
1	3	Collaborations with Suzi Gablik	1988-1996
1	4	Correspondence: Anchorage Museum of History and Art	1998-1999
1	5	Correspondence: Miscellaneous	1986-1998, undated
1	6	Correspondence: Rejection Letters	1986-2001, undated
1	7	Correspondence: Various Exhibits	1995, 2000
1	8	Exhibits	1982-2005, undated
1	9	Exhibits: Art in Chicago, 1945-1995	1996-1997, undated
1	10	Exhibits: Cows on Parade	1999, undated
1	11	Exhibits: Garbage!	1995, undated
1	12	Exhibits: Harmony	2000, undated
1	13	Exhibits: Spiritual Passports/Transformative Journeys	1997-1998
1	14	Festival Internacional de Arte Ciudad de Medellin	1996-1997, undated
1	15	Festival Internacional de Arte Ciudad de Medellin: Shaffer's Personal Journal	1997
1	16	Grant: The Andrea Frank Foundation	2000-2002
1	17	Invoices	1983, 1995-1997, undated
1	18	Miscellaneous	undated
1	19	Museum of Contemporary Art Umbrella Project	1998
1	20	Press Coverage	1983-2000, undated
1	21	Press Coverage: Chicago Medicine Magazine	1991
1	22	Professional Activities	1987-2000, undated
1	23	Proposals	1986-1992
1	24	Proposals: Riverwalk Corridor	1998
1	25	Recommendation Letters	1998
1	26	Residency at Roanoke College	1996-1998, undated
1	27	<i>Sculpting With the Environment</i>	1994-1995
1	28	Veteran Feminists of America	2003
		Series 2: Audiovisual/Oversize, 1982-2000, undated	
		<i>Audiovisual</i>	
2	1	Slides	undated

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2	2	Photographs: Cows on Parade	undated
2	3	Photographs: Festival Internacional de Arte Ciudad de Medellin	undated
2	4	Photographs: Hernan Bermudez	undated
2	5	Miscellaneous	undated
2	6	Morphogenetic Fields	1982-1983, undated
2	7	Visit to Colombia	1995, undated
		<i>Oversize</i>	
3	1	<i>Sculpting the Environment</i>	undated
3	2	<i>The Enchantment of Art</i> Book Cover	undated
3	3	Gallery Design	undated
3	4	<i>El Mundo Vida</i> Article	2000
4	1	Negatives	undated
4	2	Contact Sheets	undated