

Guide to the John Ashbery Collages

YCAL MSS 1229



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October 2019

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 1229

CREATOR: Ashbery, John, 1927-2017 , artist

TITLE: John Ashbery collages

DATES: 1948-2011

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 5 Items (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Inscriptions in English and French.

SUMMARY: Collages created by John Ashbery, 1948-2011. Collages in the collection include *Seaport*, September 1948; *Fjord*, approximately 1972; *Notre Dame des Neiges*, 1977; *Fountain*, 2010; and *The Leisure Class*, 2011.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.ashberycollages>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.ashberycollages>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of David Kermani, 2019, and purchased from the Tibor de Nagy Gallery on the Alfred A. Baker, Jr. Fund, 2019. See collection guide for information about whether a discrete collage was acquired as a gift or purchase.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The John Ashbery Collages Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

John Ashbery Collages. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

John Ashbery (1927-2017)

John Ashbery (1927-2017) was an American poet, art critic, and collagist. He was born in Rochester, New York, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard College in 1949, and studied briefly at New York University before earning a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University in 1951. Ashbery was the Charles P. Stevenson, Jr., Professor of Languages and Literature at Bard College.

Ashbery authored of more than twenty books of poetry and received major American and international awards for his work as well as many fellowships. He served as Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets from 1988 to 1999 and as the poet laureate of New York State from 2001 to 2003.

Ashbery lived in New York City and Hudson, New York, with his husband, David Kermani. He died of natural causes on September 3, 2017, at his home in Hudson.

Scope and Contents

Collages created by John Ashbery, 1948-2011. Collages in the collection include *Seaport*, September 1948; *Fjord*, approximately 1972; *Notre Dame des Neiges*, 1977; *Fountain*, 2010; and *The Leisure Class*, 2011.

The framed collages in the collection are in mats and frames executed by City Frame, New York City, for an exhibition at the Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York City, September 4-October, 2008.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Collection Contents

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|-----------------|---|----------------|
| b. 1 (Oversize) | <p><i>Seaport</i>
1 collage, 31.8 x 30.1 centimeters in a mat and frame, 52.8 x 43.9 centimeters</p> <p>Collage consists of material clipped from <i>Vogue</i> magazine and nineteenth century engravings. The collage is affixed to the verso of a reproduction of Pablo Picasso, <i>Comédien et enfant</i> (1905).</p> <p>Collage titled and signed on recto by Ashbery as well as dated "ca. 1948."</p> <p>The creation date of September 1948 applied from information in Karin Roffman, <i>The Songs We Know Best: John Ashbery's Early Life</i> (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017).</p> <p>Labels affixed on verso of frame for City Frame and Tibor de Nagy Gallery.</p> <p>Gift of David Kermani, 2019.</p> | 1948 September |
| b. 2 | <p><i>Fjord</i>
1 collage, 9.2 x 14.2 centimeters</p> <p>Collage consists of four halftone female figures affixed to the recto of a photographic postcard published by Carl Mueller & Son, Hamburg, Germany, approximately 1935, with printed titled on verso, "Norge, Parti fra Skjærgaarden" (Norwegian: "Norway, Party from Skjærgaarden").</p> <p>An inkstamp on verso of postcard depicts a landscape scene and the phrase, "Prosit Neujahr" (Norwegian: "Happy New Year").</p> <p>Collage titled, signed, and dated on verso by Ashbery.</p> <p>Purchased from the Tibor de Nagy Gallery on the Alfred A. Baker, Jr. Fund, 2019.</p> | 1977 |
| b. 3 | <p><i>Notre Dame des Neiges</i>
1 collage, 14.8 x 10.7 centimeters affixed to sheet, 17.8 x 12.6 centimeters, in a mat and frame, 36 x 29.5 centimeters</p> <p>Title is French: <i>Our Lady of the Snows</i>.</p> <p>Collage includes a copy photograph of a painted depiction of Saint Mary, Blessed Virgin, composited on a photographic postcard with a view of the Alps at Villard-de-Lans, France, published by André, Grenoble, France, approximately 1960.</p> <p>Correspondence from Maxine Groffsky on verso of postcard with a postmark January 26, 1963, Villard-de-Lans, France, to Ashbery at 16 Rue d' Assas, Paris, France.</p> <p>Collage titled and signed on recto by Ashbery as well as initially dated "ca. 1972" that is struck through and then dated 1977.</p> <p>Labels affixed on verso of frame for City Frame and Tibor de Nagy Gallery.</p> <p>Gift of David Kermani, 2019.</p> | 1977 |
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Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Genres / Formats

Collages (visual works)

Acquired From

Tibor de Nagy Gallery , bookseller