

Guide to the Terry Tempest Williams Photography Collection

WA Photos 1348



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October 2025

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition	4
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Processing Information	4
Related Materials	4
Biographical / Historical	4
Scope and Contents	5
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Series I: Collected photographs, 1899-2020	6
Series II: Portraits, circa 1940-2017	11
Selected Search Terms	13

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: WA Photos 1348

CREATOR: Williams, Terry Tempest, 1955- , collector

TITLE: Terry Tempest Williams Photography Collection

DATES: 1940-2020

BULK DATES: 1975–2008

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 44.67 linear feet (29 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Materials are in English.

SUMMARY: The collection mostly consists of landscape photography collected by Terry Tempest Williams over the course of her career and life, as well as professional portraits of Williams herself. Most of the photographs are directly related to Williams' creative projects or projects she has consulted on. The collection contains a small amount of personal photographs. The collection contains various photographic formats such as digital, inkjet, gelatin, thermal, and a printed book. Thematic elements of collection span environmentalism, animal welfare, nuclear war, spirituality, and the American Southwest. Collection contains letter from Williams reflecting on photographs in collection, see Series I for more information.

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

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.ttwilliamsphotography>.

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
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Ken Lopez Bookseller on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, October 2022.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Boxes 30-31: In-process material, pending conservation treatment/housing. For further information, consult Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscripts Library.

Conditions Governing Use

The Terry Tempest Williams photograph collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscripts 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

Terry Tempest Williams Photography Collection, Yale Collection of Western Americana, 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.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Yale Archival Processing Manual.

Related Materials

Related material: Terry Tempest Williams papers (WA MSS S-2700).

Biographical / Historical

Terry Tempest Williams (born 1955) is an American writer, poet, naturalist, and environmental and social activist. Her writings link environmental causes with social justice and women's health, art, politics, and spirituality. Williams has drawn much of her inspiration from the natural landscapes across the United States, especially the American Southwest. Williams has a long history of environmental activism, including her and her husband, Brooke Williams, buying Bureau of Land Management oil and gas leases in Utah in 2015 as a conservation effort. Williams and her husband, live between Castle Valley, Utah and Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Her most well known literary works include *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place* (1992); *An Unspoken Hunger: Stories from the Field* (1995); *Desert Quartet* (1995); *Leap* (2001); *Red: Patience and Passion in the Desert* (2002); *The Open Space of Democracy* (2010); and most recently *The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks* (2016).

"Biography," Terry Tempest Williams, accessed July 2, 2025. <http://www.terrytempestwilliams.com/bio.html>.

Scope and Contents

The collection mostly consists of landscape photography collected by Terry Tempest Williams over the course of her career and life, as well as professional portraits of Williams herself. Most of the photographs are directly related to Williams' creative projects or projects she has consulted on. The collection contains a small amount of personal photographs. The collection contains various photographic formats such as digital, inkjet, gelatin, thermal, and a printed book. Thematic elements of collection span environmentalism, animal welfare, nuclear war, spirituality, and the American Southwest. Collection contains letter from Williams reflecting on photographs in collection, see Series I for more information.

The first series of the collection contains photographs of survivors of the Rwandan genocide, depicting heavy scarring on survivors' bodies.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Collected photographs, 1899-2020. II. Portraits, circa 1940-2017, with small grouping of personal photographs. Existing folder titles will be maintained where present.

Collection Contents

Series I: Collected photographs, 1899-2020

36.67 linear feet (23 boxes)

This series contains professional photographs collected by or gifted to Terry Tempest Williams over approximately five decades. Some photographs are directly related to projects Williams collaborated on or served as a consultant. Photographs in the series depict natural landscapes across the American Southwest, and include themes of environmental degradation, activism, the Vietnam War, nuclear technology and more. Formats present are inkjet, digital prints, and silver gelatin. First folder in series contains letter from Williams reflecting on photographs in collection.

Contains photographs of survivors of the Rwandan genocide in *The Rwanda Healing Project* (2007) by Chris Noble, depicting heavy scarring on survivors' bodies.

Boxes 30-31: In-process material, pending conservation treatment/housing. For further information, consult Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library.

Materials arranged alphabetically.

Adams, Robert		
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 1	Cottonwood	2006
Barden, Scott		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 1	Half a Face	undated
Bloomfield, Debra		
b. 3, f. 1	<i>Oceanscapes</i> Photographs related to Terry Tempest Williams essay <i>Still</i> .	2003–2007
b. 22, f. 1	<i>Oceanscape Z</i>	2003–2007
Calvo, Robert		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 2	Gathering trees	undated
Clark, Don		
b. 3, f. 2	Nature Writer's Project	2019–2020
Cone, Patrick "Pat"		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 3	Pronghorn	1984
Conner, Linda		
b. 3, f. 3	Arches National Park, Utah	Circa 1975
Doukas, James		

Doukas, James (continued)

b. 4 (Oversize), f. 1-10	<i>By Glaciers</i>	1976
Evans, James Houston		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 4	<i>Rattlesnake</i> Image used in <i>The Hour of Land</i> 2016.	2003
Fodor, Lawrence		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 5	Fajada Butte, Chaco Culture National Historical Park	undated
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 2	Frank, Mary See related essay <i>Kinship</i> in <i>Pilgrimage</i> 2017.	undated
Gowin, Emmet		
b. 5, f. 1-6	<i>Changing the Earth</i> [Draft]	2001
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 3	<i>Mariposas Nocturnas</i> See related writing <i>Winged Resistance</i> (2017) by Terry Tempest Williams.	2017
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 4	Untitled	2016
Hucko, Bruce		
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 5	Datura	undated
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 6	Shirley Rockwell	undated
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 7	<i>Navajo Madonna</i>	1980
b. 6, f. 1	Huey, Aaron	2007
Jordan, Chris		
b. 7 (Oversize), f. 1-5	<i>Midway, Message from the Gyre</i>	2009–2013
Kay, James		
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 1	Mule's Ears and Gilson Butte	2013
Klett, Mark		
b. 9 (Oversize), f. 1	Edward Abbey	1988 November
Lewis, G. Brad		
b. 9 (Oversize), f. 2	Untitled	2019

	Lloyd, Lemmerman	
b. 6, f. 2	<i>Nest</i>	1996–1997
	Mann, Sally	
b. 6, f. 3	Untitled	2001 September 11
	Midgley, J. George	
b. 9 (Oversize), f. 3	The Passing Show [Canada Geese]	
	Monnelly, Dorothy Kerper	
b. 9 (Oversize), f. 4	<i>Melting Ice, Ice Pattern #19, Oxford, MA</i> Part of <i>Waterforms</i> (2016).	undated
	Morath, Inge	
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 2	<i>Majestic Madrid</i> Doña Mercedes Formica de Lloset y Marañon, Female Barrister on Balcony in Madrid, Spain.	circa 1985
	Muray, Nickolas	
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 3	#32 Frida with Granizo Photo of Frida Kahlo with her pet deer Granizo.	circa 1992
	Noble, Chris	
b. 10 (Oversize), f. 1-5	<i>The Rwanda Healing Project</i>	2007
b. 11 (Oversize), f. 1-5	<i>The Rwanda Healing Project</i>	2007
b. 12 (Oversize), f. 1-4	<i>Escalante</i>	2006
	Riddell, Edward A.	
b. 13, f. 1-4	<i>The Range of Memory</i>	2005
b. 14 (Oversize), f. 1	<i>Confessional, Pienza</i> Part of <i>People and Places of Tuscany</i> photograph series.	2007
b. 29 (Oversize), f. 1	Untitled [Clouds over mountain range]	2013
	Rubenstein, Meridel	
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 4	Fat man with Edith [Atomic bomb], from <i>Critical Mass</i>	1993–1997

Rubenstein, Meridel (continued)

b. 31, f. 1	<i>Cousin of Methuselah, Bristlecone Pine</i> Part of the <i>Millenial Forest/Trees at Sea</i> project, 1999-2004, exploring ancient growth forests of the United States of America and Vietnam. Photo was taken near Bishop, CA, with tree purported to 4,700 years old. Printed digitally with vegetable inks on mulberry paper coated with ground mica and gum Arabic. Boxes 30-31: In-process material, pending conservation treatment/housing. For further information, consult Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library.	2000
b. 15 (Oversize), f. 1	Schroeder, Eva	2016
	Seely, Christina	
b. 15 (Oversize), f. 2	Snowy Owl, Barrow, Alaska, Artic Ocean See related essay <i>The Glorious Indifference to Wilderness</i> (2014).	2012
	Sheikh, Fazal	
b. 16, f. 1-2	<i>The Moon is Behind Us: 30 Letters in Response to 30 Moons</i> Book co-written with Terry Tempest Williams reflecting on the Covid-19 pandemic, inspiration for <i>The Moon Behind Us</i> (2021).	2020
	Sherry, David Benjamin	
b. 15 (Oversize), f. 3-5	<i>American Monuments</i> Photographs for co-written book of the same name by Sherry and Williams.	2017-2019
	Smart, Tom	
b. 6, f. 4	Karl Malone, Utah Jazz for <i>Desert News</i>	undated
	Telford, John	
b. 17 (Oversize), f. 1	Coyote Canyon Related to co-written book <i>Coyote's Canyon</i> (1989).	1979
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 5	Defiance Ruin, Lost Canyon	1979-1980
	Till, Tom	
b. 30, f. 1	<i>Ruin in a Cave</i> Boxes 30-31: In-process material, pending conservation treatment/housing. For further information, consult Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library.	undated
	Tempest, Stephen "Steve"	
b. 17 (Oversize), f. 2	Lymphoma [leaving]	undated
	Turner, John "Jack"	

Turner, John "Jack" (continued)

b. 18 (Oversize), f. 1	The Abstract Wild [Moose, Wyoming]	undated
Wansgaard, Chris		
b. 19 (Oversize), f. 1	...But I Just Know There is a Mystical Experience Around Here Somewhere	undated
b. 14 (Oversize), f. 2	Wansgaard, Erica	undated
Williams, Brooke S.		
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 1-6	<i>Unison</i>	1975-1979
b. 19 (Oversize), f. 2	Williams, Cale	undated
Winard, Rosalie		
b. 20 (Oversize), f. 1-4	<i>Avian Primitives</i> See related essay by Williams, <i>Avian Primitives</i> 2008.	1997-1999
b. 20 (Oversize), f. 5	Untitled [Heron]	undated
b. 14 (Oversize), f. 3-4	Unidentified Gifts from conservationist Ian Cumming and Trish Brandt.	1899-2012, undated

Series II: Portraits, circa 1940-2017*8 linear feet (6 boxes)*

This series contains professional photographic portraits of Terry Tempest Williams, she and her spouse Brooke Williams, and portraits of Williams with her family. Most portraits were shot on location in or near (her former home) Salt Lake City, UT; Castle Valley, UT; and Jackson Hole, WY. The series also includes personal photographs of Williams as a child, with her mother (Diane Dixon Tempest), family, friends, and colleagues.

Materials arranged alphabetically.

b. 25 (Oversize), f. 1	Alston, Kwaku Image used for <i>The Hour of Land</i> 2016.	2017
b. 23, f. 1	Busath, Don Images for <i>Refuge</i> (1991), taken near Great Salt Lake, Utah.	1992
b. 24 (Oversize), f. 1	Borowcyk, J.A. "Jay"	undated
	Gesicki, Mary	
b. 23, f. 2	Utah Musuem of Natural History	1985
b. 24 (Oversize), f. 2	Grayston, Don Includes photos of artwork by Clifford Bryclea for <i>Pieces of White Shell</i> and photos of Williams at Utah Museum of Natural History for <i>Salt Lake Tribune</i> .	1983
b. 25 (Oversize), f. 2	Greenfield-Sanders, Timothy Images used for book jacket, <i>Pieces of White Shell</i> (1987).	1983
b. 23, f. 3	Himmelstein, Cheryl Images used for <i>The Illuminated Desert</i> (2008), taken at Arches National Park, Moab, Utah.	1999-2003
	Hucko, Bruce	
b. 23, f. 4	Montezuma Creek, San Juan County, Utah	1979
b. 24 (Oversize), f. 3	Kent, Miles	1985-1987
	Macfarlane, Michelle	
b. 23, f. 5	Emigration Canyon Home	1996
b. 24 (Oversize), f. 4	Untitled	1997
	McNally, Joe	
b. 25 (Oversize), f. 3	Great Salt Lake, <i>LIFE</i>	1991
b. 23, f. 6	Miliken, John	1988-1993

b. 23, f. 7	Newmark, Roz Images for <i>Refuge</i> (1991), taken near Great Salt Lake, Utah.	1983-1991
b. 24 (Oversize), f. 5	Rodriguez, Zoe	2016
	Smart, Tom	
b. 23, f. 8	<i>Desert News</i> Images taken for <i>Refuge</i> (1991).	1991
b. 25 (Oversize), f. 4	Emigration Canyon home	1992
	Watkins, T.H.	
b. 23, f. 9	The Wilderness Society meeting [Adirondacks]	1990
b. 24 (Oversize), f. 6	Williams, Brooke	undated
b. 24 (Oversize), f. 7	Unidentified	1976-1985, undated
	Personal	
b. 28 (Oversize), f. 1	Portrait, Kent Miles	2002
b. 27 (Oversize), f. 1	Portrait, Edward "Ed" Riddell	2006
b. 27 (Oversize), f. 2	Portrait, Arturo Patten	1996
b. 28 (Oversize), f. 2	Tempest, Kathryn Blackitt [Relative]	circa 1940
b. 26, f. 1	Terry Tempest Williams and Brooke Williams [Husband]	1978-1992
b. 26, f. 2	Terry Tempest Williams and family	1974-1992, undated
b. 26, f. 3	Terry Tempest Williams and friends	1974-2015, undated

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.

Geographic Names

Southwest, New
Utah -- Description and travel
Utah -- History
Wyoming -- Pictorial works

Subjects

Animal rights -- Moral and ethical aspects
Environmentalism -- United States
Landscape photography -- West (U.S.) --
Pictorial works
Nuclear warfare
Portrait photography
Spiritualism

Genres / Formats

Landscape photographs

Names

Adams, Robert, 1937-
Mann, Sally, 1951-
Morath, Inge, 1923-2002
Sheikh, Fazal, 1965-
Williams, Terry Tempest, 1955-

Corporate Body

United States. National Park Service