

Katherine Kahrs Photography Collection

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Finding aid prepared by Marianne Carden and Supriya Wronkiewicz

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

July 18, 2019

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Museum of Performance and Design, Performing Arts Library
August 15, 2017
San Francisco, CA

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Summary Information

Repository	Museum of Performance and Design, Performing Arts Library
Creator - Photographer	Kahrs, Katherine
Title	Katherine Kahrs Photography Collection,
Date	circa 1980-1991
Extent	9.42 Linear feet . This collection contains 6 document cases, 1 records carton, and 3 oversized boxes.
Language	English
Language	All Materials are in English.
Abstract	<p>Katherine Kahrs is a teacher, painter, and photographer. During the 1980s, Kahrs served as an official photographer for the Pacific Dance Center and the Palo Alto Dance Center, thus compiling an important visual record of their contributions to dance education. She also photographed performances by such groups as the Margaret Wingrove Dancers, the Sugano School of Ballet, the New Dance Company, Dancers' Repertory Theatre, the Golden Gate Ballet, Footwork, the San Francisco Jazz Dance Company, and the San Francisco Moving Company. Many individuals affiliated with these dance groups are also featured in the collection. The collection includes slides, negatives, photographic prints as well as programs and related promotional materials featuring Kahr's photography.</p>

Preferred Citation

All photographs must be cited "Image courtesy of the Katherine Kahrs Photography Collection, Museum of Performance + Design, San Francisco". For all other materials, please use: [folder title], Katherine Kahrs Photography Collection, Museum of Performance + Design.

Biographical Note

Katherine Kahrs graduated from University of California, Berkeley with an M.A. in Studio Art in 1951. After graduation, she exhibited paintings in group shows in the various local museums and other venues. She then lived in Italy and Holland and traveled through Europe for four years, seeing the great dancing of Sadler Wells, Bejart Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, Netherlands Dance Theatre, and other companies.

After returning to the Bay Area, she taught drawing, composition, and painting from 1962 to 1978. She taught art at various adult education classes, the Pacific Art League, and U.C. Santa Cruz. She was an exhibiting painter as well as a teacher. Occasionally, Kahrs won awards for her works on exhibit.

She studied photography at Foothill College. Shortly after Richard Gibson opened the Pacific Dance Center (now Western Ballet) in Palo Alto in 1976, she took dancing and began photographing dancers in and out of the studio around 1980. In 1982, she began working for Tance Johnson, the director of Dance Action, and continued this affiliation until 1992. She was also a free lance photographer in San Francisco from 1982 until 1992, photographing various small dance companies such as Lines, Golden Gate Ballet, Conzertanz, Cheryl Chaddick, Baroque Music and Dance, Mazynski Dance Company, and others. Her dance photographs were exhibited at Footwork Studios, Keeble and Suchat Gallery in Palo Alto, and Dancer's Stage for Yahuda Moar. She was included in Best Photography of 1987.

From 1982 until 1992, she was the featured dance photographer for Margaret Wingrove Dancers of San Jose. She also photographed New Dance Company in San Jose for Cliff Keuter. She was published in the *San Jose Mercury*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Metro*, and various other publications.

In 1992, she retired from exclusively doing dance photography and now does various freelance photographic assignments, as well as exhibition photography.

Scope and Contents

The Katherine Kahrs Photography Collection consists of negatives, proof sheets, prints, and print-based programs which document the activities and performances of various dancers and dance companies in the San Francisco Bay Area. Katherine Kahrs served as an official photographer for the Pacific Dance Center and the Palo Alto Dance Center during the 1980s and thus compiled an important visual record of their contributions to dance education. She also photographed performances by such groups as the Margaret Wingrove Dancers, the Sugano School of Ballet, the New Dance Co., Dancers' Repertory Theatre, the Golden Gate Ballet, Footwork, the San Francisco Jazz Dance Co., and the San Francisco Moving Co.

Many individuals affiliated with these dance groups are also featured in the collection. These include Richard Gibson, Yehuda Maor, Tina Bernal, Janet Vertis, and Fran Spector. Students such as Molly

Story, Ken Delmar, Sandy Perez, Toby Cohen, and April Breunerman are represented through posed portraits and casual shots taken at rehearsals.

The majority of the collection is composed of negatives and proof sheets which were originally filed in binders. These have been removed for preservation purposes, but their original groupings by ballet company have been retained. Files of 8 x 10 prints have also been preserved in their original arrangement by dance company and ballet or by individual. Other examples of Katherine Kahrs' work can be found in the Dance Action Collection, which documents the career of Tance Johnson and the dance company she founded.

The collection has been organized into the following series: **Individuals**; **Dance Companies**; **Margaret Wingrove Dancers**; **Pacific Dance Center**; **Palo Alto Dance Center**; **Programs and Print-based Materials**; and **Oversize Materials**. The **Individuals** series consists of negatives, proof sheets and prints of individual dancers and choreographers and is arranged alphabetically by name of individual and thereunder by date. The **Dance Companies** series includes negatives, proof sheets, and prints of various dance companies active in the Bay Area and is arranged alphabetically by name of company and thereunder by date. The **Margaret Wingrove Dancers** series consists of negatives, proof sheets, and prints documenting the company and is arranged in chronological order. The **Pacific Dance Center** series contains negatives, proof sheets, and prints documenting the teaching and performance activities of the company and is arranged in chronological order. The **Palo Alto Dance Center** series contains negatives, proof sheets, and prints of dress rehearsals and performances and is arranged chronologically. The **Programs and Print-Based Materials** series contains programs for various performances documented in the collection's photographic files and other non-photographic materials, such as promotional materials and other print based documents and is arranged by format. The **Oversize Materials** series contains mounted photographs and photo albums and is arranged by format and then by company if applicable.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Museum of Performance and Design, Performing Arts Library August 15, 2017

Restrictions

This collection is open to researchers.

Copyright Information

Katherine Kahrs has retained copyright on all of the materials. Ms. Kahrs requests notification of reproduction of an image and all images should be cited appropriated as follows: "Image courtesy of the

Katherine Kahrs Photography Collection, Museum of Performance + Design, San Francisco". Ms. Kahrs does not expect payment for the use of an image, nor does permission need to be granted.

Provenance

This collection was donated to the San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum by Katherine Kahrs on August 22, 1990.

Processing history

Initial accession processed by Marianne Carden on September 7, 1994. Additional processing and arrangement by Kirsten Tanaka and Supriya Wronkiewicz.

Related Materials

Related Materials

Related collections include the **Dance Action Collection** and **Dance Companies Files**.

Series I: Individuals,

Collection Inventory

Series I: Individuals, circa 1980s, undated

Scope and Contents note

Consists of negatives, proof sheets and prints of individual dancers and choreographers. Unless otherwise stated, folders contain negatives and/or proof sheets. Arranged alphabetically by name of individual and thereunder by date.

	Box	Folder
Albert, C. (prints), undated	7	1
Hannah, Alex (prints), 1986 October	7	2
Amarillo, Tina, undated	1	1
Beal, Tandy, undated	1	2
Beal, Tandy (prints), undated	7	3
Bernaseoni, Laurie, 1985 January 21	1	3
	Box	Folders
Bernal, Tina, 1981, 1984, 1986	1	4-7
	Box	Folder

Series I: Individuals,

Bernal, Tina (prints), undated	7	4
Bowman, Cecelia Marie (prints), 1983	7	5
Breunerman, April, 1982 February 29	1	8
Breunerman, April (prints), 1982 April 21	7	6
Caniparoli, Val, 1981	1	9
Carlos, 1989 March 3	1	10
Chaddick, Cheryl, undated	1	11
Cohen, Toby, 1981 December	1	12
Scope and Contents note		
Performance of Richard Gibson's <i>One</i>		
Cohen, Toby - Pacific Dance Center (prints), 1980	7	7
Collins, Mimi (prints), undated	7	8
Delmar, Ken, undated	1	13
Delmar, Ken and Alex (prints), undated	7	67

Series I: Individuals,

Friedman, Leslie, 1983 February 17	1	14
Gibson, Richard, 1985 March	1	16
	Box	Folders
Gibson, Richard (prints), 1978-1981, undated	7	9-10
	Box	Folder
Gibson, Richard and Sassoon, Janet, 1988 August 25	1	15
Gibson, Richard and Sassoon, Janet (prints), 1988	7	11
Hilton, Wendy, 1985 June 19	1	17
Hilton, Wendy (prints), 1985 June 19	7	12
Ibarra, Cathy, 1985 July 2	1	18
Jenaea, Duncan, 1982 April 8	1	19
Johnson, Doug, 1982 May 28	1	20
Johnson, Doug and Story, Molly, undated	1	21
Johnson, Tance (prints), undated	7	13
Keuter, Cliff, undated	1	22

Series I: Individuals,

King, Alonzo (prints), undated	7	14
Larkam, Elizabeth, 1981 April 11	1	23
Lucas, undated	1	24
Lyn, Janaea Rose (prints), 1982 April	7	15
McCarthy, Cathleen (Winter Dances), undated	1	25
McCarthy, Cathleen (prints), 1985 February	7	68
Murphy, Megan, 1981 October	1	26
Murphy, Megan (prints), 1981 October	7	16
Palenga, Christine, undated	1	27
Perez, Sandy, 1983 March 13	1	28
Perez, Sandy (prints), undated	7	17
Santos, Tina (prints), 1982	7	18
Schommer, Leslie, 1981 February	1	29
Selberman, Caroly 1984 November	1	30

Series I: Individuals,

Spector, Fran, 1983 August 6	1	31
Spector, Fran (prints), undated	7	19
	Box	Folders
Story, Molly, 1982 February, 1982 April	1	32-33
		Box
Story, Molly (prints), 1981-1982		7
	Box	Folder
Story, Molly (slides), 1982 May, June, July	1	34
	Box	Folders
Vertis, Janet, 1982 March 20, 1982 May 15, undated	1	35-37
	Box	Folder
Vertis, Janet (prints), 1985	7	21
Washington, Andre and Apple, Eve, 1986 March 29	1	38

Scope and Contents note

The second dancer's name is unconfirmed.

Washington, Andre and Apple, Eve (prints), undated	7	23
Scope and Contents note		

Series II: Dance Companies

The second dancer's name is unconfirmed.		
Watson, Gwendolyn, 1984	1	39
Watson, Gwendolyn (prints), 1983-1984	7	22
Wolner, Kirsten, 1985 January 21	1	40
Wynn, Bobbie, undated	1	41
Wynn, Bobbie (prints), undated	7	24
Zaraspe, Hector, 1985 August 29	1	42
Unknown, undated	1	43

Series II: Dance Companies circa 1980s, undated**Scope and Contents note**

Includes negatives, proof sheets, and prints of various dance companies active in the Bay Area. Unless otherwise stated, folders contain negatives and/or proof sheets. Arranged alphabetically by name of company and thereunder by date.

	Box	Folder
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dancers, 1986 July 2	2	1
	Box	Folders

Series II: Dance Companies

Alice at the Palace - Dancers' Repertory Theatre, 1983 May-June	2	2-3
	Box	Folder
Alice at the Palace - Dancers' Repertory Theatre (prints), 1983 May	7	25
Baroque Music and Dance, 1985 June 29	2	4
Baroque Dancers (prints), undated	7	26
Berkeley Ballet, 1986 October 25, 1987 January 15	2	5
Berkeley Ballet (prints), undated	7	27
Bhutan, undated	2	6
Chaksam-Pa Tibetan Dance and Opera Company, 1991	2	7
Chaksam-Pa Tibetan Dance and Opera Company (prints), undated	7	28
Chamberdance undated	2	8
Dance Action (prints), undated	7	29
Dancers' Repertory Theatre - 'Twas the Night Before Christmas 1982 December	2	9
Dancers' Stage, 1983 February 13-14	2	10

Series II: Dance Companies

Dragon, 1986 June 13	2	11
Duncan Performance Ensemble, 1982 June	2	12
Earth Day, 1990 April 21	2	13
Earth Day (prints), 1990 April	7	30
	Box	Folders
Eastern Dancer, undated	2	14-15
	Box	Folder
Eastern Dancer (prints), undated	7	31
Eiko and Koma, undated	2	16
Eiko and Koma (prints), circa 1984, undated	7	32
Electra Theatre Company, undated	2	17
Electra Theatre Company (prints),	7	33
Eskimo Dancers, 1982 August	2	18
Eskimo Dancers (prints), 1983	7	34
Footwork, 1986 October 10	2	19

Series II: Dance Companies

Gemelen Sakar Jaya, undated	2	20
Gemelen Sakar Jaya (prints), undated	7	35
Golden Gate Ballet Center, undated	2	21
Golden Gate Ballet Center (prints), undated	7	36
Harupin-Ha Butoh Dance Theatre, 1990 March	2	22
Harupin-Ha Butoh Dance Theatre (prints), undated	7	37
Images, 1983	3	1
India Festival, undated	3	2
James Kimo Baird's Spirit of Polynesia, 1986 June 13	3	3
Konzertanz, 1989 March 3	3	4
Konzertanz (prints), 1989	7	38
Lines Dance Company, undated	3	5
Lines Dance Company (prints), undated	7	39
McFarland Ballet Theatre, undated	3	6

Series II: Dance Companies

McFarland Ballet Theatre (prints), undated	7	40
McFarland Ballet Theatre (slides), undated	3	7
Mezynski Dance Company, undated	3	8
Mezynski Dance Company (prints), undated	7	41
Moving and Storage Performance Company, undated	3	9
New Dance Company, 1983-1986, undated	2	23-30
	Box	Folders
New Dance Company (prints), 1986	7	42-43
	Box	Folder
Oakland Ballet, undated	3	10
Oakland Ballet (prints), undated	7	44
Palo Alto Ballet (prints), 1985 December	7	66
Palo Alto Ballet (prints), undated	7	64
Peninsula Ballet, undated	3	11
San Francisco Jazz Dance Company, 1981 November 14	3	12

Series III: Margaret Wingrove Dancers

San Francisco Moving Company, 1982 October 30	3	13
Sugano School of Ballet, 1982 June 6	3	14
Sugano School of Ballet (prints), 1982	7	45
Summerflight, undated	3	15
West Valley, undated	3	16
Unidentified photographic prints, undated	7	46

Series III: Margaret Wingrove Dancers 1983, 1985-1992**Scope and Contents note**

Consists of negatives, proof sheets, and prints documenting the Margaret Wingrove Dancers. Unless otherwise stated, folders contain negatives and/or proof sheets. Arranged in chronological order.

	Box	Folder
1983-1984	6	17
Prints, 1983, 1985	4	9
1985	6	18
<i>Dance Magazine</i> article, 1985 September	7	53

Series III: Margaret Wingrove Dancers

Headshots (prints), 1985	7	50
Programs, 1985-1986	7	54
Programs, 1985-1987	7	55
Slides, 1985-1986	4	7
1985 December - 1986 May	6	19
Headshots (prints), 1986	7	51
Prints, 1986	4	10
1986 June-September	6	20
1986 October - 1987 January	6	21
Headshots (prints), 1987	7	52
1987 May	4	1
1987 June-December	4	2
Prints, 1987-1988	4	11
Programs, 1987-1988	7	56

Series IV: Pacific Dance Center

1988	4	3
Slides, 1988-1989	4	8
1989 January-October	4	4
Prints, 1989-1990	4	12
Programs, 1990-1991	7	57
1990 February-November	4	5
1991 February-June	4	6
	Box	Folders
Unidentified dancers and individuals, circa 1985-1987, undated	6	22-23
Unidentified dancers and individuals (prints), circa 1985-1987, undated	7	47-49

Series IV: Pacific Dance Center**Scope and Contents note**

Consists of negatives, proof sheets, and prints documenting the teaching and performance activities of the Pacific Dance Center. Unless otherwise stated, folders contain negatives and proofs. Arranged in chronological order.

Box**Folder**

Series IV: Pacific Dance Center

Roboz, Agnes (?) (prints) 1980	7	58
Solarized Dancers, 1980	7	59
	Box	Folders
Classes, 1981	5	12-13
	Box	Folder
Gibson, Richard - class, 1981	5	14
Summer recital, 1981	6	7
1981 February	5	15
Rehearsals (prints), 1981	7	60
	Box	Folders
Spring performance, 1981	7	61-62
	Box	Folder
Maor, Yehuda - class, 1981 April	5	16
Gibson, Richard - class, 1981 April 5	5	17
Reception, 1981 April 30	6	6
Keuter, Cliff - class, 1981 April 10	5	18

Series IV: Pacific Dance Center

Auditions, 1981 October	5	19
Maor, Yehuda - class, 1981 November 2	5	20
Maor, Yehuda - Ballet V class, 1981 November 2	5	21
Maor, Yehuda - Ballet II-III class, 1981 November 2	5	22
Maor, Yehuda - Modern class, 1981 November 4	5	23
Gibson, Richard and Maor, Yehuda - class, 1981 November	5	24
Gibson, Richard - <i>Variations on a Rococco Theme</i> , 1981 December	6	12
Maor, Yehuda - <i>Ballade</i> duo 1981 December	6	8
Maor, Yehuda - <i>Nightingales</i> 1981 December	6	11
Santos, Tina - pointe class, 1981 December	5	25
Maor, Yehuda - <i>Vienna Ball</i> rehearsal, 1982 January 30	6	3
Murphy, Megan and Franchi, Joncarlo in <i>Ballade</i> , 1982 February	6	9
Dress rehearsal for <i>Nightingales</i> , 1982 February 2	6	1
Dress rehearsal for <i>Variations on Handel</i> , 1982 February 2	6	2

Series IV: Pacific Dance Center

	Box	Folders
Rehearsal, 1982 February 7	6	4-5
	Box	Folder
Dress rehearsal for <i>Hills of Spring</i> , 1982 February 12	5	32
Dress rehearsal for <i>Ballade</i> , 1982 February 12	5	31
Prints 1982 February 12-14	7	65
<i>Hills of Spring</i> performance, 1982 February 14	6	10
Gibson, Richard - class, 1982 April 3	5	26
Santos, Tina - class, 1982 April 3	5	27
Wright, Rebecca - class, 1982 April 22	5	28
Trio, 1982 June	6	16
Elliot, Christine class, 1982 August	5	29
Maor, Yehuda - studio, 1982 September 24	5	30
Maor, Yehuda - Ballet IV class, undated	7	63
Maor, Yehuda - <i>Vienna Ball</i> , undated	6	13

Series V: Palo Alto Dance Center,

Unknown dancers, undated	6	15
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Series V: Palo Alto Dance Center, 1983-1986**Scope and Contents note**

Contains negatives, proof sheets, and prints of dress rehearsals and performances given by the Palo Alto Dance Center. Unless otherwise stated, folders contain negatives and proofs. Arranged chronologically.

	Box	Folder
Palo Alto Dance Theatre Benefit, 1983 April 8	5	1
1983 June 30	5	2
1983 June 23	5	3
1983 June 26	5	4
Dress Rehearsal, 1984 July 15	5	4
1985 November 2	5	6
1985 December 5	5	7
1986 June 8	5	8
1986 July 18	5	9

Series VI: Programs and Print-based Materials

1986 October 17	5	10
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1986 October 24	5	11
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Series VI: Programs and Print-based Materials undated, 1980-1987**Scope and Contents note**

Contains programs for various performances documented in the collection's photographic files and other non-photographic materials, such as promotional materials and other print based documents. Arranged by format.

	Box	Folder
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Reproductions of Kahrs' work in articles and other printed materials undated	3	17
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Correspondence and related documents, 1987, undated	3	18
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Programs, 1980-1986	3	19
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	Box	Folders
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Promotional materials and flyers, undated	3	20-21
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Series VII: Oversize materials circa 1980-1990**Scope and Contents note**

Contains mounted photographs and photo albums. Arranged by format and then by company if applicable.

Series VII: Oversize materials

	Box
Photo Album, circa 1982	8
Scope and Contents note	
Includes images from the following companies: Pacific Dance Center; Duncan Performance Ensemble; and Golden Gate Ballet Center. Also included at the end are color photographs of dancer Molly Story.	
Scrapbook - various companies circa 1980s	9
Scrapbook - Margaret Wingrove Dance Company circa 1985-1988	9
Scrapbook - Margaret Wingrove Dance Company circa 1987-1990	9
Photo album - Pacific Dance Company, undated	9
	Boxes
Matted photographs of various individuals and companies, undated	10-11