

Collection title: Gay Block Collection

Collection ID: BLOC

Size: 2 linear feet

Date: 2001-2011

Abstract:

Gay Block (b. 1942) is a celebrated photographer whose portrait photography is recognized all over the world. The collection includes DVDs of her published works, and an unpublished draft edition as well as a signed published edition of her photography book, *Bertha Alyce: Mother exposed*.

Provenance:

Materials were collected from Gay Block's achievements and activities as an internationally known photographer.

Accession information:

Vaughan Rachel donated the collection to the Mazer in 2010.

Restrictions:

There are no restrictions on the collection. The collection is open for research.

Copyright:

Property rights to the physical objects belong to the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives. All other rights, including copyright, are retained by the creators and their heirs. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine who holds the copyright and pursue the copyright owner or heir for permission to publish where the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives do not hold the copyright.

Biographical sketch:

Gay Block was born in 1942 in Houston, Texas. Gay Block has been a celebrated photographer for decades. Her work has been published, collected, and featured by fine arts institutions across the US and the world including MoMA New York, San Francisco MoMA, and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Gay Block started her career as a portrait photographer in 1973 when she began capturing portraits of members of her own affluent Jewish community in Houston and later expanded her study to include South Miami Beach, interviewing and photographing South Miami Beach's elders from 1982-1985. In 1981, Gay Block began capturing the summer campers of Camp Pinecliffe in Main. In 2006, Gay Block re-photographed and interviewed these subjects in a video series titled "Camp Girls." Gay Block's landmark collaboration with writer Malka Drucker,

RESCUERS: Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust, both a book and a traveling exhibit, has been shown at over fifty venues in the US and abroad, including the Museum of Modern Art, NY, in 1992. In 2003 Gay Block's portrait of her mother in photographs, video, and words, *Bertha Alyce: Mother Exposed*, was published by UNM Press and traveled as an exhibit. Radius Books published *About Love: Gay Block Photographs, 1975-2010*, a career survey of portraits, in 2011.¹ Gay Block lives and works in Santa Fe, New Mexico.²

Scope and content:

The collection includes DVDs of Gay Block's published works *Bertha Alyce: a video by Gay Block* (2001); *About Love: Photographs 1975-2009*; and *Camp Girls: a film by Gay Block* (2009), as well as an unpublished draft edition and a signed published edition of her photography book *Bertha Alyce: Mother exposed*.

Processing notes:

This collection was processed by Vera Tykulsker in August, 2023 under a California State Grant.

Items are loose in the box unless a folder is noted. A VHS copy of *Bertha Alyce: A video by Gay Block*, originally donated with the collection, has been moved to the Mazer VHS collection.

Arrangement:

Series I: Artworks

Box level contents list:

===

Box 1

Series I: Artworks

Scope and content: Draft and final copy [signed] of "Bertha Alyce: Mother exPosed" photography book (2003); "Bertha Alyce: a video by Gay Block" DVD (2001); About Love: Photographs 1975-2009 DVD; Camp Girls: a film by Gay Block DVD (2009).

===

Box 1, Folder 1

DVDs - Camp Girls; About Love

¹ "Bio," Gay Block, accessed August 25, 2023, <https://www.gayblock.com/bio>.

² "Gay Block "Love: South Beach in the 80's," NY Art Beat, accessed August 29, 2023, <http://www.nyartbeat.com/event/2013/BABA>.