

Ben Freedman, Artist and Professor, Papers and Artwork, 1960s-1990s A&M 5196

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1960s-1990s



Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 5196

Unit ID

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Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/3927

Unit Date

1960s-1990s

Language

English

Creator

Freedman, Ben, 1930-2014

Extent

8.75 Linear Feet Summary: 8 ft. 9 in. (6 record cartons, 15 in. each); (1 document case, 5 in.); (1 document case, 4 in.); (2 flat storage boxes, 3 in. each)

Physical Location

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Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

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Biographical Noted

Ben Frank Freedman (1930-2014) was a professor of art at West Virginia University. He was also the last of the famous "Freedman Triplets," born on May 24, 1930, at Touro Infirmity in New Orleans, Louisiana. Freedman and his two sisters were the toast of New Orleans, oftentimes making public appearances and having frequent reports featured in the Times-Picayune as they grew up.

He attended Washington University in St. Louis, MO, where he met his future wife, Florence Joelson. They were married in June of 1953.

After receiving his undergraduate degree, Freedman won a Fulbright Fellowship to study in Germany for one year and later completed his military service in the U.S. Army. He continued his graduate work in painting at the University of Arizona in Tucson before moving to Morgantown, where the couple lived for the remainder of their lives. Freedman was a professor in the Art Department at West Virginia University until his retirement in 1999.

Outside of academia, Freedman enjoyed enormous success as a painter. His works were exhibited in both the United States and Europe and many collectors sought out his pieces both here and abroad.

Throughout their lives, the couple spent their summers in Europe, mostly on the coast of Normandy. The two were also avid collectors of African art and American antiques. During their retirement, they developed a spectacular garden that was featured on the Morgantown community garden tour in 2005. Their home has been referred to as "Natchez on the Monongahela."

Freedman passed away at his home in Morgantown on December 26, 2014.

*adapted from Freedman's obituary in the Crescent City Jewish News;

<https://www.crescentcityjewishnews.com/artist-professor-ben-freedman-84-dies-last-of-freedman-triplets/>

Scope and Contents

Files and artwork of artist and West Virginia University art professor Ben Freedman. Includes correspondence, curriculum files, class teaching notes, exhibition catalogs, artworks, and other material. He retired from WVU in 1989. This collection is minimally processed.

Description of Subordinate Components

Professional information (restricted)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156692

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Class teaching notes, curriculum files

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156693

Unit Date 1970s-1980s

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Exhibit catalogs, including exhibits of work by Freedman

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156694

Unit Date 1970s-1980s

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Correspondence, exhibit material, etc.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156695

Unit Date 1970s-1980s

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Class records, correspondence, greeting cards, exhibit material, etc.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156696

Unit Date 1970s-1990s

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Curriculum files, correspondence, etc.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156710

Unit Date 1970s-1990s

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Curriculum files, correspondence, publications regarding drawing, etc.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156711

Unit Date 1970s-1990s

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Art work in binder entitled "No Commercial Value" (2 copies)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156712

Unit Date 1972

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Oversize -- artworks (includes framed "Forks of Cheat Baptist Church" by Freedman)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156713

Mixed Materials 9 (Box)

Oversize -- artworks (includes art works by others)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156714

Mixed Materials 10 (Box)

Booklet -- "With Gratitude to Eva Hubbard: Women Artists at West Virginia University"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156715

Unit Date 1991

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Serial, "Plucked Chicken" (art, poetry, etc.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156716

Unit Date ca. 1977-1980

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Correspondence, drawings, prints

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156744

Unit Date undated, 1970s

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Booklet -- Ben Freedman (includes biographical information, etc.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156745

Unit Date 1979

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

"Desk file" (includes correspondence, clippings, etc.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156746

Unit Date 1989

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Curriculum vitae, correspondence, artwork, syllabi

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156747

Unit Date ca. 1970-1989

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Six art-related books including "The Boy Who Drew Cats" by Lafcadio Hearn and "The Machine" published by the Museum of Modern Art

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156748

Unit Date ca. 1960-1990

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

VHS tape -- Martin Garhart (visiting artist)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156749

Unit Date 1996

Mixed Materials 14 (Box)

VHS tape -- "retirement day" (May 1989)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156750

Unit Date 1989

Mixed Materials 14 (Box)

Exhibit catalogs

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156751

Unit Date ca. 1970-2000

Mixed Materials 14 (Box)

Curriculum vitae

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156752

Unit Date 1995

Mixed Materials 14 (Box)

Drawings

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156753

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 14 (Box)

"Summer in France folders" (contains artworks)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156754

Unit Date ca. 1960-1979

Mixed Materials 15 (Box)

Mixed Materials 16 (Box)

Mixed Materials 17 (Box)

Mixed Materials 18 (Box)

Mixed Materials 19 (Box)

Mixed Materials 20 (Box)

Oversize -- artworks

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156755

Unit Date ca. 1970-1989

Mixed Materials 21 (Box)

Mixed Materials 22 (Box)

Mixed Materials 23 (Box)

Painting by Freedman entitled "Chinese Peonys", 30 in. x 40 in.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156756

Unit Date 1962

Mixed Materials unboxed (Box)

Painting by William Stanley entitled "Attitude II", exhibited at Three Rivers Arts Festival

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156757

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials unboxed (Box)

Print by unknown artist entitled "Highland Queen", 10 of 50

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156758

Unit Date 1979

Mixed Materials unboxed (Box)

Exhibit poster, Stifel Fine Arts Center, Wheeling, WV

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156759

Unit Date 1981

Mixed Materials unboxed (Box)

Plaque -- distinguished professor of art award

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/156760

Unit Date 1987

Mixed Materials unboxed (Box)