



The Mimi Aloia Collection

Collection Number SIM.34

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Contact: CSI Archives & Special Collections Department, Building 1L (Library) Room 216 archives@csi.cuny.edu | (718) 982-4128

Table of Contents

Summary Information **p3**

Biographical / Historical Note (Chronology) **pp 3,4**

Biographical / Historical Note (Abstract) **pp 4,5,6**

Administrative Information **p6**

Controlled Access Headings **p7**

Collection Inventory **p7**

Series 01: personal journals, restricted access until November 16, 2092 **pp 7,8**

Series 02: personal journals, open access **pp 9,10**

Series 03: mixed materials: publications, newsletters, news-clippings, essays (unpublished), artwork on paper including juvenalia, photographic prints of artwork, photographic prints of Mimi Aloia, gallery exhibition printed matter, and ephemera **p11**

Summary Information

Repository: CSI Archives & Special Collections repository

Creator: Aloia, Mimi, Diane

Source - donor: Aloia, Mimi, Diane

Title: The Mimi Aloia Collection

ID: SIM.34

Date [inclusive]: 1968-2018

Physical

Description: 5.0 Linear Feet

Language of the

Material: English

Biographical / Historical Note (Chronology):

May 9, 1934 Born, Bensonhurst Memorial Hospital, Brooklyn, New York

1940-1957 Resided at 8301 Twentieth Avenue, Brooklyn. Attended PS 128 (Bensonhurst) for primary and junior high school

1944-1952 During summer camp in the Adirondack Mountains at Rudd Pond, (Millerton, NY) discovers rural life

1952 Participates in high school work/study program, attending classes one week and working the next week (at a salary of \$28 per week for New York Life Insurance Company as a file clerk)

January, 1952 Graduates Lafayette High School

1953-1958 Secretary to Vice President of Ross and Rowe, Inc.

1954 Night Classes in Drawing, Art Students League

1955 Night Classes in Painting, Brooklyn College

1954; 1956 Cross-country automobile trip with parents and childhood friend (Connie) to Orme Ranch (Mayer, AZ). Discovers Native American art, jewelry, and culture

October 27, 1957 Marries Thomas Aloia, New Utrecht Dutch Reformed Church, Bensonhurst and honeymoons at Montego Beach Club, Montego Bay. Live in Baldwin, NY. Thomas Aloia is son of Joe Aloia, founder of Aloia Agency, Insurance (Fifth Avenue, Sunset Park, Brooklyn)

August 2, 1958 Birth of first son, Thomas Aloia, 2nd

December 1, 1960 Birth of second son, Dean Stedman Aloia

1961 Move to 10th Street Bay Ridge, Brooklyn to be closer to Tom's job at Aloia Agency

1960s Night Classes in Oil Painting, Jewish Community House and active in Manhattan branch of National League of American Pen Women

Develops flower pressing business using flowers from backyard garden and selling to individuals and Sungott Art Studios, New York

Works part-time at Aloia Agency

Children attend Lutheran Elementary School in Bay Ridge 1972 Move to 19 Hillcrest Court, Staten Island and participate in local community through Cameron Club on Brady's Pond

1973 Attend Staten Island Community College (awarded credit for life experience based on autobiography included in collection)

1976 Studio at Norwood Avenue Art Lab

1976 Family becomes member of Richmond County Country Club

1977-1982 Studio on Railroad Avenue, Staten Island

1978 Graduate Richmond College, BS, cum laude with classes in studio art (drawing, painting, and sculpture)

1980 Receives Board of Education Competency Certificate to instruct classes in Pressed Flower Art and Oil Painting in Susan Wagner High School Continuing Education Program. Teaches classes there for fifteen years

1981-1982 Attends New York University Masters Studio Art program

1983 Participates in NYU Venice Summer Art Program

1984 Designs interior and exterior of new offices of Aloia McKinnon Insurance in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn

1985 Works full-time at Aloia McKinnon Insurance in various roles, including billing, personnel coordinator, and receptionist.

1987 Begins rebuilding residence at 19 Hillcrest Court from the ground up (makes temporary residence in a condominium) 1989 Moves back into the completed house at 19 Hillcrest Court after successfully resolving problems with general contractor, resulting legal case, and directly sub-contracting the construction work.

1990 Joins Staten Island Poetry Society

1991 Creates first shield, influenced by Native American art and culture.

1991 Retires with husband from Aloia McKinnon Insurance and begins wintering in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

1993 Attends New York Institute of Writing summer session at Skidmore College and takes a poetry workshop with Robert Pinsky.

1994 Joins Poets of the Palm Beaches

1994 Receives a grant from New York State Endowment for the Arts to self-publish first book of poems, *Diary Patch Works*

1994 Attends International Women's Writers Guild at Skidmore College

1995 Retires from teaching continuing education classes at Susan Wagner High School

1995 Begins teaching classes in painting and creative writing at United Federation of Teachers

1996 Spends time in Santé Fe, NM exploring Native American culture and taking a course in black ware pottery at San Ildefonso Pueblo with granddaughters of potter Maria Martinez

1996 Completes quilting bee project, working with group of women who create fabric art depicting *Diary Patch Works* illustrations for a large quilt

1997 Mother, Mary Caruso Simonetti, dies

1998 Trip to Santa Fe, NM

2001 Trip to Ghost Ranch (Abiquiu, NM) to hike the high desert

2002 Self publish illustrated book of poems and short stories, entitled *Mi Dilly Dilly and Mi*

2003 Husband, Tom Aloia dies

2009 Retire from United Federation of Teachers

2009 Father, Frank Simonetti dies

2010 Meets Frank Raso who becomes close companion

2013 Self publishes illustrated book of poems and prose titled, *My Father's Fish*

2014 Begins writing novella, The Odalisque

2015 Travels in Sicily with Frank Raso

2015 Completes rough draft of The Odalisque

2015 Collaborates with Lou Barella on film, Shapes, Sounds, Shades and Shadows of Sicily

2016 Staten Island Community Television broadcasts Shapes, Sounds, Shades and interview with Aloia

Biographical / Historical Note (Abstract):

Mimi Diane Aloia (B: May 9, 1934) A graduate of Richmond College (B.S., cum laude, 1978), with a focus on studio art, Aloia studied in the NYU Masters studio art program in the 1980s and has been active in community arts organizations for decades in New York and Palm Beach, FL.

She instructed continuing education classes at Wagner H.S. in pressed flower art and oil painting for 15 years. In 1995, she began teaching classes in painting and creative writing for the United Federation of Teachers, retiring in 2009. Over her artistic life, Aloia has frequently exhibited at public galleries.

In 1994, Aloia received a grant to publish an illustrated poetry book, Diary Patch Works, inspired by journals of a 19th century Staten Island farm woman. Aloia has published additional poems and prose, which included her cover art and drawings, including Mi Dilly Dilly and Mi (2002) and My Father's Fish (2013), and is currently working on a novella, The Odalisque.

Administrative Information

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Controlled Access Headings

- Personal Journals, Mimi Aloia
- Staten Island, New York, NY
- Aloia, Mimi, Diane

Collection Inventory

Series 01: personal journals, restricted access until November 16, 2092, (1968-2013)

Physical Description: 2.833 Linear Feet

Conditions Governing Access: donor / CSI-CUNY imposed access restriction per terms: access to this series is restricted until November 16, 2092.

Arrangement

Author / artist Mimi Aloia provided an annotated guide to the content of each of the restricted access journals. This guide is located in the first restricted access container, Series 01, Box 01.

Scope and Contents

This series entails author and artist Mimi Aloia' personal journals, in approximate chronological order each richly detailing her emotions, thoughts, and experiences, principally pertaining to household and extended family life, interpersonal relationships with friends and family, chronicles of artistic creativity, artistic career aspirations, travel experiences as well as social and cultural observations and concerns. Access to this series is restricted until November 16, 2092.

Description

Series 01 \ Box 01, Mimi Aloia, restricted personal journals , (1968-1996)

Conditions Governing Access: access restricted per terms

Physical Description: 1.0 Linear Feet.

Container extent is thirteen journals, in Aloia's hand, with considerable date overlap, and gaps in continuity suggesting that periodically more than one journal was in use contemporaneously. . The journal entries are recorded in a variety of commercially bound blank books, with main text and marginalia in the author's hand, pen on paper, ranging in size from approximately 3"x5" to 8"x12"

Arrangement

Series 01 \ Box 01, 13 books:

01. December 1968 – October 1984, w/ 1985 entry at back of the book.
 02. July 1978 – July 1981
 03. 1980
 04. July 1978 – May 1981
 05. October 1984 – March 1985
 06. December 1985 – September 1986
 07. September 1991 – November 1991
 08. August 1992 – September 1992
 09. November 1992 – May 1993
 10. June 1993 – April 1994
 11. August 1994 – January 1995
 12. June 1995 – July 1995
 13. August 1995 – June 1996
-

Series 01 \ Box 02, Mimi Aloia, restricted personal journals, (1996-2013)

Conditions Governing Access: [access restricted per terms](#)

Physical Description: 1.0 Linear Feet.

Container extent is seventeen journals, in Aloia's hand, with considerable date overlap, and gaps in continuity suggesting that periodically more than one journal was in use contemporaneously. The journal entries are recorded in a variety of commercially bound blank books, with main text and marginalia in the author's hand, pen on paper. ranging in size from approximately 3"x5" to 8"x12"

Arrangement

Series 01\ Box 02, 17 books:

01. May 1996 – September 1996
02. January 1999 – October 1999
03. October 1999 – January 2000
04. January 2000 – May 2000
05. May 2000 – July 2000
06. July 2000– November 2000
07. November 2000 – January 2001
08. January 2001– August 2001
09. March 2002 – October 2002
10. January 2003 – August 2003
11. July 2003 – December 2003
12. December 2003 – April 2004
13. July 2004 – April 2005
14. September 2005 – August 2007
15. September 2007 – October 2010
16. February 2009 – May 2014
17. May 2011 – January 2013

Series 02: personal journals, open access, (1983-2005)

Arrangement

Author / artist Mimi Aloia provided an annotated guide to the content of each of the restricted access journals. This guide is located in the first open access container, Series 02, Box 01.

Scope and Contents

This series entails author and artist Mimi Aloia's personal journals, in approximate chronological order each richly detailing her emotions, thoughts, and experiences, principally pertaining to household and extended family life, interpersonal relationships with friends and family, chronicles of artistic creativity, artistic career aspirations, travel experiences as well as social and cultural observations and concerns. This series is open access for all researchers.

Description

Series 02 \ Box 01, Mimi Aloia, personal journals, open access, (1983-1993)

Physical Description: 1.0 Linear Feet Container extent is eighteen journals, in Aloia's hand, with considerable date overlap, and gaps in continuity suggesting that periodically more than one journal was in use contemporaneously. The journal entries are recorded in a variety of commercially bound blank books, with main text and marginalia in the author's hand, pen on paper ranging in size from approximately 3"x5" to 8"x12"

Arrangement

Series 02 \ Box 01, open access journals:

01. June 1983 - August 1983
02. August 1983 - September 1983
03. June 1983 - February 1990 – (as well as December 1983 and December 1950)
04. October 1980 - November 1985
05. September 1985 - January 1986
06. 1985 - 1991
07. August 1991 - September 1991
08. 1988 -1992 (drawings) 1993-1995 (journal entries)
09. September 1992 - December 1992
10. May 1988 - September 1990
11. October 1988 - November 1988
12. July 1990 - July 1991
13. July 1991 - August 1991
14. October 1991 - Feb 1992
15. Feb 1992 - July 1992
16. July 1992 - August 1992
17. November 1992 - December 1992
18. December 1992 - January 1993

Series 02 \ Box 02, Mimi Aloia, personal journals, open access, 1993-1998

Physical Description: 0.4166 Linear Feet Container extent is five journals, in Aloia's hand, with considerable date overlap, and gaps in continuity suggesting that periodically more than one journal was in use contemporaneously. The journal entries are recorded in a variety of commercially bound blank books, with main text and marginalia in the author's hand, pen on paper ranging in size from approximately 3"x5" to 8"x12"

Arrangement

Series 02 \ Box 02, open access journals:

01. February 1993 - June 1995
02. December 1993 - September 1995
03. May 1994 - July 1994
04. September 1996 - October 1997
05. October 1997 - June 1998

Series 02 \ Box 03, Mimi Aloia, personal Journals, open access, (1998-2005)

Physical Description: 0.4166 Linear Feet Container extent is six journals, in Aloia's hand, with considerable date overlap, and gaps in continuity suggesting that periodically more than one journal was in use contemporaneously. The journal entries are recorded in a variety of commercially bound blank books, with main text and marginalia in the author's hand, pen on paper ranging in size from approximately 3"x5" to 8"x12"

Arrangement

Series 02 \ Box 03, open access journals:

01. June 1998 - July 1998
02. August 1998 - October 1998
03. November 1998
04. September 2001 - January 2002
05. April 2004 - June 2004
06. April 2005 - August 2005

Series 03: mixed materials: publications, newsletters, news-clippings, essays (unpublished), artwork on paper including juvenalia, photographic prints of artwork, photographic prints of Mimi Aloia, gallery exhibition printed matter, and ephemera., 1923-2013

Title/Description

Series 03, Box 01, Mimi Aloia, creative content including artworks, prose, and poetry, mixed materials, photographic prints of artwork, photographic prints (snapshots) of Mimi, 1923-2013

Physical Description: 0.4166 Linear Feet Container entails published works including *Diary Patch Works*, Aloia, Hillcrest Editions, SI, NY, 1994, *Mi Dilly Dilly and Mi*, Aloia, Hillcrest Editions, SI, NY, 2002, and *My Father's Fish*, Aloia, Hillcrest Editions, SI, NY, 2002, as well as newsletters, news-clippings, essays (unpublished), artwork on paper including juvenalia, photographic prints of artwork, photographic prints (snapshots) of Mimi, gallery exhibition printed matter and ephemera. mixed materials

Digital Object: [Selected photographs, Mimi Aloia, 1976 through 2011](#)

Series 03, Box 02, Mimi Aloia, gallery exhibit announcements, 1977-2018-10-06

Physical Description: 0.333 Linear Feet artist's compilation of ten gallery exhibition flyers including:
Staten Island Museum, ca. 1977,
FSIAC - Newhouse Gallery, SI, NY, 12/2/1979,
FSIAC - Newhouse Gallery, SI, NY, 08/31/1980,
Staten Island Museum, ca. 1980,
FSIAC - Lever House (NYC), 01/25/1980,
NYU Venezia, 08/18/1983,
FSIAC Newhouse Gallery, SI, NY, 10/17/1981,
Arts Federation - Newhouse Gallery, SI, NY, 01/28/1984,
Art Against Apartheid - Bronx River Gallery, Bronx, NY, 09/23/1989,
CSI-CUNY, 10/06/2018