

Edward P. Taylor Library & Archives, Art Gallery of Ontario

Finding Aid - Gershon Iskowitz fonds (LA.SC114)

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Language of description: English

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Gershon Iskowitz fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Edward P. Taylor Library & Archives, Art Gallery of Ontario
Title:	Gershon Iskowitz fonds
Reference code:	LA.SC114
Date:	1988 - 2009 (creation)
Date:	[191-?]-1988 (creation)
Physical description:	239 photographs 13 palettes 8 cm of textual records 2 drawings 1 photograph album 1 videocassette 1 film reel 1 audio reel 1 matchbook
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	9-Aug-13

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Gershon Iskowitz (1919-1988) was an abstract painter based in Toronto for much of his artistic career. Born in Kielce, Poland on 24 November 1919, he survived internment in Nazi concentration camps and lost his entire family in the Holocaust. Iskowitz studied art in Munich at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in 1947, soon transferring to private studies with Oskar Kokoschka. He moved to Toronto in 1949. His work developed from wartime imagery to a focus on landscapes (particularly inspired by practice in the Parry Sound area), eventually arriving at his mature abstract expressionist style in 1967. Iskowitz began exhibiting with Gallery Moos in 1964, a relationship which continued throughout his career. He taught at the New School (Toronto) from 1967-1970, and his informal mentoring of artists in Toronto is often noted. Iskowitz, along with Walter Redinger, represented Canada at the Venice Biennale in 1972. The artist established the Gershon Iskowitz Foundation in 1985, with the mandate of awarding the Gershon Iskowitz Prize to a mature practising artist; since 2007 the Foundation has partnered with the Art Gallery of Ontario to administer the Gershon Iskowitz Prize at the AGO.

Custodial history

Following Iskowitz's death, material now constituting this fonds was gathered by friends and maintained by the Gershon Iskowitz Foundation. It was transferred directly to the Art Gallery of Ontario in 2008.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of personal and professional records of Gershon Iskowitz, including photographic documentation of his family and early life, self and studio, and works of art; publicity material including newspaper clippings about his career; personal artefacts such as identity documents; a small amount of personal correspondence; and a condolence book signed at his memorial service.

Contains series:

1. Photographs
 2. Publicity material
 3. Identity documents
 4. Personal correspondence and notes
 5. Writings about the artist
 6. Sketch and notes for Northern Lights Septet #3
 7. Audiovisual records
 8. Artist's palettes
 9. Condolence book
-

Notes

Immediate source of acquisition

AGO Credit Line: Gift of the Gershon Iskowitz Foundation, 2009.

Arrangement

Original order of material was not apparent by the time the material was acquired by the AGO. Material was arranged by the archivist.

Restrictions on access

Open. Access to Special Collections is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.

Conditions governing use

Various copyright holders. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds.

Finding aids

<http://ago.ca/sites/default/files/SC114.pdf>

Related material

There are 8 sketchbooks by Gershon Iskowicz in the Art Gallery of Ontario's permanent collection, donated by the Iskowicz Foundation in 1995.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
 - **Level of detail:** Partial
 - **Status description:** Final
 - **Institution identifier:** Edward P. Taylor Library and Archives, Art Gallery of Ontario
-

Access points

- Gershon Iskowicz Foundation
 - Multiple media (documentary form)
 - Toronto (place)
-

Collection holdings

Series: LA.SC114.S1 - Photographs

Creator: Iskowicz, Gershon

Title: Photographs

Reference code: LA.SC114.S1

Date: [191-?]-[198-] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of photographs of Iskowicz's family; images of Kielce, Poland; portraits of the artist and images of his studio; photographs of exhibition openings; and images of art works. Series includes one album, largely empty, containing photographs of Iskowicz from the mid-late 1940s. Series also includes a hand-crafted book of matches, the cover of which is made from photographs of a group seated at a banquet table (perhaps at the 1972 Venice Biennale?).

Physical description: 239 photographs (prints, slides, negatives)

1 photograph album

1 matchbook

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]: Physical condition: Photograph album is in poor condition and is missing a majority of its photographs.

Restrictions on access: Open. Access to Special Collections is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.

Conditions governing use: Various copyright holders. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds/collection.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC144.S1.f1 - [Family photograph]

Title: [Family photograph]

Reference code: LA.SC144.S1.f1

Date: [ca. 1925]-[ca. 1925] (date of creation)

Scope and content: One framed photograph of Iskowicz's family (parents and siblings). Date is estimated based on children's apparent age

Physical description: 1 photograph

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC144.S1.f2 - [Photographs: family, Poland]

Title: [Photographs: family, Poland]

Reference code: LA.SC144.S1.f2

Date: [191-?]-[196-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Most of the photographs in this file depict Kielce, Poland; date is estimated to be 1960s based on clothing and other image details. Family photographs include apparent vintage print and several copies of family group as above; image of Iskowicz's mother (?) and unidentified woman; unidentified family group apparently from 1910s. One photograph depicts men in concentration camp uniforms, Iskowicz not apparently among them.

Physical description: 62 photographs: 61 prints; 1 negative

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC144.S1.f3 - [Photographs: portraits of Iskowitz and studio]

Title: [Photographs: portraits of Iskowitz and studio]

Reference code: LA.SC144.S1.f3

Date: [ca. 1946]-[198-] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Includes early images of artist with his work; images of artist and studio in 1980s (?) by Doron Rescheff studio; a series of portraits of the artist with a green parrot. See also oversized photo prints (box 3).

Physical description: 60 photographs: 40 prints; 5 negatives; 15 slides

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC144.S1.f4 - [Openings, etc.]

Title: [Openings, etc.]

Reference code: LA.SC144.S1.f4

Date: [197-?]-1983 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Primarily images from Canada House and Art Gallery of Ontario exhibition openings. Two images of an unidentified gallery event, probably 1970s.

Physical description: 22 photographs: prints

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC144.S1.f5 - [Images of art works]

Title: [Images of art works]

Reference code: LA.SC144.S1.f5

Date: [194-]-1974 (date of creation)

Scope and content: 4 prints of art works from 1940s (2 concentration camp scenes, 2 portraits); 1 slide from 1961; 8 slides from 1974

Physical description: 13 photographs: 4 prints; 9 slides

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC144.S1.f6 - [Oversized photo prints]

Title: [Oversized photo prints]

Reference code: LA.SC144.S1.f6

Date: 1961-1971 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Portraits of Iskowicz by Lois Steen (1971), Tess Boudreau (1963), and Michel Lambeth (1961-62)

Physical description: 3 photographs: b&w prints

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC144.S1.f7 - [Photograph album]

Title: [Photograph album]

Reference code: LA.SC144.S1.f7

Date: [ca. 1946]-[ca. 1949] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Dating from the period of Iskowicz's art studies in Munich.

Physical description: 1 album containing 38 photographs: prints

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC144.S1.f8 - [Commemorative matchbook]

Title: [Commemorative matchbook]

Reference code: LA.SC144.S1.f8

Date: [1972?]-[1972?] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Hand-crafted book of matches, the cover of which is made from two photographs of a group seated at a banquet table (perhaps at the 1972 Venice Biennale?)

Physical description: 1 object

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Series: LA.SC114.S2 - Publicity material

Creator: Iskowicz, Gershon

Title: Publicity material

Reference code: LA.SC114.S2

Date: 1972-1987 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of press clippings about Iskowicz's career, and a portfolio of promotional material from Canada's pavilion at the Venice Biennale, 1972, featuring images of Iskowicz and his work. Series also includes a laminated offprint from Art in America, 1983.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]: Conservation: Original newsprint has been replaced by photocopies for preservation reasons.

Restrictions on access: Open. Access to Special Collections is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.

Conditions governing use: Various copyright holders. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds/collection

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC114.S2.f1 - [Biennale portfolio]

Title: [Biennale portfolio]

Reference code: LA.SC114.S2.f1

Date: 1972 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Portfolio containing with text and images promoting the work of Iskowicz

Physical description: 11 cards; 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC114.S2.f2 - [Press clippings]

Title: [Press clippings]

Reference code: LA.SC114.S2.f2

Date: 1974-1987 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Photocopied press clippings about Iskowicz's career: exhibition reviews, publications, and the Iskowicz Prize

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC114.S2.f3 - [Art in America page]

Title: [Art in America page]

Reference code: LA.SC114.S2.f3

Date: 1983 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Laminated offprint featuring advertisement for Iskowicz's solo show at the Marisa del Re Gallery, New York.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Series: LA.SC114.S3 - Identity documents

Creator: Iskowicz, Gershon

Title: Identity documents

Reference code: LA.SC114.S3

Date: [191-?]-[198-] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of various identity documents from throughout Iskowicz's life, from his Displaced Person's pass to his Ontario Senior Citizen card.

Physical description: 8 items of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Restrictions on access: Open. Access to Special Collections is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.

Conditions governing use: Various copyright holders. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds/collection.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC114.S3.f1 - [Identity documents]

Title: [Identity documents]

Reference code: LA.SC114.S3.f1

Date: 1945-1986 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Displaced Person's pass (1945); Temporary Travel Document, Military Government for Germany (1948); Certificate of Canadian Citizenship (large and wallet-sized formats), 1959; Social Insurance card; Old Age Security card (1986); Ontario Senior Citizen Privilege Card (1986).

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Series: LA.SC114.S4 - Personal correspondence and notesCreator: Iskowicz, GershonTitle: Personal correspondence and notesReference code: LA.SC114.S4Date: 1976-1988 (date of creation)Scope and content: Series includes items of personal correspondence such as greeting cards and get-well cards; miscellaneous notes and pieces of paper presumably gathered from Iskowicz's residence following his death; one address book.Physical description: Edward P. Taylor Library and Archives, Art Gallery of OntarioLanguage of the material:

English

Restrictions on access: Open. Access to Special Collections is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.Conditions governing use: Various copyright holders. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds/collection.Accruals: No further accruals are expected.Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC114.S4.f1 - [Miscellaneous personal correspondence]Title: [Miscellaneous personal correspondence]Reference code: LA.SC114.S4.f1Date: 1976-1988 (date of creation)Scope and content: Includes 1976 postcard sent by "Chester" from Kielce; letter of appreciation from Maureen Forrester; notification of prize by the Accademia Italia; a request from a German collector of autographs; letter from Denis Juneau on winning the Iskowicz Prize. Several greeting cards and get-well cards.Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC114.S4.f2 - [Miscellaneous personal notes]Title: [Miscellaneous personal notes]Reference code: LA.SC114.S4.f2Date: [ca. 1988] (date of creation)Scope and content: Notes and pieces of paper presumably gathered from Iskowicz's residence following his deathPhysical description: 1 folder of textual recordsLanguage of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC114.S4.f3 - [Address book]Title: [Address book]Reference code: LA.SC114.S4.f3Date: [ca. 1988] (date of creation)Physical description: 1 folder of textual recordsLanguage of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Series: LA.SC114.S5 - Writings about the artistCreator: Iskowicz, GershonTitle: Writings about the artistReference code: LA.SC114.S5

Date: [ca. 1986] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of typescript writings about Iskowitz.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Restrictions on access: Open. Access to Special Collections is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.

Conditions governing use: Various copyright holders. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds/collection.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC114.S5.f1 - [Writings about the artist]

Title: [Writings about the artist]

Reference code: LA.SC114.S5.f1

Date: [ca. 1986] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Typescript writings about Iskowitz, one titled "The Iskowitz Phenomenon" and one entitled "Chapter VII, 1972-1982" (a draft from Gershon Iskowitz: Painter of Light?); and a 2pp bibliography on Iskowitz.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Series: LA.SC114.S6 - Sketch and notes for Northern Lights Septet #3

Creator: Iskowitz, Gershon

Title: Sketch and notes for Northern Lights Septet #3

Reference code: LA.SC114.S6

Date: [ca. 1986] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of material related to Northern Lights Septet #3.

Physical description: 2 drawings

1 item textual records

Language of the material:

English

Restrictions on access: Open. Access to Special Collections is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.

Conditions governing use: Various copyright holders. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds/collection.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Publication status:

Published

File: LA.SC114.S6.f1 - [Northern Lights Septet #3]

Title: [Northern Lights Septet #3]

Reference code: LA.SC114.S6.f1

Date: [ca. 1986] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Two drawings related to Northern Lights Septet #3, artist

Physical description: * 2 drawings

* 1 item of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Series: LA.SC114.S7 - Audiovisual records

Creator: Iskowicz, Gershon

Title: Audiovisual records

Reference code: LA.SC114.S7

Date: [197-]-[198-] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of three audiovisual items relating to Iskowicz's career.

Physical description: 1 videocassette (VHS)

1 film reel (16mm)

1 audio reel

Language of the material:

English

Restrictions on access: Open. Access to Special Collections is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.

Conditions governing use: Various copyright holders. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds/collection.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Publication status:

Published

Item: LA.SC114.S7.1 - [untitled]

Title: [untitled]

Reference code: LA.SC114.S7.1

Date: 1970s-1980s (date of creation)

Scope and content: Audio reel labeled: DAN / Gershon Iskowicz / 6:50

Physical description: 1 audio reel

Publication status:

Published

Item: LA.SC114.S7.2 - [untitled]

Title: [untitled]

Reference code: LA.SC114.S7.2

Date: 1970s-1980s (date of creation)

Scope and content: Film reel labeled: To: Gershon Iskowicz / from Gary Morrison [CTV]

Physical description: 1 film reel: 16 mm

Publication status:

Published

Item: LA.SC114.S7.3 - [Gershon Iskowicz and Walter Redinger at Venice Biennale]

Title: [Gershon Iskowicz and Walter Redinger at Venice Biennale]

Reference code: LA.SC114.S7.3

Date: [c. 1972] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Video cassette labeled: Gerard M. Jennings

Physical description: 1 video cassette: VHS

Publication status:

Published

Series: LA.SC114.S8 - Artist's palettes

Creator: Iskowitz, Gershon

Title: Artist's palettes

Reference code: LA.SC114.S8

Date: [19--]-[ca. 1988] (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of a group of palettes gathered from the artist's studio following his death.

Physical description: 13 palettes

Language of the material:

English

Restrictions on access: Open. Access to Special Collections is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.

Conditions governing use: Various copyright holders. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds/collection.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Publication status:

Published

Series: LA.SC114.S9 - Condolence book

Creator: Iskowitz, Gershon

Title: Condolence book

Reference code: LA.SC114.S9

Date: 1988 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of a condolence book from Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel, with signatures of mourners from the memorial on January 26, 1988.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records (1 volume)

Language of the material:

English

Restrictions on access: Open. Access to Special Collections is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.

Conditions governing use: Various copyright holders. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds/collection

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Publication status:

Published
