

FINDING AID FOR THE

**RUDY BENDER / WILL NORDBY COLLECTION
AG 151**

Center for Creative Photography
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721-0103

For further information about the archives at the Center for Creative Photography, please contact the Archivist: phone 520-621-6273; fax 520-621-9444

DESCRIPTION

Papers, audiovisual, and photographic materials of Rudy Bender (1937-1991) and Will Nordby (1940 -). Bender was a photographer, teacher, expert photographic printer, and writer. He and Nordby, a talented videotape editor, collaborated on a lengthy interview with Wynn Bullock in the last year of the photographer's life. They also created widescreen, multi-media stereoscopic productions in San Francisco in the 1970s. In addition to extensive documentation of the Bullock interviews, the collection includes information on Bender's career, Bender and Nordby's SynAesthetics, Inc. business, and their *Alternity* project.

15 linear feet

PROVENANCE

These materials were donated to the Center by Willard E. Nordby in June, July, and August 1994.

RESTRICTIONS

Materials are open to research. Permission to quote from Bender's writings must be obtained from Will Nordby. Contact Archivist for more information.

PROCESSING NOTES

Preliminary processing completed by John McIntyre 9/94.

RUDY BENDER BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Rudy Bender was born on February 22, 1937 in Miami, Florida. He attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (1954-55), Ohio State University (1955-58; 1961-62), Columbus College of Art and Design (1959-61), and graduated from the San Francisco Art Institute (B.F.A., 1963-65). He is best known for his exploration of widescreen stereoscopic photography using experimental images of dreams and altered states of consciousness. Bender stated that his favored subject matter was landscapes and the nude. He is credited with developing a unique 3-D stereoscopic slide presentation system that he adapted to videotape, videodisk, and film.

Bender worked in the San Francisco area from 1963 to 1980.

In 1967 he opened a custom photography lab named Eye Now whose clientele was museums and professional photographers. He operated this establishment until 1970. Bender worked with the curator of photography at the San Francisco Museum of Art on the Wynn Bullock retrospective in 1970. He began teaching summer photographic workshops in San Francisco in 1971, and from 1973 to 1979 was a part-time instructor of photography at the City College of San Francisco.

In 1972, Bender designed Quadra Vision, a variable interocular camera rig featuring a custom made beam splitter. He and Nordby became the president and vice-president of *SynAesthetics, Inc.*, producing multi-dimensional media presentations. Bender was a columnist and contributing editor for Darkroom Photography magazine from 1979 into the later 1980s. A Study in Alternity was a 3-D widescreen quadraphonic multi-media experience produced by Bender and Will Nordby that premiered in April, 1979 and subsequently toured around the United States and Canada. This production was exhibited at the Samadhi Center in Los Angeles, circa 1980.

Bender moved to Seattle in 1980 to join his wife, who was working there with the U. S. Customs Service. In Seattle he continued the business he and Nordby had in California (*SynAesthetics*), later renamed *Rudy Bender Photography*. This establishment was dedicated to the production of 3-D multi-media presentations.

Bender died in 1991.

OUTLINE OF COLLECTION

Accession T/F #3310 Correspondence, project files, and writings (5 boxes)

Accession T/F #3312 Tapes and films (2 boxes)

Accession T/F #3326 Tapes, slides, films, papers (7 boxes)

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY

RUDY BENDER MATERIALS, 1960s-1980s

Description: Correspondence, project files, and writings

Quantity: 29 folders

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Interviews with Rudy Bender:

/1 Jane Penzell (KIQQ Los Angeles radio) Interview, n.d. (12 pages)

/2 John Stark Interview, 12 December 1979. (42 pages)

/3 Will Nordby Interview, 11 May 1980. (49 pages)

/4 **Correspondence, 1965-83.**

/5 **Publications about Bender.**

Publications and writings by Bender:

/6 "The Condition for the Great Art Work is Meanings." (Seven index cards taped together for sequential analysis of meaning in art works. Development of theoretical formula expressing three-dimensional model for experiencing great art.)

/7 "Replacement of Equipment and Expansion of Darkroom Facilities in the Ohio Union Photographic Laboratories," June 1957. (4 pages; pages missing)

/8 "SynAesthetics," 1 April 1972. (7 pages)

/9 Presentation to the Western Association of Museums, 19 October 1972 [regarding the use of stereo photography in painting conservation].

/10 "Space -- the Next Dimension in Multi-Image," ca. 1980. (20 pages)

- /11 *Darkroom Photography* (Jan/Feb 1986), p. 62-65.
- /12 Miscellaneous notes on index cards, n.d.
- /13 Diagrams by Bender of "The Gordian Maze: Inter and Intropsychic Transactions of the Photographer's Mind," "Photographer's Mind Model: Showing Medium-Reality Relations with Some Operant Response Relationships Indicated," and "Bibliography: Photographer's Mind Model." (3 pages; 1981)
- /14 Photocopies of sketches, diagrams, and notes by Bender related to stereo vision; production, mounting, and projection of stereo slides; and camera interocular distances, 1978.

A Study in Alternity:

- /15 Letter from John Humphrey (curator at SFMA) regarding first viewing of *Alternity*, 28 September 1977.
- /16 Press releases, handouts, reviews, and sketches related to *Alternity*, ca. 1979.
- /17 Publications and reviews.
- /18 "Space: The Next Dimension to Multi-Image" by Bender in *Multi-Images* 6:2 (spring 1980), pp. 10-20.
- /19 Color 35 mm negatives and contact prints of images in *Alternity*.

Looking for Perfection/The Three Dimensions of Freedom:

- /20 Draft manuscript, correspondence with editor of *Multi-Images*.
- /21 Brochure with lenticular 3-D image.
- /22 "Looking for Perfection in Three Dimensions," *Multi-Images: The Journal of the Assoc. for Multi-Image International* 10:3 (summer 1984), pp. 23-27.

- /23 **Biographical materials.**

Education:

- /24 Class papers: "Transactional Model for Use in Establishing an Aesthetic [sic] Theory of Photography: Part I - Text," spring 1965; "Concerning Definitions, Critical Distinctions, and Photography," spring 1965.
- /25 Class notes, outlines, research notes, curriculum, 1960s.

Miscellaneous files

- /26 NEA Grant Application, 1976.
- /27 Patent Application, 1955: "A Universal Optical Attachment for an 8mm Movie Camera," correspondence, receipts, additional documents. [Diagrams beam-splitting prism attachment to make 3-D movies.]
- /28 Photocopies of articles on stereoscopy, stereo images, stereo kinetics, and photo-sculpture (1971-79) by Harold A. Layer (friend of Bender; professor at San Francisco State College).
- /29 Research materials.

WYNN BULLOCK PROJECT MATERIALS, 1975

Description: Transcripts of interviews conducted by Bender and Nordby

Quantity:

- AG151:2/1 Interview 10 May 1975 (reel 1)
- 2 " " [with notes by Bender]
- 3 Interview 10 May 1975 (reel 2)
- 4 " " [with notes by Bender]
- 5 " " [duplicate]
- 6 Interview 9 August 1975 (reel 3)
- 7 " " [duplicate]
- 8 Interview 9 August 1975 (reel 4)
- 9 " " [duplicate]
- 10 Interview 13 September 1975 (reel 4F)
- 11 " " [duplicate]
- 12 Interview 27 September 1975 (reel 5)
- 13 " " [duplicate]
- 14 Interview 11 October 1975 (reel 6)
- 15 " " [duplicate]
- 16 Interview 12 October 1975 (reel 7)
- 17 " " [duplicate]
- 18 Interview 12 October 1975 (reel 8)
- [with notes by Bender]
- 19 " " [duplicate]
- 20 Interview 13 October 1975 (reel 9)
- 21 " " [duplicate]

- 22 Interview 13 October 1975 (reel 10)
- 23 " " [duplicate]

- 24 Miscellaneous notes from Bullock project. Includes Bender's chart of Bullock's physical, emotional, and intellectual states during the taping of the interviews.

- 25 Letter from Edna Bullock to Bender, 14 February 1979. Includes original and translation of article about Bullock by Jean Claude Gautrand.

- 26 Photocopy of article by Wynn Bullock titled "Photographic Education," July 1965.
- 27 Photocopy of article by Wynn Bullock titled "The Concepts and Principles of Wynn Bullock," n.d. [text of slide lecture]
- 28 "Slides from Bullock's last lecture, 13 October 1971." [should be dated 1975?]
- 29 *Wynn Bullock: Twenty Color Photographs/Light Abstractions*, De Saisset Art Gallery, Santa Clara, California, 1972.
- 30 *Wynn Bullock: The Photograph as Symbol* (Artichoke Editions, 1975).
[photocopy]
- 31 Ephemera related to memorial service for Wynn Bullock, University of Santa Clara, 21 December 1975.

AG151:3 Slides made by Rudy Bender to document Wynn Bullock's work. Numbers on slides correspond to Bullock's negative numbers and to the checklist in *Wynn Bullock Photographs* (San Francisco Museum of Art, 1970).

AG151:4 Audiovisual materials related to Wynn Bullock interview and other interviews (14 boxes of tapes and films).

AG151:5 Audiovisual materials related to Wynn Bullock interview and other interviews (32 boxes).

AG 151 ACCESSION T/F #3312

BOX #1
(This box contains audio tapes and film.)

1 Wynn Bullock in Monterey, September 13, 1975.
rec. #1, tape #1, sync

- 2 Wynn Bullock in Monterey, September 13, 1975.
rec. #2, tape #2, sync
- 3 Wynn Bullock in Monterey, September 13, 1975.
rec. #2, tape #3, sync
- 4 Wynn Bullock in Monterey, September 13, 1975.
rec. #1, tape #3, sync
- 5 KRON-TV D1017-12c & 13c
(2 rolls of 16mm film)
- 6 KRON-TV D1017-14c
(1 roll of 16mm film)
- 7 Wynn Bullock, Monterey lecture and workshop
- 8 roll #1 (sync audio) 16mm film, September 1975 workshop
- 9 roll #1 (sync video) 16mm film, September 1975 workshop
- 10 Wynn Bullock tape #2 (non-sync audio) September 1975 workshop
- 11 video September 1975 workshop
- 12 Wynn Bullock tape #3, roll #2 (sync pix) September 1975 workshop
- 13 roll #2 (sync audio) September 1975 workshop
- 14 Wynn Bullock tape #1 (non-sync audio) September 1975 workshop

AG 151 BOX #2

(This box contains only audio tapes.)

- 1 Wynn Bullock, May 10, 1975
Rudy Bender [Nagra]
- 2 Wynn Bullock 2A, May 10, 1975
[Nagra]
- 3 Wynn [Nagra] #5, September 27, 1975
- 4 Wynn [Nagra] September 27, 1975, #5 1/4
- 5 Wynn Bullock [Hiss] 4:07-5:17 August 9, 1975
R-3 [Nagra]

- 6 Wynn [Hiss] 5:40-6:45 August 9, 1975
R-4 [Nagra]
- 7 Wynn Bullock-Monterey, 3 3/4 ips copy
- 8 side 1: finish conversation May 11, 1980
(Rudy Bender/Will Nordby)
John Stark interview, December 12, 1979
side 2: John Stark interview to end
first meeting with lawyer (Evers), May 2, 1972
planning session (Will Nordby/Rudy Bender, May 1972)
- 9 Rudy Bender interview with Will Nordby, May 11, 1980
- 10 Wynn Bullock workshop audio for film #1, September 13, 1975
- 11 Wynn Bullock workshop audio for film #2, September 13, 1975
- 12 Wynn Bullock workshop audio for film #4, September 13, 1975
- 13 reel #1 6:30-7:30 October 11, 1975
Nagra (sync/non-sync)
- 14 Nagra reel #2 7:30-7:45 October 11, 1975
- 15 Nagra reel #3, October 12, 1975
- 16 Nagra: Wynn Bullock in bedroom, October 13, 1975
- 17 Wynn Bullock reels #1 & 2, May 10, 1975
- 18 Wynn Bullock reels #3 & 4, August 9, 1975
- 19 Wynn Bullock reels #5 & 5A, September 27, 1975
- 20 Wynn Bullock reels #7 & 8, October 12, 1975
- 21 Wynn Bullock: reel 4F, September 13, 1975
reel 6(F), October 11, 1975
reel 9, October 13, 1975
reel 10(F), October 13, 1975
- 22 Wynn Bullock reel 10, October 13, 1975
- 23 Rudy and Sarah Bender discuss taping session about Wynn Bullock, September 28, 1975
- 24 VIMCET #1,3,4,6,8,10

25 Rudy Bender lecture, Santa Fe, NM, August 6, 1977
Ray Belcher lecture, Santa Fe, NM, August 11, 1977

26 Wynn Bullock side 1 & 2, September 13, 1975

27 Wynn Bullock side 3 & 4, September 13, 1975

28 Wynn Bullock

29 Wynn Bullock, September 27, 1975

30 Conference, M. Camhi, August 6, 1975

31 Will Nordby on film budget

32 Autohypnosis: Dr. David Cheek

AG 151 ACCESSION T/F #3326

BOX 1 Audiocassettes (5)
 Videotapes (6)
 Slides in carrousel (3)
 Boxes of slides for *Alternity*

BOX 2 Slides in carrousel (8)

BOX 3 Stereo lens board
 Reel-to-reel audiotapes for *Alternity* (9)
 Slides in carrousel for *Alternity* (6)

BOX 4 Reel-to-reel audiotapes for *Quality* (13)
 Slides in carrousel (6)

BOX 5 3-D videotape with viewing glasses
 Strip of 35mm film with computer graphics
 Film of Wynn Bullock being interviewed by Rudy Bender, 1975
 Stereo slides by Bender (12)
 Reel-to-reel audiotapes (21)
 Videotapes (8)
 Personal papers [*moved to box at beginning of collection with other papers]

BOX 6 Slides in carrousel for *Freedom* (6)
 Stereo lens board

BOX 7 "Art Work and Photo Research for *Trident* Project."