

L2013.16
Gwen Snyder
Collection, 1979-2002

FINDING AID AUTHOR

Gabrielle Garcia

ACQUISITION INFORMATION

Gwen Snyder donated these materials to Lambda Archives of San Diego in 2013.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

This collection was processed by Gabrielle Garcia as part of the 2020 CSL Project.

EXTENT

Number of containers: 2
Linear feet of shelf space: 1.5

ABSTRACT

BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY

“Gwendolyn Snyder was born in Canton, Ohio on September 22 of 1944, the daughter of Tessie Beerman-Snyder, an elementary school teacher, and Clarence Snyder, a Timken Roller Bearing, tool grinder. She grew up in the country, submerged in nature. In the spring, she would lay across her bed and watch the robins come and rebuild their nest every year, just outside her window follow the unfolding of their annual life cycle activities, until the young robins were ready and trained to fly south and start the cycle all over again.

Formal education after high school took her through several Midwestern colleges, including the Columbus College of Art and Design, which prepared her a career as a graphic designer/illustrator. After 20 years as a professional artist, Gwen took a divergent path and went to beauty school opening a salon to serve the needs of the transgender community as well as the rest of the local population in San Diego. A major life change came with an accident which left her with a paralyzed left hand, so she sold the salon. This twist in fate pushed her through the next door which led her down the path of social work, counseling people with disabilities to help them to become employed. Gwen's passion for art never slept, and with her new career in social work, she was able to do some painting on the side. She pursued a new direction which she calls "geometric

color progressions", creating a static format patterning, jolted to life by use of color progressions that drive the eye into unexpected movement through the grid. Since retiring, she has the freedom to focus her art in new directions, capturing the dynamic relationships between flora and fauna close up [...] bringing the viewer into a whole new and unexpected world of nature."

<http://gwendolynsnyder.com/Bio.htm>

COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains 13 journals written by Gwen Snyder and two photographs framed by Rosie Sanchez. The journals contain written material and drawings pertaining to her daily life, relationships, sexual experiences, career (opening a trans-friendly salon and then becoming a social worker), and other topics.

ARRANGEMENT

This collection consists of 2 boxes.

SEPARATED MATERIAL

In this field, list any materials that have been removed from the collection and transferred to another collection, department (e.g., the library), or institution.

1. Photos: [L2013.16.01-L2013.16.02]
 - a. 2 photographs framed by Rosie Sanchez: "Birthing Mother Goddess" Mexican ceramic; "Midsummer Night's Dream Fairies" Carlsbad Renaissance Fair

SUBJECTS

Gwen Snyder, Lesbians, Gay/Lesbian Couples, Leather Lifestyle, Aging, Sadoomasochism, Sex Acts, Restricted Access, Sexual Behavior, Visual Arts, Drawing, Painting, Businesses

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

Majority of this collection is open and available for research use, with exception of one restricted journal. Copyright restrictions may apply.

PREFERRED CITATION

The suggested citation for the collection is:

[Item Description]
Gwen Snyder Collection, 1979-2002

Lambda Archives of San Diego
San Diego, California

RELATED MATERIAL

L2013.15

LOCATION NOTE

C.3.2.3

LANGUAGES

English

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	
1	1	Dark green journal with gold decorations 1979-1983	1979-1983	
1	2	"Gwen's 1984 Journal" black, 1983-1986	1983-1986	
1	3	Yellow paperback sketchbook 1984-1987	1984-1987	
1	4	Pale yellow journal with woman and unicorn 1985-1986	1985-1986	
1	5	Pink and blue marbled journal 1987-1988	1987-1988	
1	6	"Index" black and red journal, 1988- 1992	1988-1992	
1	7	"Gwen" red and gray journal 1991	1991	
2	1	"Gwen's Idea Farm" black journal 1990- 1991	1990-1991	
2	2	Black journal 1992-1994	1992-1994	
2	3	Black journal 1994-1995	1994-1995	
2	4	Black spiral journal 1996-1999	1996-1999	
2	5	Black journal 2000-2001 (misabeled "2001-2002")	2001-2002	
2	6	Black journal 2000-2002	2000-2002	