

Guide to the Serge Vandercam Papers

GEN MSS 2094



by Lucretia Baskin

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 2094

CREATOR: Vandercam, Serge , author

TITLE: Serge Vandercam papers

DATES: 1946-2003

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 11.39 linear feet (15 boxes) + 1 broadside

LANGUAGE: French

SUMMARY: The collection contains correspondence, writings, photographs, artwork, printed material, and other papers by or relating to Belgian photographer and artist Serge Vandercam.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.vandercam>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.vandercam>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Philippe Luigi on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2018, and the Elizabeth W. Manwaring Fund, 2019.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Box 15 (phonograph record): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Serge Vandercam Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Serge Vandercam Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Folder 66 is not in use.

Serge Vandercam (1924-2005)

Serge Vandercam was a Belgian photographer and artist associated with the European avant-garde art movement known as CoBrA. Vandercam was born on March 31, 1924 in Copenhagen, Denmark, to a Belgian father and an Italian mother. He learned photography at the Tallon photogravure studio in Brussels and worked as a street photographer in Antwerp after World War II, briefly studying at the École Belge de Photographie et de Cinématographie in Brussels. After the dissolution of CoBrA in 1951, he branched out to other art forms, beginning with painting in 1952, filmmaking in 1957, ceramics in 1960, and sculpture in 1972. In the late 1950s, Vandercam also was involved with a short-lived Belgian periodical titled *Plus*. Vandercam taught at École Nationale des Arts Visuels de La Cambre in Brussels from 1979 to 1989 and served as director of the École des Beaux-Arts in Wavre, Belgium, from 1981 to 1989. In 1993, he was elected to the Royal Academy of Science, Letters and Fine Arts of Belgium and in 1998 was appointed chairman of the organization.

Vandercam was married to Talia Vandercam, with whom he had one son, Joel. He died on March 10, 2005 in Brussels.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, writings, photographs, artwork, printed material, and other papers by or relating to Belgian photographer and artist Serge Vandercam. Materials document Vandercam's association with the avant-garde CoBrA movement, his work at the modern art periodical *Plus*, exhibitions, and other professional endeavors. Correspondents include Pierre Alechinsky, Karel Appel, Enrico Baj, Gianni Bertini, Marcel Broodthaers, Constant, Corneille, Christian Dotremont, Edward Jaguer, Joseph Noiret, Gabriel Piqueray, Marcel Piqueray, and Yasse Tabuchi. Artwork consists of sketchbooks and a few watercolors and pencil drawings by Vandercam. Photographs and negatives depict exhibitions, among them the last CoBrA show in 1951; sculpture, ceramics, and paintings by Vandercam and other artists; friends; and family. The collection also contains ephemera and exhibition catalogs and one 45 rpm sound recording.

Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Writings and Other Papers, 1946-2001, undated. II. Photographs, 1947-2003, undated. III. Printed Material, 1948-1970, undated. IV. Sound Recording, 1969.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings and Other Papers, 1946-2001, undated

6.84 linear feet (7 boxes) + 1 broadside

This series contains correspondence; writings; files related to three issues of *Plus*; sketchbooks, drawings, and paintings by Serge Vandercam; and materials related to film and theater productions. Included are drafts, paste-ups, proofs, and artwork for books illustrated by Vandercam and Marcel et Gabriel Piquera's *Non Inhibited Poems*, and manuscripts by Christian Dotremont and Joseph Noiret. Correspondents include artists and writers associated with CoBrA, such as Pierre Alechinsky, Karel Appel, Enrico Baj, Constant Nieuwenhuys, Corneille (Guillaume Cornelis van Beverloo), Dotremont, Edward Jaguer, Noiret, and Yasse Tabuchi, as well as Gianni Bertini, Marcel Broodthaers, the Piquera brothers, and various galleries. The series also contains several identity cards and certificates belonging to Vandercam.

Materials maintain order found at time of acquisition.

<i>Plus</i>		
b. 1, f. 1	<i>Plus 1 + épreuves 1--</i> Includes two linocut proofs by Hace Vria.	circa 1957
b. 5, f. 56	<i>Plus 1 + épreuves 1--</i> Includes two linocut proofs by Hace Vria.	circa 1957
b. 1, f. 2	<i>Plus 2</i>	circa 1958
b. 5, f. 57	<i>Plus 2</i> Large artwork proofs.	circa 1958
b. 1, f. 3	<i>Plus 3</i>	circa 1959
b. 1, f. 4-5	Correspondence	1956-1959, undated
Writings of others		
b. 1, f. 6-10	Tapuscrits-Manuscrits	1948-1999, undated
b. 1, f. 11	Tapuscrits anonymes	1957-1961, undated
b. 5, f. 58	Tapuscrits anonymes	1957-1961, undated
Illustrated works		
b. 1, f. 12-15	<i>La main du nuages</i> , poems by George Andrews, drawings by Vandercam Ink drawing, proofs, paste-ups, printed version.	1958
b. 2, f. 16	<i>Fagnes</i> , poems by Christian Dotremont, drawings by Vandercam Notes, page proofs, printed version.	1958
b. 2, f. 17	<i>Ethnographies</i> , text by Jacques Meuris, engravings by Vandercam Proofs, 9 intaglio prints marked "E.A.," 2 prospectuses.	1971

Illustrated works (continued)

b. 2, f. 18	Brussels Art Quintet, <i>Vas-y-Voir</i> , album cover design by Vandercam Photograph for cover, album cover for 45 rpm recording of poems by Marcel and Gabriel Piquera.	1968-1969
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Correspondence

b. 2, f. 19	Correspondance avant 1957	1952-1957, undated
b. 2, f. 20-21	Correspondance après 1960	1960-1992
b. 8 (Broadside)	Correspondance après 1960 Poster for <i>Ici Paris</i> with autograph manuscript poem by Joseph Noiret on verso.	1960-1992
b. 2, f. 22-24	Correspondance Musées - Galeries	1946-2001, undated
b. 2, f. 25-26	Correspondance - Papiers administratifs	1977-1980, undated
b. 2, f. 27	Correspondance inconnu	1952-1990, undated

Films

b. 2, f. 28-29	<i>Un autre monde</i>	undated
b. 2, f. 30	<i>Pêcheurs flamands dans la tempête</i>	undated
b. 2, f. 31	<i>Les ports belges: Henri Storck et Jean Raine</i>	undated
b. 2, f. 32	Carnet	undated

Spectacles

b. 2, f. 33	Spectacle <i>Oisal</i>	1975
b. 2, f. 34	<i>Questions après la chute d'Icare sous le regard des oiseaux perplexes</i>	1975
b. 5, f. 59	Plan du Théâtre royal de Bruxelles	undated

Carnets à dessins de Serge Vandercam

b. 3, f. 35-45	Cahiers de croquis	undated
b. 3, f. 46	Cahier d'écolier a moitié rempli contenant des textes	undated
b. 4, f. 47	[Drawing, sketches, and watercolor painting] "1 aquarelle signee Vandercam, 1 dessin aux crayons de couleurs signe et date Vandercam, 1 encre de Chine signee et datee 56, 1 bloc-note comprenant 4 dessins originaux de SV, 4 dessins originaux de SV non-signee."	1956-1970s
b. 7 (Oversize), f. 65	Essai de signature a l'encre lithographique (in folio) au recto et au verso de Dypreau	undated

Carnets à dessins de Serge Vandercam (continued)

b. 6 (Oversize), f. 62	Papiers decoupes sur papier Canson: Ecriture de Joseph Noiret	undated
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 63-64	Osillades avec l'écriture de Joseph Noiret	undated
b. 5, f. 60	Jeu d'épreuves pour -- Hugo Clauss - Serge Vandercam: De Man van Tollund	undated
<i>Marcel et Gabriel Piquera: Non inhibited poems</i>		
b. 4, f. 48	Tapuscrit	1971
b. 4, f. 49-51	Ensemble de petits livres d'artistes uniques 13 unique artists' books.	1940s-1950s
b. 4, f. 52	<i>Non inhibited poems 1949-1954. Interventions de Pierre-Paul Rubens et Serge Vandercam</i>	1971
b. 4, f. 53	Personal papers Includes Belgian identity card, membership card for professional organization, and certificate for Vandercam's nomination to the Ordre de Leopold.	1950-1999
b. 5, f. 61	Personal papers Includes gold medal certificate from Accademia Italia delle Arti e del Lavoro.	1980
b. 4, f. 54	"Les Chiens" by Tone Brulin, draft, typescript, corrected	1959
b. 4, f. 55	Cards from Pierre Aleschinsky, Gianni Bertini	1982-1994

Series II: Photographs, 1947-2003, undated*2.42 linear feet (4 boxes)*

This series contains photographs by and of Serge Vandercam, his artwork, colleagues such as Pierre Aleschinsky and Joseph Noiret, and CoBrA exhibitions. Also included are a number of negatives and contact prints.

Materials maintain order found at time of acquisition.

b. 9, f. 67-68	Portraits	1947-1965, undated
b. 12, f. 103	Portraits	1947-1965, undated
b. 9, f. 69-74	Photographies historiques Includes photographs of the last CoBrA exhibition in Liège, Belgium before the group disbanded, friends and family, and travels by Vandercam.	1949-1994
b. 9, f. 75-77	Personnalités	1957-1999, undated
b. 12, f. 104	Personnalités	1957-1999, undated
b. 9, f. 78	Expositions	1990, undated
b. 9, f. 79-84	Atelier	1984-1990, undated
b. 12, f. 105	Atelier	1984-1990, undated
b. 9, f. 85-87	Photographies de tableaux	1956, undated
b. 10, f. 88-90	Photographies de tableaux	1957-1963, undated
b. 10, f. 91-92	Photographies de céramiques	1958-1998, undated
b. 10, f. 93-95	Photographies de sculptures	1977-1980, undated
b. 10, f. 96	Divers	undated
b. 10, f. 97	Photographies d'oeuvres envoyées par les artistes	1958, undated
b. 12, f. 106-111	Dossier de photographies prises par SV au Musées du Cinquenaire Includes 9 photographs by Serge Vandercamp. With photographs (including negatives) by Raymond Konig of Vandercamp taking the pictures.	1993
b. 10, f. 98-99	Negatives	1982-1988, undated
b. 10, f. 100-102	Negatives and contact prints	1983-2003, undated

b. 11

Glass plate negatives

undated

Series III: Printed Material, 1948-1970, undated*1.92 linear feet (2 boxes)*

This series consists of ephemera and exhibition catalogs.

Materials maintain order found at time of acquisition.

b. 13, f. 112	Ephemera	1955-1996, undated
b. 14, f. 120	Ephemera	1955-1996, undated
b. 13, f. 113-116	Catalogues d'expositions personnelles ou collectives de Serge Vandercam Includes two holiday cards with printed and watercolor decoration by Vandercam, and printed exhibition announcement with crayon drawing by Serge Vandercam.	1952-1998, undated
b. 14, f. 121	Catalogues d'expositions personnelles ou collectives de Serge Vandercam	1952-1998, undated
b. 13, f. 117-119	Catalogues d'exposition d'artistes proches de Serge Vandercam Includes invitation with crayon drawing and inscription by Serge Vandercam.	1948-1983
b. 14, f. 122-123	Catalogues d'exposition d'artistes proches de Serge Vandercam	1948-1983

Series IV: Sound Recording, 1969

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

This series consists of one 45 rpm record by the Brussels Art Quintet for which Serge Vandercam provided the album cover art.

b. 15, f. 124

Brussels Art Quintet, *Vas-y-Voir*

1969

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Art, Modern -- 20th Century
Art, Modern -- 20th Century -- Exhibitions
Art, Modern -- 20th Century -- Periodicals
Avant-garde (Aesthetics)
Literature, Modern -- 20th Century
Photographers
Photography, Artistic

Genres / Formats

Drawings (visual works)
Negatives (photographs)
Pen and wash drawings
Phonograph records
Photographs
Sketchbooks

Occupations

Artists -- Belgium -- 20th Century

Corporate Body

Cobra (Association)

Names

Alechinsky, Pierre, 1927-
Appel, Karel, 1921-2006
Baj, Enrico, 1924-2003
Bertini, Gianni, 1922-2010
Broodthaers, Marcel
Constant, 1920-2005
Corneille, 1922-2010
Dotremont, Christian, 1922-1979
Jaguer, Edward, 1924-2006
Noiret, Joseph, 1927-
Piqueray, Gabriel
Piqueray, Marcel
Tabuchi, Yasse, 1921-2009