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Guide to the Jan van Raay Photographs of Art Strike Protests

YCAL MSS 1329



by Brooke McManus

May 2021

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 1329

CREATOR: Raay, Jan van

TITLE: Jan van Raay photographs of art strike protests

DATES: 1969–1974

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 14.46 linear feet (13 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection contains black-and-white photographs by Jan van Raay documenting strikes, demonstrations, protests, sit-ins, happenings, and other events in New York City, primarily at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Photographs depict actions including the Art Strike against Racism, Sexism, Repression, War; the PASTA MoMA union strike; demonstrations and marches in support of the Panther 21, Black and Puerto Rican artists, and abortion rights; and The People's Flag Show, an exhibition at Judson Memorial Church organized by Guerrilla Art Action Group (GAAG) co-founders Jon Hendricks and Jean Toche, and Faith Ringgold, a Black activist and artist, who were subsequently arrested for flag desecration and became known as the Judson Three.

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

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.raayjanvan>.

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 Antiquariat Guenter Linke on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2018.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research

Conditions Governing Use

The Jan van Raay Photographs of Art Strike Protests 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

Jan van Raay Photographs of Art Strike Protests. Yale Collection of American Literature, 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 as they are acquired, 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.

Jan van Raay (1942-)

Jan van Raay is an American photographer, painter, and performance artist. She is known for photographing protests in New York City in the 1970s, as well as her portraits of public figures including Yoko Ono and John Lennon. Raay was born in Brooklyn, New York, and currently resides in Portland, Oregon.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains black-and-white photographs by Jan van Raay documenting strikes, demonstrations, protests, sit-ins, happenings, and other events in New York City, primarily at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Photographs depict actions including

the Art Strike against Racism, Sexism, Repression, War; the PASTA MoMA union strike; demonstrations and marches in support of the Panther 21, Black and Puerto Rican artists, and abortion rights; and The People's Flag Show, an exhibition at Judson Memorial Church organized by Guerrilla Art Action Group (GAAG) co-founders Jon Hendricks and Jean Toche, and Faith Ringgold, a Black activist and artist, who were subsequently arrested for flag desecration and became known as the Judson Three.

The bulk of the collection documents the activities of GAAG, and included are copies of the group's manifestos, action scripts, open letters, internal memos, and other papers, such as letters written on behalf of Black activist Angela Davis during her imprisonment. Many photographs of protests and meetings prominently feature groups such as the Art Workers Coalition, Women Artists in Revolution, Ad Hoc Women Artists Committee, and Black Emergency Cultural Coalition. Some of the individuals pictured include Raay herself; GAAG co-founder Poppy Johnson; artists Takis, Tom Lloyd, Lil Picard, Roy Lichtenstein, Raphael Montañez Ortiz, Kate Millett, and Alice Neel; Black feminist lawyer Florynce Kennedy; attorney and American Civil Liberties Union Director William Kunstler; activist Abbie Hoffman; and MoMA Director John Hightower. Materials date from 1969 to 1974.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Photographs, 1969-1972. II. Guerrilla Art Action Group Papers, 1974.

Collection Contents

Series I: Photographs, 1969–1972

14.04 linear feet (12 boxes)

This series consists of photographs by Jan van Raay documenting strikes, marches, sit-ins, protests, and other actions by artists and activist groups in New York City. A number of photographs show activities involving the Guerrilla Art Action Group and Art Workers Coalition at MoMA, such as the Art Strike against Racism, Sexism, Repression, War (Art Strike); the anti-Vietnam War "Memorial Service for Dead Babies" in front of Picasso's *Guernica*; demonstration in support of a study center for Black and Puerto Rican art at the museum; protest against New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller's response to the Attica prison uprising; and the Professional and Administrative Staff Association of the Museum of Modern Art (PASTA MoMA) strike. Raay photographed the Art Strike sit-in at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as protests of the museum's planned Lehman Wing and expansion into Central Park. Also depicted are a march against New York State abortion laws; a courthouse demonstration in support of the Panther 21; and a public hearing on the question, "Are Museums Relevant to Women?" The series contains photographs of The People's Flag Show at Judson Memorial Church and organizers Faith Ringgold, Jean Toche, and Jon Hendricks, as well as meetings and rallies in support of the Judson Three after their arrest for flag desecration. Additionally included are images of performance art by Lil Picard. Most folders contain photocopied descriptions of the photographs by Jon Hendricks.

Arranged in chronological order.

b. 1, f. 1	Guerrilla Art Action Group so called "Malevich Action" at Museum of Modern Art	1969 October 31
b. 1, f. 2	Guerrilla Art Action Group "memorial service for dead babies" at Museum of Modern Art in front of Picasso's <i>Guernica</i>	1970 January 3
b. 1, f. 3	Art Workers Coalition with Guerrilla Art Action Group members demonstration and protest at Museum of Modern Art with <i>And Babies</i> poster	1970 January 3
b. 1, f. 4	Guerrilla Art Action Group action at American Institute of Architects	1970 February 18
b. 1, f. 5	[Art Workers Coalition meeting, demonstration]	1970 February 23
b. 1, f. 6	Guerrilla Art Action Group action at American Institute of Architects conference at Cooper Union, New York City Note accompanying photographs: "For this action GAAG was joined by other artists in its realization. (Jon Hendricks was sick and didn't take part.) The AIA had been cooperating with the American Bar Ass. in the design of isolation [booths] for court rooms to control what defendants were able to say. Later AIA drop[p]ed the project."	1970 February 24
b. 1, f. 7	Lil Picard performing her anti-pollution event	1970 March 2
b. 2, f. 8-9	[Meeting of the Art Workers Coalition with MoMA Director John Hightower] Note accompanying photographs: "This was a meeting of the Art Workers Coalition at which John Hightower the new director of the Museum of Modern Art talked. There are a number of photographs here of GAAG (Johnson, Toche, Hendricks) questioning Hightower."	1970 March 2
b. 2, f. 10	Times Square, New York, anti-war action by Jon Hendricks and his students	1970 March 12
b. 2, f. 11	Lil Picard anti-pollution event, New York City	1970 March 21

b. 2, f. 12	[Art Workers Coalition meeting planning abortion rights demonstration] Includes images of Jean Toche, Tom Lloyd (Black Emergency Cultural Coalition), and Takis (Art Workers Coalition). Note accompanying photographs: "Poppy Johnson of Ad Hoc Women Artists presented her work 'Is this uterus the property of N. Y. state?'"	1970 March 23
b. 2, f. 13	Guerrilla Art Action Group and Art Workers Coalition action in support of the first postal workers' strike	1970 March 24
b. 2, f. 14	[Women Artists in Revolution and abortion rights march] Includes an image of a mannequin wearing an apron with the slogan "Is this uterus the property of N. Y. state?"	1970 March 24, 1970 March 28
b. 2, f. 15-16	[Abortion rights march] Note accompanying photographs: "Many groups participated including Women Artists in Revolution (W.A.R.), Ad Hoc Women Artists, G.A.A.G.; Poppy Johnson had made apron that people wore saying 'Is this uterus the property of N. Y. state?' Jon Hendricks did a short action."	1970 March 28
b. 2, f. 17	[Abortion rights rally]	1970 March 28
b. 3, f. 18	One of the earliest meetings at Art Workers Coalition for what would become: The People's Flag Show	1970 March 28
b. 3, f. 19-20	John Hightower addressing members of the Art Workers Coalition, New York State Council on the Arts, and others	1970 April 1
b. 3, f. 21	Symposium on art and politics at Museum of Modern Art? Includes photograph of MoMA Director John Hightower, Roy Lichtenstein, Alex Gross, Raphael Montañez Ortiz, and Congressman Ed Koch.	1970 April 14
b. 3, f. 22	R.F.S.S.B [Republic of the Federal Socialist States of Belgium] and government in exile Note accompanying photographs: "Jean Toche fast, and press conference at Judson Memorial Church demanding release of Herman Claeys."	1970 April 28, 1970 November 3
b. 3, f. 23	[Black and Puerto Rican Emergency Cultural Coalition, Guerrilla Art Action Group, and Art Workers Coalition protest at MoMA] The action supported a campaign by Black and Puerto Rican artists to implement programs at MoMA relevant to their communities. Among the demands were creation of a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - Pedro Albizu Campos Study Center for Black and Puerto Rican Culture.	1970 May 2
b. 3, f. 24	Media students demonstration against CBS; Guerrilla Art Action Group action, arrest, and action	1970 May 12
b. 4, f. 25	[Art Workers Coalition meeting at New York University?]	1970 May 18
b. 4, f. 26	First meeting of Art Strike after mass meeting	1970 May 18
b. 4, f. 27	Art Strike meeting at 727 B'way, N.Y.C; [Robert] Morris/[Poppy] Johnson chairpersons	1970 May 21
b. 4, f. 28-31	Art Strike demonstration and closing of Metropolitan Museum of Art	1970 May 22
b. 4, f. 32	Art Strike taking over the stage by the artists at the opening of the American Association of Museums Convention	1970 June 1

b. 4, f. 33	Art Strike takeover and speeches at American Associations of Museum Convention	1970 June 1
b. 4, f. 34	Art Strike confrontation with American Association of Museums meeting	1970 June 1
b. 5, f. 35	[American Association of Museums meeting]	1970 June 1
b. 5, f. 36	Possibly at one of our many confrontations with the American Association of Museums [and another unidentified event]	1970 June 1
b. 5, f. 37	[American Association of Museums meeting]	1970 June 3
b. 5, f. 38-41	Art Workers Coalition demonstration against the Lehman Wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art	1970 June 12
b. 5, f. 42	Governor Nelson Rockefeller addressing American Association of Museums conference and confrontation with artists of Art Strike	1970 June 12
b. 5, f. 43-44	Art Strike demonstration at Museum of Modern Art	1970 June 18
b. 5, f. 45	Art Strike demonstration at Museum of Modern Art by Women Artists in Revolution?	1970 June 18
b. 5, f. 46	Art Strike manifestation at Museum of Modern Art	1970 June 18
b. 5, f. 47	Art Strike presenting demands to Museum of Modern Art	1970 June 18
b. 6, f. 48	Unidentified event [Art Strike?]	1970 June 18
b. 6, f. 49-50	Art Strike action and demonstration at Museum of Modern Art Includes a photograph of Jan van Raay, Jean Toche, Jon Hendricks, and Lil Picard, by Tom Lloyd.	1970 June 30
b. 6, f. 51	Political information and poster show at Museum Note accompanying photographs: "I think it was organized by Farman."	1970 July 21
b. 6, f. 52	Stella Waitzkin happening	1970
b. 6, f. 53	Public hearing at the New York City Council against the expansion of the Metropolitan Museum of Art into Central Park	1970 August 11
b. 6, f. 54-55	Demonstration in support of the Panther 21	1970 September 3
b. 6, f. 56	William Kunstler and Abbie Hoffman among others at Panther 21 demonstration	1970 September 3
b. 7, f. 57-58	Art Workers Coalition (or possibly Art Strike) information action in the Grand Hall of the Metropolitan Museum of Art	1970 October 20
b. 7, f. 59	Guerrilla Art Action Group and Belgium government in exile, preliminary action to flag burning	1970 November 3
b. 7, f. 60	Some of the works exhibited at The People's Flag Show, Judson Memorial Church	1970 November 8
b. 7, f. 61	Some of the works exhibited at The People's Flag Show	1970 November 9

b. 7, f. 62	A few of the works at The People's Flag Show	1970 November 9
b. 7, f. 63	Symposium on Repression during the opening of The People's Flag Show at Judson Memorial Church Includes photographs of Faith Ringgold, Abbie Hoffman, and Kate Millett.	1970 November 9
b. 7, f. 64	Flag burning [People's Flag Show?]	1970 November 9
b. 7, f. 65	The day following the arrest of the Judson Three Note accompanying photographs: "Closing The People's Flag Show, press conference on church steps, meeting at AWC re: arrest, etc."	1970 November 14
b. 7, f. 66	Reading of a statement of support by the Rev. Howard Moody and moderator Anna Lou Pickett of Judson Church for the Judson Three	1970 November 15
b. 8, f. 67	[Art Workers Coalition panel on the Judson Three] Panelists depicted include Florynce Kennedy and Gerald Lefcourt, attorneys defending the Judson Three, as well as lawyer Robert Projansky, art critic Barbara Rose, MoMA Director of Public Information Elizabeth Shaw, New York Council on the Arts Visual Program Director Allon Schoener, and gallery owners Richard Feigen and Howard Wise.	1970 November 30
b. 8, f. 68	Flag burning ceremony by Judson Three and their supporters just after the first trial hearing	1970 December 1
b. 8, f. 69	Collecting petitions in the lobby of the Museum of Modern Art to change laws regarding the flag	1970 December 29
b. 8, f. 70	[Jean] Toche and [Jon] Hendricks gathering signatures on petition and making a public statement in the lobby of the Museum of Modern Art	1971 January 11
b. 8, f. 71	Art Workers Coalition demonstration for free day of admission to the Museum of Modern Art	1971 January 11
b. 8, f. 72	Art Workers Coalition in the Metropolitan Museum of Art (cockroach action?)	1971 January 12
b. 8, f. 73	Art Workers Coalition action in the Metropolitan Museum of Art during a meeting of its Board of Trustees Note accompanying photographs: "leaflets and cockroaches were distributed."	1971 January 21
b. 9, f. 74	Press conference of the Judson Three and their supporters	1971 February 5
b. 9, f. 75	[Demonstration in support of the Judson Three]	1971 February 5
b. 9, f. 76-77	Demonstration by members of the art community in support of the Judson Three	1971 February 16
b. 9, f. 78	Art Workers Coalition protest at Guggenheim Museum of Art re: censorship of [Hans] Haacke exhibition by director Tom M. Messer	1971 March 1
b. 9, f. 79	Professional and Administrative Staff Association of the Museum of Modern Art strike against the museum	1971 August 26
b. 10, f. 80-82	PASTA MoMA strike	1971 August 30

b. 10, f. 83	PASTA MoMA strike [Art Workers Coalition demanding removal of <i>And Babies</i> poster on exhibit] Includes images of museum security guards removing Jean Toche from the building.	1971 August 30
b. 10, f. 84-85	Art Workers Coalition demonstration at the Museum of Modern Art against Nelson Rockefeller the Butcher of Attica Among the protesters depicted are Alice Neel, and Faith Ringgold and her daughter Michele Faith Wallace.	1971 September 23
b. 11, f. 86-87	Multi-media event at Douglas College? Some photographs are dated April 14, 1970, although they appear to depict the same event.	1971 September 27
b. 11, f. 88	Women in the Arts meeting?	1971
b. 11, f. 89	Charlotte Moorman's Avant Garde Festival	1971 November 19
b. 11, f. 90	Guerrilla Art Action Group action/benefit for Attica at the Avant Garde Festival Image of John Lennon and Yoko Ono.	1971 November 19
b. 11, f. 91	Guerrilla Art Action Group Attica action during Avant Garde Festival	1971 November 19
b. 11, f. 92	Lil Picard performance in Elenore Lester's (?) class in Drama at New York University	1971 November 23
b. 11, f. 93	"Are Museums Relevant to Women?" public hearing at the Brooklyn Museum of Fine Art Among the speakers depicted are Faith Ringgold and Lucy Lippard.	1971 December 12
b. 12, f. 94	Virginia and Jean Toche and Jon Hendricks at his home at #1 White Street, New York City	1972 January 18
b. 12, f. 95-97	Lottery drawing at Castelli Gallery at the artists' benefit for the New York Civil Liberties Union Includes an image of Faith Ringgold, Jean Toche, and Jon Hendricks. Note accompanying photographs: "The drawing of the lottery tickets at the Leo Castelli Gallery. This was the finale of the Artists' Benefit for the New York Civil Liberties Union which was done in part because of their defense of the Judson 3 and Radich flag cases."	1972 February 4
b. 12, f. 98	Jan van Raay performance: "Metamorphotos" at 9th annual Avant Garde Festival	1972 October 28

Series II: Guerrilla Art Action Group Papers, 1974*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

The Guerrilla Art Action Group (GAAG) was founded in New York City in 1969 by Jon Hendricks, Poppy Johnson, and Jean Toche. The group organized or participated in a number of actions in support of artists' rights, civil rights, and women's rights and in protest of the Vietnam War, censorship, corporate influence in museums, and New York State policies regarding poverty and prisons. Like the Art Workers Coalition, GAAG's goals included expanding representation of Black and Puerto Rican artists in New York museums, and the two groups often joined in demonstrations such as the Art Strike against Racism, Sexism, Repression, War. GAAG was active until the mid-1970s.

This series consists of photocopies of correspondence, manifestos, action scripts, internal memoranda, interview transcripts, press releases, open letters, clippings, and other materials pertaining to the Guerrilla Art Action Group. Included is a cover page signed by GAAG co-founder Jon Hendricks on May 16, 1974, indicating the dossier is incomplete. The papers, which date from 1969 to 1974, document the group's advocacy for artists' rights and attempts to enact museum reforms in New York, largely through protests, demonstrations, and marches at MoMA and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The series contains materials related to an anti-war protest staged in front of Picasso's *Guernica* at MoMA, a demonstration supporting creation of a study center for Black and Puerto Rican art at the museum, and one of the group's first actions, a demonstration demanding the removal of Rockefeller family members from the MoMA board. Also documented is The People's Flag Show, an exhibition that resulted in the arrests of Faith Ringgold and GAAG co-founders Jean Toche and Hendricks. Additionally, the series contains letters written on behalf of other artists and activists, such as Jan van Raay, feminist art historian Cindy Nemser, and Black activist Angela Davis; and a copy of *Left Curve* magazine, inscribed by Toche and Hendricks.

Materials maintain order found at time of acquisition.

b. 13, f. 99-102	Guerrilla Art Action Group documents 1969-1974 (incomplete) 2	1974
	<p>The Guerrilla Art Action Group (GAAG) was founded in New York City in 1969 by Jon Hendricks, Poppy Johnson, and Jean Toche. The group organized or participated in a number of actions in support of artists' rights, civil rights, and women's rights and in protest of the Vietnam War, censorship, corporate influence in museums, and New York State policies regarding poverty and prisons. Like the Art Workers Coalition, GAAG's goals included expanding representation of Black and Puerto Rican artists in New York museums, and the two groups often joined in demonstrations such as the Art Strike against Racism, Sexism, Repression, War. GAAG was active until the mid-1970s.</p>	

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

African American artists
African American women political activists
Anti-war demonstrations
Art, Puerto Rican
Art -- Political aspects
Black Panthers Trial, New York, N.Y., 1970-1971
Demonstrations -- New York (State) -- New York
Dissident art
Flags -- Desecration -- United States
Freedom of speech -- United States
Pro-choice movement--United States
Women photographers -- United States
Women political activists -- United States

Genres / Formats

Black-and-white photographs -- 20th Century
Photographic prints
Photographs

Geographic Names

New York (N.Y.) -- Pictorial works

Occupations

Photographers -- United States -- 20th Century

Corporate Bodies

Ad Hoc Committee of Women Artists
Art Workers Coalition
Black Emergency Cultural Coalition
Guerrilla Art Action Group
Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.)
Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)

Names

Davis, Angela Y. (Angela Yvonne), 1944- --
Trials, litigation, etc.
Hendricks, Jon
Hightower, John B. (John Brantley), 1933-2013

Hoffman, Abbie
Johnson, Poppy
Kennedy, Florynce, 1916-2000
Kunstler, William M. (William Moses),
1919-1995
Lichtenstein, Roy, 1923-1997
Lloyd, Tom, 1929-1996
Millett, Kate
Neel, Alice, 1900-1984
Ortiz, Rafael Montanez
Picard, Lil
Raay, Jan van
Ringgold, Faith
Takis, 1925-
Toche, Jean

Contributors

Raay, Jan van
Guerrilla Art Action Group