

AGNES MARTIN
COLLECTION

[Box 180]

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[See Box 180]

Introduction

Agnes Martin [herein AM] who at the time of the establishment of this archive collection [February 2002] is living in Taos, was born in Maklin, Saskatchewan, Canada on March 22, 1912. She moved to the United States in 1932 or 1931 – the date remains unclear – and had her first art show at Harwood Museum in Taos in July 1947.

She attended various American Universities, receiving a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Fine Arts from Columbia University. In 1940 she became an American citizen. She lived periodically in New York City, Portland, Oregon, and New Mexico from the early '40s until the mid '50s, and became a permanent resident of New Mexico in 1954. In 1968 she built an adobe and log house on a mesa near Cuba. From 1977 to 1992 she lived in Galisteo, then moved to Taos.

Her works in oils hang in museums throughout the world, describing them mostly as modern realism. A more appropriate description of her work might be simply to call it linear abstract or minimalist abstract.

A catalog of her works was published in 1992 under the auspices of the Whitney Museum of Art in New York City. It contains photographs of a vast number of her works in connection with a series of exhibitions at the Whitney, the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Center for the Fine Arts in Miami, the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston, Texas, and the Museum Nacional etc. in Madrid from November 1992 to February 1994. It contains selected writings of the artist and an extended essay by Barbara Haskell. The book can be found in the Library of the Museum of Fine Arts under the title Agnes; call letters 759.13 MAR 1992.

SECTION I

**BIOGRAPHIC AND
BIBLIOGRAPHIC MATERIAL**

1. Biographic information. With various attachments including bibliographic references.
2. Masterpieces from the Collections. Biographic information.
3. Biographic information; individual exhibitions; group exhibitions.
4. Art Index. Reference volume. Numerous references to AM, with sources. 1965-1967.
5. Newspaper clippings; assorted.
6. Exhibition history, chronology, and selected bibliography. Compiled by Kari E. Steeves. Pgs 167-168, 170-182.
7. Selected Exhibition History and Bibliography. 3 pgs.
8. Computer print-out. Records 1-70. Works of AM.
9. Pacific Film Archive. University Art Museum. July-September 1995. Loaned by Pace Wildenstein Gallery, New York. Traces career of AM.

SECTION II

WRITINGS

[This Section II contains the writings of AM in a variety of forms, including lecture notes.]

1. Reflections. By AM. Transcribed and edited by Lizzie Borden. December 1972. From Artform, April 1973. 2 cc.
2. Art In America. October 1983. Pg. 132. Art In America. By AM. With photo, head, of artist.
3. El Palacio. 95. Fall-Winter 1989. Beauty Is The Mystery of Life. By AM. Sponsored by The Pace Gallery of New York, which represents AM. Pgs. 8-23. Photocopy. Picture of AM by Donald Woodman. [See also folder 7, infra.]
Transcriptions of AM notebook of lecture presented first at The Carnegie Museum of Art on January 7, 1989; then at MFA. Q.v. Folder 7, infra.
4. AM notes for lecture, On the Perfection Underlying Life. Given at the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. 5 pp. 2 cc. February 14, 1973.
On A Clear Day, a suite of 30 serigraphs.

With wall label. By Riva Castleman.
5. [No title.] Spiral-bound booklet of transcription of lecture presented by AM at Yale University. April 1976. 3 cc. Photocopies.
 - First paragraph inscribed on cover by AM.
 - Additional copy of contents of booklet. Photocopy.
Contains additional pages not found in booklet.
6. Profile: Agnes Martin. Vol. 1, No. 2. March 1981. Booklet. 24 pp. Article. On Art and Artists. By AM. Transcripts (2) from video interview tapes produced by Lyn Blumenthal and Kate Horsefield taped at AM's adobe home in Cuba, NM. First tape: September 1974; second: September 1976. Interview by Kate Horsefield.
 - Cover: photo, close-up of face of AM by Joan Boccino.
 - Cover: quotation by AM.
7. Reprint from El Palacio [Folder 3, supra.] Embossed.
8. Article. The Current of the River of Life Moves Us. [Lecture?] 2 cc. One copy inscribed Kunst Museumjournal. Vol. 2, No. 5, 1991. Amsterdam.
9. Pamphlet. [AM] Selected Writings. Whitney Museum of American Art. N.Y.C. Various writings.
Back page: biographic sketch announces show November 6, 1992 to January 31, 1993.

10. Announcement. [AM] Talk. St. Francis Auditorium, MFA. March 25, 1994. Presenting works of AM originally at the Whitney Museum, then elsewhere, now at Harwood Museum in Taos. Six pages, typewritten. An interview of AM by David Turner, MFA.

SECTION III

GALLERIES, MUSEUMS

1970S

1. Institute of Contemporary Art. University of Pennsylvania. The Underlying Perfection in Life. A lecture by AM. February 14, 1973.

Catalog. The Cleveland Museum of Art. Four Contemporary Painters. One of them, AM. September 20 – October 29, 1978. Illustrated.

1980s

1. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Extract. Photocopy. July 24 – September 7, 1980.

Curriculum vitae; selected exhibitions of AM.

Photo of untitled composition on cover, and on one inner page [poor reproduction].

Roswell Museum and Art Center. 1982 Invitational. Extract. Photocopy. AM a contributing artist.

Photo of two untitled works of AM [poor reproduction of one].

Sets forth locations of various AM works.

Charles Cowles Gallery. N.Y.C. The Heroic Sublime. Lists 10 artists, including AM. June 1986.

Newspaper release. Museum of New Mexico. c. February 1989. Museum to preview AM film February 18 entitled Gabriel. 85-minute color film of New Mexico and Colorado.

Announcement. Fold-over. The Cleveland Museum of Art. AM Recent Works. Show, July 5 – September 10, 1989.

= Cover: AM work.

= Article. Biographic essay and study of AM art. By Tom E. Hinson, Curator of Contemporary Art.

= Back: Biographic chronology; list of selected individual exhibitions; bibliography; AM works in exhibition.

1990-1996

3. Card. The Harwood Foundation Museum, Taos. Show. Taos Moderns. Art of the New. 21 artists, including AM. November 6, 1992 to January 16, 1993.

Flyer, photocopy. Charlotte Jackson Fine Art. Santa Fe. Show. Three Women, including AM. June 11-26, 1993.

- Card. Leaflet. Serpentine Gallery. London. Show. AM. September 8 – October 24, 1993.
 - = Cover: photograph of AM standing.
 - = Inside cover: quotation of AM.
- Press release. MNM. Announcing AM Retrospective at MFA. March 25 to [no date], 1994, coming from Whitney Museum in N.Y.C.
- Card. PWG. N.Y.C. Announcing AM Recent Paintings-Drawings and watercolors. March 28-April 27, 1996.
- Card. PWG. Announcing AM Recent Paintings. January 16-February 15, 1997.
- Card, folded. The Harwood Museum. Taos. Announcing opening of AM Gallery. October 31, 1997. 2 cc. With invitation and solicitation.
 - = Cover: photograph of AM in Taos, c. 1953. By Mildred Tolbert.

1998-1999

4. - Catalog. MFA. AM: Works on Paper. May 15-August 24., 1998. Cover: picture of AM works; back: ditto.
 - = List of lenders. Pg. 4.
 - = Various essays. Pgs. 4-33.
 - = Exhibition checklist. Pg. 44.
 - = Selected exhibitions, articles. Pgs. 45-46.
 - = Biographic sketch. Pg. 47.
- Program. The 25th Governor's Awards For Excellence In The Arts. Lists awardees; includes AM. September 25, 1998.
- Catalog. Three-fold. UNM Art Museum. The Minimalist Tradition in New Mexico: That Certain Look. Exhibition. June 8 – September 25, 1999.
- Notice, letter. Santa Fe Rotary Foundation to all Friends. To honor AM; on October 9, 1999.
- Program for October 9.
- Brochure. Rotary Foundation. 1999 Distinguished Artist Award: AM.
 - = Inside cover: photograph of AM, close-up.
 - = Biographic sketch.
 - = Past recipients.
 - = Rotary Foundation officers, board members.

- Fold-over. Rotary Foundation. Honoring AM.
- = Cover: photograph of AM.

2002

5. Poster. [AM] Symposium. Harwood Museum of Art. UNM. March 23-June 5.

SECTION IV

**ARTICLES: MAGAZINES
 NEWSPAPERS**

A. Magazines

1. - Art Forum. June 1971. Article. [AM]: An Appreciation. By Kasha Linville. Pg. 73. Illustrated [poor reproductions]. Photocopy.
 - Ibid. April 1973. Article. [Cover sheet missing.] By Lawrence Alloway. Illustrated [poor reproductions]. Photocopy.
 - Ibid. April 1973. Article. Early Work. By Lizzie Borden. Pgs. 39-44. Illustrated. Photocopy.
2. Originally published in Village Voice. N.Y.C. Article. [AM]: Surrender & Solitude. By Jill Johnson. September 20, 1973. Pgs. 267 to 283. Illustrated. Photocopy.
3. Art International. December 19, 1974. Article. [AM]: The Essential Form: The Committed Life. By Ann Wilson. Illustrated. [Some cropped; poor reproductions.] Photocopy.
4. Art In America. May/June 1975. N.Y.C. Article [brief]. [AM] at Pace. Photocopy.
5. ARTNews. September 1976. Article. [AM]: Everything, etc. By John Gruen. Pg. 91-94. Illustrated. Photocopy.
6. Art Space. Summer 1979. Article. [AM]: "The Islands." By William Peterson. Pgs. 36-41. Illustrated. Photocopy.
 - Pg. 36: photograph of AM.
 - Pg. 40: AM writings from her Notebook.
7. Art Forum. Summer 1987. Article. "Grey Geese Descending." The Art of [AM]. By Thomas McEvilley. Pgs. 94-99. Illustrated. [Some illegible.] Photocopy.
8. Arts Magazine. Vol. 65. Summer 1991. Article. Painting and Its Others. By Shirley Kaneda. Pgs. 58-64. Illustrations of artists' works, including AM. [Some illegible.] Photocopy.
9. Design Quarterly. No. 154. Winter 1992. Article. An Awareness of Perfection. By John T. Kirk. Pgs. 14-19. Illustrations of artists' works, including AM's. Photocopy.
10. Elle Décor. December 1992 – January 1993. Fanfare, an article. A Sense of Wonder. At 80, Art-World Legend: AM. Pgs. 20-24. Photocopy.
 - Title pg.: Photograph of AM at work.
11. New Yorker. January 25, 1993. Profile. Life Lines. [AM] By Benita Eisler. Pgs. 70-83. Illustrated; cartoons.

12. Taos Magazine. Vol. X. No. 1. Jan./Feb. 1993. Article. An Art Legend Returns to Taos. By Sally Eauclore. Pgs. 3, 34-35. Illustrated. Photo of AM on pg. 34.
13. Art Forum. Vol. 31. March 1993. Pg. 92. Short article. AM at Whitney Museum of American Art. Photocopy.
14. ARTFOCUS. Summer 1993. Article. [AM]: A Life For Art. By Virgil Hammock. Pgs. 10-12. Photo of AM. Photocopy.
15. Art in America. May 1996. Article. An Interview With [AM]. By Joan Simon. Pgs. 82-90. Illustrated.
16. Art Forum. Vol. 35. April 1997. Reviews. [AM]. Pace Wildenstein. Column on an AM exhibition.
17. THE Magazine. November 1997. Interview of AM by Christine Hemp. Pg. 31. Photocopy.
18. Art-Talk. December 1997. Article: Spotlight. [No attribution.] Photo of AM. Biography of AM. Photocopy.
19. Tear sheets. Art In America. April 1993. Article. [AM]: All the Way to Heaven. By Holland Cotter. Pgs. 89-97, 149. Illustrated, color. Footnotes.

B. Newspapers

[Many of the newspapers were too tattered and torn to allow for photocopying or preservation. The ones filed in this Section IV are representative of the widespread accolades showered upon AM during the years.]

20. 1958; 1974; 1981; 1982; n.d.
21. 1993.
22. 1994.
23. 1996.
24. 1997.
25. 1998.
26. 1999.