

**SFU** Simon Fraser University Special Collections  
and Rare Books

## Finding Aid - Kiss & Tell fonds (MSC-165)

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Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books  
W.A.C. Bennett Library - Room 7100  
Simon Fraser University  
8888 University Drive  
Burnaby  
BC  
Canada  
V5A 1S6  
Telephone: 778.782.8842  
[Email: mhardbat@sfu.ca](mailto:mhardbat@sfu.ca)  
<http://atom.archives.sfu.ca/index.php/msc-165>

# Kiss & Tell fonds

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## Summary information

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|---|---|
| Repository:                                     | Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books  |
| Title:  | Kiss & Tell fonds   |
| ID:   | MSC-165   |
| Date:   | 1988-2015 (date of creation)  |
| Physical description:                           | ca. 3250 photographs : b&w<br>12 cm of textual records<br>1 audio cassette<br>1 suitcase : 30 x 38 x 8 cm |
| Dates of creation,<br>revision and<br>deletion: |   |

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Kiss & Tell is an artistic collective based in Vancouver, British Columbia. Members include Persimmon Blackbridge, Lizard Jones and Susan Stewart. The group formed out of a larger meeting of feminists in 1984 who had gathered to discuss pornography, erotica, and sexual representation in art. The collective's work frequently addresses issues of censorship and lesbian sexual politics.

The group's major production was the interactive photographic exhibition "Drawing the Line," which launched in 1989 and toured for several years afterwards. The exhibition consisted of a series of 98 photographs taken by Susan Stewart with Lizard Jones and Persimmon Blackbridge as models, depicting a range of lesbian sexual practices. A postcard book "Drawing the Line: Lesbian Sexual Politics on the Wall," featuring 40 images and comments from the exhibition, was published by Press Gang Publishers in 1991. The group's second book, "Her Tongue on my Theory: Images, Essays and Fantasies" (1994) was the recipient of a Lambda Literary Award in 1995. The group has also produced performance pieces, including "True Inversions" (1992), images from which are contained in the book "Her Tongue on my Theory," and "That Long Distance Feeling: Perverts, Politics & Prozac" (1997). Lorna Boschman has made three short films about Kiss and Tell: "Drawing the Line" (1992), "True Inversions" (1992), and "Before the New Millennium" (2007). In the summer of 2015, the Vancouver Queer Arts Festival featured the exhibition "Drawing the Line in 2015," celebrating the 25th anniversary of the show.

## Custodial history

The records were in the custody of Susan Stewart until their acquisition by Simon Fraser University Library, Special Collections and Rare Books.

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## Scope and content

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Fonds consists of records created and accumulated by the Kiss and Tell collective over the course of the collective's operations. Records include photographs, correspondence, exhibition specifications and guidelines, and promotional and press materials.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

- Source of title proper: The title is based on the name of the creating body.

### Arrangement

Arrangement of the files into series provided by the Archivist. Arrangement of records within series follows the creators' original order where possible. When no original order could be discerned, records are arranged chronologically.

### Restrictions on access

All of the works in this fonds, e.g. photographs, written material, and sound recordings, are under copyright. Researchers are required to secure permission from the copyright holder(s) for uses of this material other than those covered by fair dealing.

### Finding aids

File list is available.

### Accruals

Further accruals are expected.

### Other notes

- Publication status: published

## Access points

- Kiss & Tell Collective
- Multi-media (documentary form)
- Women (subject)
- Arts and culture (subject)

## Series descriptions

### Series MsC-165-0-1: Drawing the line records

Date: 1988-2015 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records created and accumulated by the Kiss and Tell collective during the production, exhibition, and promotion of the photographic exhibition "Drawing the Line" and the book "Drawing the Line: Lesbian Sexual Politics on the Wall." Records include photographs, correspondence, exhibition specifications and guidelines, promotional and press materials, and articles. Photographs include not only those 98 images ultimately selected for use the "Drawing the Line" exhibition, but also many more photographs taken by Stewart in the process of creating the artwork, as well as photographs of the exhibition itself.

Physical description: ca. 3250 photographs : b&w

12 cm of textual records

1 audio cassette

1 suitcase : 30 x 38 x 8 cm

Access points:

- Multi-media (documentary form)

Arrangement:

Records were arranged in the creator's original order where possible. When no original order could be discerned, records were arranged in chronological order.

#### File / item list

| Ref code | Title | Dates | Access status | Container |
|----------|-------|-------|---------------|-----------|
|----------|-------|-------|---------------|-----------|

### Sub-series MsC-165-0-1-1: Photographs

Date: 1988-[ca. 1992] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of photographs taken by Susan Stewart for the "Drawing the Line" photographic series, as well as photographs taken by others at various "Drawing the Line" shows. Records include photographs, negatives, and contact sheets, as well as notes relating to contact sheets with commentary on specific photographs.

Physical description: ca. 3200 photographs : b&w  
1 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Photographic material (documentary form)

Arrangement:

Records are arranged in the creator's original order.

File / item list

| Ref code          | Title   | Dates                   | Access status | Container                |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| MsC-165-0-1-1-0-1 | File - [Drawing the line exhibition prints]                       | [between 1988 and 1990] |               | MsC 165 - Box 1-Box 3    |
| MsC-165-0-1-1-0-2 | File - [Drawing the line exhibition contact prints]               | [between 1988 and 1990] |               | MsC 165 - Box 4 folder 1 |
| MsC-165-0-1-1-0-3 | File - [Negatives and contact sheets including exhibition images] | [between 1988 and 1990] |               | MsC 165 - Box 4 folder 2 |
| MsC-165-0-1-1-0-4 | File - [Drawing the line proofs]                                  | [between 1988 and 1990] |               | MsC 165 - Box 4 folder 3 |
| MsC-165-0-1-1-0-5 | File - [Drawing the line outtakes and duplicates]                 | [between 1988 and 1990] |               | MsC 165 - Box 4 folder 4 |
| MsC-165-0-1-1-0-6 | File - [Drawing the line exhibition photos]                       | [between 1989 and 1992] |               | MsC 165 - Box 5 folder 1 |
| MsC-165-0-1-1-0-7 | File - [Drawing the line positives]                               | [between 1988 and 1990] |               | MsC 165 - Box 5 folder 2 |
| MsC-165-0-1-1-0-8 | File - [Drawing the line slides]                                  | [between 1988 and 1990] |               | MsC 165 - Box 5 folder 3 |

Sub-series MsC-165-0-1-2: Exhibition records

Date: 1988-1993 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records relating to the "Drawing the Line" exhibition. Includes records that document installation and display of the show, as well as those relating to other

aspects of the show. Records include photographs, audio cassette tape, text of an artists' talk, exhibition plan and installation instructions, and a legal agreement.

Physical description: 36 photographs : b&w  
5 cm of textual records  
1 audio cassette  
1 suitcase : 30 x 38 x 8 cm

Access points:

- Multi-media (documentary form)

Arrangement:

Records are arranged in the creator's original order.

File / item list

| Ref code          | Title   | Dates           | Access status | Container  |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|---------------|--|
| MsC-165-0-1-2-0-1 | File - [Drawing the line comments]                  | [Ca. 1990]      |               | MsC 165 -<br>Box 6 folder<br>1   |
| MsC-165-0-1-2-0-2 | File - [Miscellaneous exhibition and press records] | 1988-[ca. 1990] |               | MsC 165 -<br>Box 6 folder<br>2   |
| MsC-165-0-1-2-0-3 | File - [Drawing the line installation instructions] | [Ca. 1989]      |               | MsC 165 -<br>Box 6 folder<br>3   |
| MsC-165-0-1-2-0-4 | File - [Kiss and tell artists' talk]                | [Ca. 1990]      |               | MsC 165 -<br>Box 6 folder<br>4   |
| MsC-165-0-1-2-0-5 | File - [Drawing the Line Amsterdam]                 | 1993            |               | MsC 165 -<br>Box 6 folder<br>5 MsC 165 -<br>Box 5 folder<br>4 MsC 165 -<br>Box 5 folder<br>5 |
| MsC-165-0-1-2-0-6 | File - [Latitude 53 agreement]                      | 1993            |               | MsC 165 -<br>Box 6 folder<br>6   |
| MsC-165-0-1-2-0-7 | Item - [Drawing the line exhibition suitcase]       | [ca. 1989]      |               | MsC 165 -<br>Box 7   |

Sub-series MsC-165-0-1-3: Promotional materials and reviews

Date: 1988-1992, 2007-2015 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records relating to the promotion of the "Drawing the Line" exhibition, as well as articles about and reviews of the show. Records include pamphlets, promotional postcards, magazines, and newspaper clippings. Contains photocopied reproductions of several articles and reviews.

Physical description: 6 cm of textual records  
9 photographs : b&w

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Photographic material (documentary form)

Arrangement:

Records are arranged chronologically.

File / item list

| Ref code           | Title   | Dates      | Access status | Container                 |
|--------------------|---|------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| MsC-165-0-1-3-0-1  | File - [Miscellaneous articles and reviews]           | 1988-1993  |               | MsC 165 - Box 6 folder 7  |
| MsC-165-0-1-3-0-2  | File - [Drawing the line artists' statement]          | [Ca. 1989] |               | MsC 165 - Box 1           |
| MsC-165-0-1-3-0-3  | File - [Drawing the line press kit]                   | [1990?]    |               | MsC 165 - Box 6 folder 8  |
| MsC-165-0-1-3-0-4  | File - [Promotional materials]                        | 1990-1992  |               | MsC 165 - Box 6 folder 9  |
| MsC-165-0-1-3-0-5  | File - [Drawing the line postcard book press release] | 1991       |               | MsC 165 - Box 6 folder 10 |
| MsC-165-0-1-3-0-6  | File - [Drawing the line postcard book]               | 1991       |               | MsC 165 - Box 6 folder 11 |
| MsC-165-0-1-3-0-7  | File - [Periodical circulation list]                  | 1991       |               | MsC 165 - Box 6 folder 12 |
| MsC-165-0-1-3-0-8  | File - [Sojourner article]                            | 1991       |               | MsC 165 - Box 6 folder 13 |
| MsC-165-0-1-3-0-9  | File - [Queer criticism conference pamphlet]          | 2007       |               | MsC 165 - Box 6 folder 14 |
| MsC-165-0-1-3-0-10 | File - [Susan Stewart artist's life]                  | 2010       |               | MsC 165 - Box 6 folder 15 |
| MsC-165-0-1-3-0-11 | File - [Westender newspaper]                          | 2015       |               | MsC 165 - Box 1           |

Sub-series MsC-165-0-1-4: Correspondence

Date: 1989-1993 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of correspondence, both incoming and outgoing, between members of the Kiss and Tell artist collective and others. Correspondence relates primarily to the



"Drawing the Line" exhibition in Sidney, Australia, the publication of the book "Drawing the Line: Lesbian Sexual Politics on the Wall," and responses to the show and book.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Physical condition:

Series contains several pages of facsimile paper, some of which is fading.

Arrangement:

Records are arranged in the creator's original order.

File / item list

| Ref code          | Title                                 | Dates     | Access status | Container |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| MsC-165-0-1-4-0-1 | File - [Miscellaneous correspondence] | 1989-1993 |               |           |