

## CHUCK KLEINHANS FONDS

**Title:**

Kleinhans, Chuck



### Biographical Sketch

Chuck Kleinhans was one of the most influential film scholars and activists of the era of the New Left. He has been described as “a connoisseur of documentary and the avant-garde and sexual representation and everything in between, local and global” and “a legendary piercer of bullshit and complacency in academia and on the left and everywhere else” (Waugh, 2018). He was a prolific writer and reviewer, with publications in journals such as the *Journal of Visual Culture*, *Film Appreciation*, *Cinematograph*, *Journal of Film and Video*, *Cinémaction*, *Women and Film*, *Cinema Journal*, *Film Quarterly*, *Dialogue: An Art Journal*, and many more. He inspired a number of prominent film scholars, particularly scholars of adult film history and queer film history, such as Linda Williams, Chris Straayer, Rox Samer and Peter Alilunas, as well as Canadian filmmakers and scholars John Greyson, Sara Halpern, and Tom Waugh.

Kleinhans was Associate Professor Emeritus in the Radio/Television/Film Department at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. From 1977 to 2009, he taught courses in microcomputer graphics, film and video making, sexual representation, media literacy, popular culture, experimental film/video, Hollywood cinema, and digital culture, among others. His research and teaching interests included the history and aesthetics of experimental and documentary work; mass culture; sexual representation in visual communications, and

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aesthetic, ethical and political issues in cross cultural media analysis. He accumulated a large amount of primary source material relating to his research on pornography. In 2007, the Society for Cinema and Media Studies awarded him its Outstanding Pedagogical Achievement Award.

He co-founded Jump Cut: A Review of Contemporary Media, with Julia Lesage and John Hess in 1974. The journal focuses on the analysis of film, television, video, and related media, was published in print until 2001. With his spouse Julia Lesage, he continued to co-edit Jump Cut online until his passing in 2017.

**Dates Active:** 1942 - 2017

### Sources:

Butler, J. G. (2018). Remembering Chuck Kleinhans. *Porn Studies*, 5:4, 465-469. DOI: 10.1080/23268743.2018.1524309

Legacy.com (2017) Charles Nelson Kleinhans 1942-2017.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/registerguard/obituary.aspx?n=charles-nelson-kleinhans&pid=187629959>

SRC. (2021). New acquisitions at the SRC. <http://sds.utoronto.ca/news/new-acquisitions-at-the-sexual-representation-collection/>

Waugh, T. (2018). Chuck Kleinhans 1942-2017: a personal memoir and a tribute.

<https://www.ejumpcut.org/archive/jc58.2018/WaughCKtribute/index.html>

Wikipedia. (2021). Chuck Kleinhans. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chuck\\_Kleinhans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chuck_Kleinhans)

**Accession No.:** 2021.001

**Repository:** Sexual Representation Collection

**Dates of creation:** 1939 – 2013, predominant 1970 - 2013

### Physical description (Extent and medium)

17.37 meters of textual records

877 video records

- 706 VHS cassettes (ca. 1,412 hours)
- 26 Beta cassettes (ca. 38 hours)
- 139 DVDs (ca. 208 hours, 30 mins)
- 6 VCDs (ca. 7 hours, 24 mins)

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41 photographs

- 40 colour prints, 1 b&w print

112 electronic carriers

- 6 3.5 inch floppy disks
- 105 zip disks
- 1 solid state drive

1 object

- 1 toy plane kit

### Scope and content:

This fonds consists of 11 series, divided by media type. The collection was not received by the archives with an apparent original order, but textual records were kept together as much as possible and where appropriate.

The series are as follows; Audio-Visual Materials, Electronic Records, VHS Sleeves and Magazine Pages, Theory Books, Annuals and Directories, Photographs, Pulp Novels, Fashion & Lingerie Magazines, Pornographic Magazines & Film Catalogues, Film & Media Magazines & Journals, and Academic Notes, Research and Writings.

The first series, Audio-Visual Materials, includes commercial porn releases and dubs on VHS and Beta tapes. It also includes DVD releases, and some Chinese commercial releases on Video CD.

The second series, Electronic Records, includes a solid-state hard drive, zip disks and floppy disks. Many disks are unlabelled, and retrieval of digital files has not been attempted.

The third series, VHS Sleeves and Magazine Pages, includes sleeves from commercial porn titles on VHS, as well as loose-lead magazine clippings and cover pages.

The fourth series, Theory Books, includes books mainly related to sexual studies, gender studies, film theory and the history of porn.

The fifth series, Annuals and Directories, includes Adult Entertainment Guide annuals, as well as film distribution directories and a small collection of Betty Page comics and annuals.

The sixth series, Photographs, contains a collection of 14 black & white prints of retro fashion and pin-up images from the 1940s through to 1960s.

The seventh series, Pulp Novels, includes over 60 soft-cover erotic fiction novels.

The eighth series, Fashion & Lingerie Magazines, includes magazines published by Victoria's Secret, Playboy, Vogue and Fredericks of Hollywood.

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The ninth series, Pornographic Magazines & Film Catalogues, contains over 400 pornographic magazines from various US publishers, as well as some British and European titles.

The tenth series, Film & Media Magazines & Journals, includes academic journals related to cinema studies, women's cinema, and independent media.

The eleventh series, Academic Notes, Research and Writings, includes handwritten notes, draft writings, teaching notes, computer printouts, internet porn print-outs, course syllabi, student papers, journal photocopies, porn magazine photocopies, correspondences, email printouts, newspaper and magazine clippings, postcards, and photographic prints, all related to Kleinhan's academic career.

### **Rights and access:**

A) Some items containing personal information may be restricted.

### **Language:**

English

**Finding aids:** Contact archivist for further finding aid information.

### **Genre Access Points:**

*Description written by Heather Walker, April 2021*