

Sexual Representation Collection

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Richard Kornbacher Collection Description and Finding Aid

Accession Numbers

(2022.12.01.0001 — 2022.12.08.0090)

Series

Series 1 – Small reel 8mm and 16mm film

Series 2 – Large reel 16mm film

Series 3 – Photographs, negatives, slides and prints

Series 4 – Audio tapes

Series 5 – VHS tapes

Series 6 – Type written erotica

Series 7 – Business records, paraphernalia, and correspondence

Series 8 – Ephemera

Physical Extent / Format

556 8mm and 16mm film reels

200 16mm films

2,797 Photographs

667 film negatives

30 Prints

88 Slides

56 Audio tapes

28 VHS tapes

3.78 m of Textual Records (Series 6 + 7+8)

3 Objects

2 Cassette Tapes

1 Chest

Dates

c. 1953-[2002]

Biographical Sketch

Richard Kornbacher (d. 2010) was a filmmaker and photographer operating primarily between the 1950s and 1990s. Kornbacher worked for the Boeing motion picture department and KIRO-TV in Seattle, Washington, in the 1950s-70s. Outside of his work at Boeing and KIRO-TV, Kornbacher independently produced and directed pornographic and non-pornographic films, founding the Seattle-based pornographic film studio Starlight Productions in the 1960s. Additionally, Kornbacher was vice president of Plexus Inc., a film production company producing educational films on human behaviour. Kornbacher produced and directed films such as his “magnus opus” *Spindrift or Spindrift Spring, Perverted Passion* (1974), *French Fantasies* (1975), *French Throat* (1975), and *Las Vegas Erotica* (1983), many alongside filmmaker Ray Dennis Steckler.

Scope and Content

The collection includes various materials related and collected by Richard Kornbacher between 1953 to around 2002. Most materials are situated within the United States of America,

specifically Washington, and States. These material document professional and personal endeavors of Richard Kornbacher and related partnerships. The collection consists of audiovisual materials, business records, correspondence, notes, photographic material and miscellaneous materials that reflect Kornbacher's work within film industries and pornography industries as well as personal experiences and relationships.

Restrictions on Access

Some materials in this collection may be subject to restrictions under the advisory of the Lead Curator and Project Manager.

Topics of Interest to Researchers

- Seattle
- Peep Shows
- Starlight Productions
- Sync Productions
- Ray Dennis Steckler

Series 1 – Small reel 8mm and 16mm film

Date Range

556 8mm and 16mm film reels

Extent

556 8mm and 16mm film reels

Scope and Content

This series consists of both 8mm and 16mm film reels pertaining to work created or associated with Richard Kornbacher and relationships.

Series 2 – Large reel 16mm film

Date Range

1953-[2002]

Extent

200 16mm film reels

Scope and Content

This series consists of 16mm film pertaining to work created or associated with Richard Kornbacher and relationships.

Series 3 – Photographs, negatives, slides and prints

Date Range

1953-[2002]

Extent

2,586 Photographs

638 film negatives

30 Prints

88 Slides

Scope and Content

This series consists of photographic materials documenting activities, events and key figures related to various films, photoshoots and relationships. The materials include photographic prints, negatives, slides, and contact sheets.

Series 4 – Audio tapes

Date Range

1953-[2002]

Extent

56 Audio tapes

Scope and Content

This series consists of audio materials, reel-to-reel and cassette tapes. The material included pertains to a range of personal, professional and experimental audio recordings including narrative dubs, sound effects, environmental recordings and soundtracks. The series also consists of recordings pertaining to the film “Spindrift”.

Series 5 – VHS tapes**Date Range**

1953-[2002]

Extent

28 VHS tapes

Scope and Content

This series consists of audiovisual material related to the production of adult-themed projects and independent films created by Richard Kornbacher and others associated. The material consists of Video Tapes, Cassette tapes and micro cassette tapes. Works it includes are recordings pertaining to Spindrift Spring (1987), Blue Vanities (1988), and a collection of vintage stag film and peep show loops.

Series 6 – Type written erotica

Date Range

1953-[2002]

Extent

0.60 m of Textual Record

Scope and Content

This series contains a collection of erotic and adult stories, mini-booklets, manuscripts and essay works. The items exhibit varying levels of physical wear, resulting in some materials being incomplete, fragile and in various damaged conditions such as rips, faded ink and worn paper.

Series 7 – Business records, paraphernalia, and correspondence**Date Range**

1953-[2002]

Extent

3.35 m of Textual Records

Scope and Content

This series contains various business documents, correspondence and paraphernalia pertaining to various companies, primarily Sync Productions, Atsuad Production and Starlight Productions. The records also include correspondences from various universities and medical institutions. The records also include financial records, promotional and marketing materials, reports, meeting notes, and other miscellaneous documents pertaining to Richard Kornbacher.

Series 8 – Ephemera & Miscellaneous**Date Range**

1953-[2002]

Extent

0.127m Textual Records

211 Photos

29 Film negatives

3 Objects

2 Cassette Tapes

Scope and Content

This series contains printed ephemera, advertising materials, sketches, textual records, audio tapes, casting photos and other miscellaneous materials pertaining to Richard Kornbacher's personal interests, professional endeavours and creative works.

Notes

Materials from Kornbacher's magnum opus *Spindrift* are spread across the series. They are labelled or titled "Spindrift" or "SPD."

Collection description and finding aid prepared and compiled by Roxy Moon alongside SRA work study students between 2022-2024. The finding aid was completed by Helen Chazan in 2025.

Complete spreadsheet list of materials available upon request.

Sources

Herzog, Amy. "Assemblage, Constellation, Image: Reading Filmic Matter." *Discourse*, vol. 38, no. 2, 2016, pp. 215–34. doi.org/10.13110/discourse.38.2.0215.

"Richard Kornbacher." *IMDb*, www.imdb.com/name/nm12916062/. Accessed 21 July, 2023.

“Richard Kornbacher.” *The Movie Database*, www.themoviedb.org/person/3316072-richard-kornbacher. Accessed 21 July, 2023.