



ArchivesSpace

## **Brenda Bettinson collection, 1996-2009**

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on February 03, 2017.

Maine Women Writers Collection

Abplanalp Library  
University of New England  
716 Stevens Avenue  
Portland, Maine 04103  
[cmiller10@une.edu](mailto:cmiller10@une.edu)  
URL: <http://www.une.edu/mwwc>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Maine Women Writers Collection
<b>Title:</b>	Brenda Bettinson collection
<b>ID:</b>	0428
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1996-2009
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 folders
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Brenda Bettinson collection, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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## Biographical/Historical Note

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Brenda Bettinson was born in 1929 in England and her art education took place at St. Martin's School of Art (1946-1948) and the Central School of Arts & Crafts (1948-1950) in London. Following that she studied in Paris, painting at the Academie de la Grand Chaumiere and Etruscan and Roman art and archeology at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, University of the Sorbonne. In the late 1950s she moved to New York and worked as a graphic designer of the New York Fine Arts Guide, hosted a weekly radio program "Art in New York" and had solo shows in New York and Provincetown, Massachusetts. During her teaching career she taught art on the three campuses of Pace University, creating the art department on the Westchester campus and later chairing the Department of Art & Design. She also lectured extensively outside of the university, published numerous articles on art history and exhibited widely in New York and other US cities. In 1966 she was awarded the Gold Medal of the National Arts Club. At age 60, she retired and moved to her home on Barter's Island, Maine, to devote herself full-time to her art. Cordula Mathias, at whose gallery, Mathias Fine Art in Trevett, Maine, Bettinson showed her work regularly, says that when Bettinson moved to Maine from New York, "a significant change occurred in the artist's output; from very large neo-expressionist paintings featuring the human form to smaller, more carefully executed paintings having for their subject the natural and man-made objects of the Maine island landscape. This period reveal(ed) Brenda's increasing and continuous concern with problems of human perception, her investigation of four-dimensional phenomena and as always a dynamic and innovative approach to composition." (from Mathias's

biographical sketch in "At 80: A Festschrift for Brenda Bettinson," published by Mathias Fine Art in 2009). In addition to the gallery in Trevett, Bettinson has shown her work at Unity College, Bates College, the Center for Maine Contemporary Art and the Ogunquit Museum of American Art.

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## Collection Scope and Content

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This collection contains a spiral-bound festschrift book created for Bettinson by Mathias Fine Art in 2009, composed of color and black and white reproductions of Bettinson's work and essays by 24 contributors, five of whom are women of Maine: Paola Biola, Georgiana Peacher, Cordula Mathias, Britta Konau and Genetta McLean.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is organized as a single series.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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## Access

Collection is open for research.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Artists
- Painters
- Boothbay (Me.)
- Exhibition catalogs
- Postcards
- Bettinson, Brenda
- Biola, Paola
- Peacher, Georgiana
- Mathias, Cordula
- Konau, Britta
- McLean, Genetta

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
Catalog, "Bettinson, Selected Paintings and Prints, 1990-1996", 1996	box 3	folder 001
"At 80: a Festschrift for Brenda Bettinson", 2009	box 3	folder 002
Postcards for gallery exhibits featuring Bettinson's work, 2009	box 3	folder 003