

University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

Finding Aid - Gabriel Gély fonds (MSS 567 (A2018-025))

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Gabriel Gély fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections
Title:	Gabriel Gély fonds
ID:	MSS 567 (A2018-025)
Date:	1931-2016 (date of creation)
Physical description:	0.66 m including 671 slides, approx. 2125 negatives, 125 proofs, 597 photographs, 1 article, 5 USB drives, 91 documents, 12 books, 79 pages, 18 newspaper clippings.
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Finding aid created by Kara Suderman (March 2019). Revised by N. Courrier (April 2019).
Note [sourcesDescription]:	Darrell Greer, "Vast photo collection depicts life in Nunavut from the 1950s-'80s" Kivalliq News, Northern News Services Limited, October 14, 2020: https://nns1.com/kivalliq-news/vast-photo-collection-depicts-life-in-nunavut-from-the-1950s-80s/

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Gabriel Gély was an artist and photographer. His artistic subjects primarily are Inuit and Inuit communities. Gély also played a pioneering role as a government advisor and promotor of Inuit art. Gély was born in Paris, France on May 20, 1924. From 1942 to 1945, he was active in the French underground. After the war, in the late 1940s, Gély became fascinated with the Canadian Arctic and Inuit artefacts and, in 1952, he travelled to Canada to pursue this interest. By 1953, he was working for the Department of Transport (DOT) as a cook in Kanngiqtugaapik (Clyde River), Baffin Island. From 1956 to 1960, Gély worked in several locations in southern Canada and the US for camera stores and photography companies. He then took a position with the National Museum in Ottawa as a museologist for their Arctic materials. From 1963 to 1988, Gély worked in various positions in northern communities in close relationship with Inuit.

Gély began painting as a self-taught artist while still living in France. He continued his artistic practice in Canada and became known for his portrayals of northern peoples. Gély's artwork can be found in private and government collections such as the Glenbow Foundation, the Imperial Oil Collection, the governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories, the Mendel Gallery in Saskatoon, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife, and the Nunavut Legislative Building in Iqaluit and it has been shown in galleries in the North and across Canada.

While a youth in France, Gély purchased his first camera. During his time in Canada, Gély owned several other cameras. He took hundreds of photographs of Inuit documenting their daily lives and learned to develop the film himself. His photographic collection spans over 30 years from 1954 to 1987 and records life in many northern communities.

Gély died at his home in Selkirk, Manitoba on November 27, 2020.

Custodial history

The collection was sold by Gabriel Gély to Susan Howe and Kathryn Knowles in 2014.

Scope and content

This fonds consists of graphic material and textual records from Gabriel Gély documenting his life, particularly his time in northern Canada.

Notes

Title notes

Restrictions on access

The file relating to housing records is restricted from access (Box 1, folder 25). Please consult an university archivist for further information.

Conditions governing use

Researchers must abide by current copyright legislation.

Finding aids

A finding aid can be downloaded by clicking on the “Download” link under “Finding Aid” on the right hand side of the screen.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Status description:** Draft

Access points

- Multiple media (documentary form)

Series descriptions

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Arctic Bay [Ikpiarjuk], Arviat, Ennadai Slides	1954-1987		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0001
	File - Baker Lake [Qamani], Chesterfield Inlet [Igluligaarjuk], Clyde River [Kangiqtugaapik] Slides	1953-1986		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0002
	File - Gjoa Haven [Uqsuqtuuq], Grise Fiord [Ausuittuq], Hall Beach [Sanirajak], Lake Harbour [Kimmirut], Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet [Mittimatalik], Rankin Inlet [Kangiqliniq], Repulse Bay [Naujaat], Spence Bay [Talurjuaq] Slides	1973-1987		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0003
	File - Negatives	1968-1987		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0004
	File - Negatives - Ennadai Lake	1985		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0005
	File - Negatives and Proofs	1959-1985		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0006
	File - Ennadai Lake Proofs	1985		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0007
	File - Negatives - Ennadai	1953-1986		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0008
	File - Yellowknife Art Show	1987		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0009
	File - Photographs - Arviat, Clyde River [Kangiqtugaapik], Baker Lake [Qamani]	1954-1985		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0010
	File - Photographs - Arviat, Baker Lake [Qamani], Ennadai Lake, Clyde River [Kangiqtugaapik], Repulse Bay [Naujaat], Bay Chimo [Umingmaktok]	1955-1985		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0011
	File - Photographs - Ennadai Lake, Arviat, Sachs Harbour [Ikaahuk], Baker Lake [Qamani], Hall Beach [Sanirajak], Baffin Island, Clyde River [Kangiqtugaapik], Harbour Island	1954-1986		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0012

	File - Photographs - Clyde River [Kangiqtugaapik], Sachs Harbour [Ikaahuk], Rafe Heller, Ennadai Lake, Grise Fiord [Ausuittuq]	1953-1957		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0013
	File - Photographs - Arviat, Clyde River [Kangiqtugaapik], Ennadai Lake, Baker Lake [Qamani], Sachs Harbour [Ikahuak]	1953-1975		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0014
	File - Polaroids	1954-1987		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0015
	File - Photographs - Baker Lake [Qamani], Eskimo Point [Arviat]	1963-1968		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0016
	File - Photographs - Eskimo Point [Arviat] Misc.	1984-1986		A2048-025, Box 0001 File 0017
	File - Photographs and Interview Videos	2014		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0018
	File - Transcriptions of Video Recordings	2014-2018, predominant 2014		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0019
	File - Interview Notes	2014-2018, predominant 2015		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0020
	File - Publications	1964-2018, predominant 1964-1996		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0021
	File - Misc. Photographs and Notes	2014		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0022
	File - "To the Ennadai Lake People"	1986		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0023
	File - Publications	1969-1983		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0024
	File - Housing Records	No Date	Access is restricted. Please consult a university archivist for further information.	A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0025
	File - Northern Subjects (part 1 of 3)	2014-2015		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0026
	File - Northern Subjects: Arctic Albums and Repros (part 2 of 3)	2014-2015		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0027
	File - Northern Subjects (part 3 of 3)	2014-2015		A2018-025, Box 0001 File 0028
	File - Photographs, not from collection	No Date		A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0001

	File - Misc. Art Exhibit Documents	2016	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0002
	File - Gwen Fox Art Gallery Garage Sale	2014	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0003
	File - Southern Subjects (part 1 of 2)	2015	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0004
	File - Southern Subjects: on file art material (part 2 of 2)	No Date	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0005
	File - Photo album of Paintings	1987	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0006
	File - Photographs	1953-1985	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0007
	File - Misc. USA and Canada Camera Shops	1961-1962	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0008
	File - Military and Work References (France)	1931-1957	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0009
	File - Baker Lake [Qamani]	1963-1964	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0010
	File - Winnipeg International Airport Exhibit	1964	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0011
	File - Photo Collection, Correspondence, and Inventory	2005-2008	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0012
	File - Photos and Newspaper Articles	1958-2010	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0013
	File - Photo Album (1)	No Date	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0014
	File - Field Sketch Book - Ennadai Lake	1985	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0015
	File - Misc.	1953	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0016
	File - Photo Album (2)	1931-1975	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0017
	File - Photo Album (3)	1955-1992	A2018-025, Box 0002 File 0018