



Guide to the Jess T. Dugan photographs, 2006-2021

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Summary

Collection Title:

Jess T. Dugan photographs, 2006-2021

Source:

Archive of Documentary Arts (Duke University)

Creator:

Dugan, Jess T.

Abstract:

Collection comprises three bodies of color and black-and-white work by photographer Jess T. Dugan: *To Survive on this Shore: Photographs of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Older Adults* (2013-2017); *A Moment Collected: Photographs at the Harvard Art Museum* (2006-2008); and *Look At Me Like You Love Me* (2020-2021). Nearly all the images are portraits ranging from staff at the Harvard Art Museum, one of Dugan's earliest projects, to gender non-conforming people, gay men and women, and transgender people. The 120 prints are signed, dated, and titled by the artist. Acquired as part of the Archive of Documentary Arts at Duke University.

Extent:

4.5 Linear Feet (3 boxes)

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

RL.11524

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1x89t>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Jess T. Dugan photographs, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

Collection consists of three bodies of documentary work by photographer Jess T. Dugan.

The first, *To Survive on This Shore*, comprises 40 color inkjet photographs of transgender and gender non-conforming people over the age of 50, living throughout the United States. These portraits are part of an interdisciplinary project titled "To Survive on This Shore: Photographs and Interviews with Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Older Adults." They portray single individuals as well as couples, chiefly in outdoor settings such as parks and streets. All images measure roughly 15 x 20 inches (sheet size). The interviews conducted for the project are not included in this collection. For this work, Dugan received a Rubenstein Library's 2017 Archive of Documentary Arts Award.

The second series, *A Moment Collected: Photographs at the Harvard Art Museum*, offers 18 black-and-white portraits of staff at the Harvard Museum of Art, taken from 2006-2008 as the museum and its employees prepared for a major move and renovation. The prints form a 2011 limited-edition portfolio and are housed in a custom hinged portfolio box with accompanying textual narrative.

The third portfolio, *Look At Me Like You Love Me*, consists of 61 16x20 inch prints, almost all portraits of individuals and couples along with a few still lifes. Some images are self-portraits of the photographer and their partner. Through these portraits, Dugan examines gender expression, self-identity, and life experience, and documents communities of friends, lovers, and family.

Acquired as part of the Archive of Documentary Arts at Duke University.

Biographical/Historical

Jess T. Dugan is an artist and documentary photographer whose work explores issues of gender, sexuality, identity, life experiences, and community. Dugan holds an MFA in Photography from Columbia College Chicago, a Master of Liberal Arts in Museum Studies from Harvard University, and a BFA in Photography from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

Dugan's work has been exhibited internationally at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, the Aperture Foundation, the San Diego Museum of Art, and other institutions, and is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Harvard Art Museums,

Duke University's David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, and others.

In 2016, Dugan was honored as a Commended Artist by the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. for their photograph titled "Self-Portrait (Muscle Shirt)," as part of the exhibit titled The Outwin 2016: American Portraiture Today. For "Surviving on this Shore," Dugan was awarded a Duke University Rubenstein Library's Archive of Documentary Arts 2017 Collection Award. Their photobook, *Look At Me Like You Love Me*, was short-listed for the 2022 Paris Photo "Aperture PhotoBook Awards."

From the artist's statement: "Identity and social connection are driving forces in my life and work, and I have long been drawn to making photographic portraits in pursuit of a deeper understanding of these human experiences. Over the past fifteen years, my photographs have explored issues of gender, sexuality, identity, and community, shifting between an internally focused, subjective examination of myself and an outwardly focused, socially and politically motivated documentation of the LGBTQ community. These perspectives are inextricably linked; my personal identity as a queer person is inherently political, and the open portrayal of my body, experiences, and family creates a platform from which I can intimately engage with others."

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Arrangement

The series are organized by project, and prints within are arranged in original order as received from the photographer.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive
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askRL@duke.edu

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Images may only be used for educational, non-commercial purposes; any other use requires the photographer's permission.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Jess T. Dugan photographs were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 2017, 2019, and 2022.

Processing Information

Processed by Yuqiao Cao, Paula Jeannet, and Alanna Styer, November 2017 and July 2019.

Addition (2022-0145) processed by Prakruti Kumar and described by Paula Jeannet, October 2022.

Accession(s) represented in this collection guide: 2017-0132, 2019-0105, 2022-0145.

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Names and Subjects

- Art museums -- Photographs
- Aging -- United States
- Gay people -- Portraits
- Gay couples -- Portraits
- Gender identity -- United States
- Gender non-conforming people -- Portraits
- Homosexuality -- United States
- Museums -- Employees -- Portraits
- Older gay people -- United States
- Portrait photography -- United States

- Sexual minorities -- United States -- Aging
- Transgender people -- United States -- Portraits
- United States -- Social conditions -- 1990-
- Black-and-white photographs
- Color prints (photographs)
- Digital prints
- Gelatin silver prints
- Inkjet prints
- Archive of Documentary Arts (Duke University)
- Dugan, Jess T.

Collection Inventory

To Survive on this Shore, 2013-2017

Physical Description: 1.5 Linear Feet

1 box 40 prints; The photographs are Archival Pigment Prints on Hahnemuhle Photo Rag Pearl paper (320 gsm, 100 percent cotton, natural white, pearl-finish). They were produced on an Epson 3880 inkjet printer using UltraChrome K3 ink.

Scope and Contents

These 40 color portraits were created as part of an interdisciplinary project titled "To Survive on this Shore: Photographs and Interviews with Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Older Adults," by Jess T. Dugan, photographer, and Vanessa Fabbre, PhD, LCSW, a social worker and Assistant Professor at Washington University in St. Louis, whose research focuses on the intersection of LGBTQ issues and aging. Subjects are single individuals as well as couples, chiefly in outdoor settings. All images measure roughly 15 x 20 inches. For this work, Jess Dugan received a 2017 Archive of Documentary Arts Award.

A selection of these photographs was exhibited at the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library's photograph gallery from February 23-June 2, 2019.

From the artist's statement: "Our society is experiencing a breakthrough moment with respect to transgender issues. From Amazon's series 'Transparent,' winning Golden Globe and Emmy awards, to Caitlyn Jenner's highly publicized transition, transgender issues are getting mainstream exposure in an unprecedented way. However, it is essential to continue educating ourselves and others about the challenges faced by the transgender community and to resist Hollywood-dominated narratives about trans experiences. We believe that the time is right to make this work on a national scale and that society is ready to receive it more than at any other time in history. Ultimately, it is our intention to provide visibility to a community that

is often overlooked, both because of their age as well as their gender, and to encourage empathy, understanding, and dialogue."

Aidan, 52, Burien, WA, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0001
Alexis, 64, Chicago, IL, 2014	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0002
Barbara, 70, Long Island, NY, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0003
Bobbi, 83, Detroit, MI, 2014	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0004
Bobbie, 60, Hanford, CA, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0005
Bobbie holding a family photo from before her transition, Hanford, CA, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0006
Caprice, 55, Chicago, IL, 2015	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0007
Cassandra, 50, San Diego, CA, 2017	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0008
Chris, 52, Boston, MA, 2013	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0009
Debbie, 61, and Danny, 66, St. Joseph, MO, 2015	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0010
Dee Dee Ngozi, 55, Atlanta, GA, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0011
D'Santi, 54, Santa Fe, NM, 2017	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0012
Duchess Milan, 69, Los Angeles, CA, 2017	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0013
Gloria, 70, Chicago, IL, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0014

Grace, 56, Boston, MA, 2013	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0015
Hank, 76, and Samm, 67, North Little Rock, AR, 2015	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0016
Hank's hats, North Little Rock, AR, 2015	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0017
Helena, 63, Chicago, IL, 2013	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0018
Jamie, 69, and Sherry, 60, Boulder, CO, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0019
Jay, 59, New York, NY, 2015	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0020
Joanne, 90, Long Island, NY, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0021
John, 69, Mt. Ida, AR, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0022
Jude, 75, Yuba City, CA, 2015	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0023
Jude holding a picture of himself at age 32, Yuba City, CA, 2015	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0024
Kendrah, 72, Boston, MA, 2015	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0025
Lee Anne, 64, McClellanville, SC, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0026
Leon, 55, St. Louis, MO, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0027
Louis, 54, Springfield, MA, 2014	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0028
Miss Major, 74, Oakland, CA, 2015	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0029

Mitch, 55, Seattle, WA, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0030
Preston, 52, East Haven, CT, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0031
Rosalind, 65, New York, NY, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0032
Sky, 64, Palm Springs, CA, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0033
Sky, 64, and Mike, 55, Palm Springs, CA, 2017	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0034
SueZie, 51, and Cheryl, 55, Valrico, FL, 2015	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0035
Sukie, 59, New York, NY, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0036
Tony, 67, San Diego, CA, 2014	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0037
Tracie, 65, San Diego, CA, 2017	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0038
Vanessa, 51, Atlanta, GA, 2016	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0039
Willy, 52, Oakland, CA, 2015	Box 1 > Image RL.11524-P-0040

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A Moment Collected: Photographs at the Harvard Art Museum, 2006-2008, 2011

Physical Description: Photographs are gelatin silver prints produced by the artist on archivally processed Ilford Warmtone, glossy fiber-based paper.

Scope and Contents

Series contains 18 gelatin silver prints of Harvard Art Museum staff, shot between 2006-2008 as the Museum prepared for a major move and renovation. Each print is signed, titled, and numbered on the verso.

The prints are housed in a custom hinged portfolio box created by Jim Di Marcantonio of Hope Bindery in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and are accompanied

by a title page, list of images, and a colophon. This is a limited edition portfolio, number 3/10, created in 2011.

From the artist's statement: "In 2008, the Harvard Art Museum closed its doors to the public for a major building renovation, scheduled to take five years. Though the renovation was structurally necessary and long overdue, it also brought with it the ending of an era, completely changing a building that had remained largely untouched since 1927. Made in the two years prior to its closing, these photographs portray the people and the spaces of the museum during a time of impending change."

"By examining a group of people united by their desire to surround themselves with art, these photographs ask larger questions about the desire we all have to live a life full of meaning. In addition, they speak to the passing of time, the idea of change, and the impermanent and fluid nature of each person's involvement in a much larger existence."

Mary Correia, Custodian, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0041
Anna Kovacs, Project Coordinator, Collections Move, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0042
Jon Roll, Installer, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0043
Rodney Brown, Security Guard, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0044
Michael Dumas, Staff Assistant, Agnes Mongan Center, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0045
Pippa Eccles, Study Room Assistant, Agnes Mongan Center, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0046
Carol Snow, Conservator, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0047
Jill Comer, Installer, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0048
Michelle Lamuniere, Assistant Curator of Photography, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0049

Al Correia, Crew Chief, Custodial, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0050
Susan Dackerman, Curator of Prints, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0051
Tom Lentz, Director, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0052
Eddie Casay, Janitor, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0053
Maureen Donovan, Registrar and Director of Collections Management, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0054
Deborah Martin Kao, Curator of Photography, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0055
Joanna Karlgaard, Curatorial Assistant, Print Department, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0056
Mark Cosgrove, Assistant Building Superintendent, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0057
Katya Kallsen, Museum Fine Art Photographer, 2006-2008	Box 2 > Image RL.11524-P-0058

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Look At Me Like You Love Me, 2020-2021

Physical Description: 1.5 Linear Feet
1 box 61 prints 16x20 inches (sheet size)

Scope and Contents

Series comprises color portraits of individuals and couples, many of whom are gender non-conforming, queer, or transgender. Some are self-portraits of the artist, Jess T. Dugan, and their partner. There are also a few still lifes. Each of the 61 digital color inkjet prints is titled, dated, and signed. Portrait titles consist of personal first names and a year; locations are unspecified.

From the publisher's website: "...Using medium-format cameras and natural lighting, Dugan employs traditional photographic practices to depict these contemporary subjects, resulting in images that both evoke and reimagine the conventional dynamics of art-historical portraiture. Brought together here, these photographs function as an extended, oblique self-portrait as much as a catalogue of friends and loved ones."

Photographic prints from portfolio, "Look at me like you love me", 2020-2021

Box 3 > Image RL.11524-P-0059 - RL.11524-P-0120

Physical Description: 61 items

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