



# Guide to the Jenny Zervakis Papers, 1991-2021

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Jenny Zervakis papers, 1991-2022

**Source:**

Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

**Creator:**

Zervakis, Jenny, 1967-

**Abstract:**

Jenny Zervakis was part of a wave of underground, do-it-yourself cartoonists who came of age during the Zine Revolution of the 1990s. Collection consists largely of issues of her "Strange Growths" and "Love and Other Crack-ups" autobiographical comic zines and "Urban Hiker," a Durham magazine to which Zervakis regularly contributed. Also included in the collection are other comics and writings by Zervakis, as well as an artist's statement. Acquired as part of the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture.

**Extent:**

1 Linear Feet

**Language:**

Materials in English.

**Collection ID:**

RL.11979

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1gx66>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Jenny Zervakis papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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### Scope and Content

Collection consists largely of issues of "Strange Growths" and "Urban Hiker." "Strange Growths" is an autobiographical comic zine that Zervakis began in 1991, featuring artwork and writing that address her life experiences. The "Urban Hiker" was a community-based magazine produced in Durham that provided entertainment and education through people's stories. "Love and Other Crack-ups" is another autobiographical zine created in 2022; it focuses on Zervakis's experiences and writings as college student in the late 1980s. Also included in the collection are other comics and writings by Zervakis, as well as an artist's statement.

### Biographical/Historical

Jenny Zervakis was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1967. She has a B.A. in Psychology from Grinnell College (Iowa) and a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from Duke University. She was part of a wave of underground, do-it-yourself cartoonists who came of age during the Zine Revolution of the 1990s and began her autobiographical comic "Strange Growths" in 1991 after being introduced to comics by her then-boyfriend Mark Cunningham.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

## **Use Restrictions**

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the Rubenstein Library's Citations, Permissions, and Copyright guide.

## **Acquisition Information**

The Jenny Zervakis papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 2000, 2002, 2021 and 2022.

## **Processing Information**

Processed by Alice Poffinberger, February 2001.

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2000-0405, 2002-0248, 2021-0125.

Updated to add accession 2021-0125 by Leah Tams, February 2022.

Updated to add accession 2025-0097 by Ren Bickel, November 2025.

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Material**

Researchers may also be interested in other zine collections held by the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture.

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## **Names and Subjects**

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- Zines
- Comic books, strips, etc.
- Underground press publications
- Durham (N.C.) -- Periodicals
- Fan magazines
- Young women -- United States -- Social life and customs

- Periodicals -- Publishing -- United States.
- Women's periodicals, American
- Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

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## Collection Inventory

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Autobiography and artist statement, 2000	Box 1
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Artwork, 1995, undated	Box 1
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### Scope and Contents

Contains drawing "Hello from Durham: View from the NC Mutual Insurance Building, looking East" (undated) and a 1995 publication called "Chamberpot," which features "silent passenger" and "bus driver philosophy" by Zervakis.

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Strange Growths, 1991-2021	Box 1
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**Physical Description:** 5 folders

### Scope and Contents

Issues 1-17, including 14 1/2 and 16 1/2. Issues 7 and 8 are missing.

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Super Growths, 1993	Box 1
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### Scope and Contents

Super Growths is a sampler of material from Strange Growths 1-6.

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Other works by Zervakis, 1998-2016, undated	Box 1
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### Scope and Contents

Contains "Out of the Nest," "Crows," "The Bobber-Cat," "crippled quiet," and "Zoomkranx" [Zoomcranks] 16.

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Urban Hiker, 1999 October - 2000 December	Box 1
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**Physical Description:** 2 folders

### Scope and Contents

Some issues are missing.

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Urban Hiker, 2001 February - 2004 January	Box 2
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**Physical Description:** 5 folders

**Scope and Contents**

Some issues are missing.

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Love and Other Crack-ups Parts 1 and 2, 2022

Box 2