

Herta Moselsio Photographs of Martha Graham's Lamentation
Guides to Special Collections in the Music Division of the Library of Congress



Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2016

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/perform.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2006560753>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu017003>

Processed by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Music Division, 2017

Collection Summary

Title: Herta Moselsio Photographs of Martha Graham's Lamentation

Span Dates: circa 1939

Call No.: ML31.M7

Creator: Moselsio, Herta

Extent: 51 photographs

Extent: 1 container

Extent: 1 linear foot

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2006560753>

Summary: Herta Moselsio (1892-1978), photographer and ceramist, took photographs of Martha Graham performing *Lamentation* at Bennington College, while collaborating with her husband, Simon Moselsio, on filming the dance work. *Lamentation* had premiered in New York in 1930. Moselsio's film was released in 1943, but the actual year of photography and filming is not verified.

Online Content: Many of the Herta Moselsio photographs of Martha Graham's *Lamentation* are available on the Library of Congress website. See links below to online digital content.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Graham, Martha--Pictorial works.

Moselsio, Herta.

Moselsio, Simon, 1890-1963.

Organizations

Martha Graham Dance Company.

Subjects

Dance--Photographs.

Dancers--Photographs.

Modern dance--United States.

Titles

Lamentation (Choreographic work : Graham)

Form/Genre

Photographic prints.

Provenance

Purchase; Elizabeth Marshall; 2002

Custodial History

Materials were given by the creator/photographer to her friend, Elizabeth Marshall, from whom the Library of Congress acquired the photographs.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

The Herta Moselsio Photographs of Martha Graham's Lamentation collection was processed in 2016, with the finding aid coded for EAD format by Libby Smigel in 2017.

Other Repositories

Visual artist and filmmaker Simon Moselsio's papers can be found at the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Materials in this collection include his comments on the *Lamentation* documentary film and an interview with Martha Graham.

Related Material

The Library of Congress Music Division is rich in materials that document the life and career of American modern dance pioneer Martha Graham. For study of the 1930s to 1940s period of Graham's legacy, the most relevant collections in the Music Division include: [Aaron Copland Collection](#) ; [Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation Collection](#) ; Erick Hawkins and Lucia Dlugoszewski Papers; Jane Dudley Papers; [Martha Graham Collection](#) ; Martha Graham Legacy Archive; [May O'Donnell Papers](#) ; [Miriam Cole Papers](#) ; Music Division, Old Correspondence Files; and Sophie Maslow Papers.

For the study of dance photography, the Library of Congress Music Division has the Larry Colwell Dance Photographs, the [Judith Chazin-Bennahum Photograph Collection relating to Antony Tudor](#) , the [George Zoritch Collection](#) , and the [Valeria Ladd Collection on the Revived Greek Dance](#) . The Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress has dance photographs in the Arnold Genthe Collection, the Carl Van Vechten Collection, and others.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Herta Moselsio Photographs of Martha Graham's Lamentation are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

Access and Restrictions

The Herta Moselsio Photographs of Martha Graham's Lamentation collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.

Online Content

Many of the Herta Moselsio photographs of Martha Graham's Lamentation are available on the Library of Congress website. See links below to online digital content.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container-folder number], Herta Moselsio Photographs of Martha Graham's Lamentation, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Herta Moselsio was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1892. She studied at the University of Berlin, 1913-1915; Kunstgewerbeschule, Berlin (art), 1915-1916; and Keramische Werke, Velten (ceramics), 1919-1921. She married Polish-born sculptor Simon Moselsio and immigrated with him to the United States in 1924. Herta Moselsio taught at Bennington College from 1934 to 1960. Her work has been exhibited at the Art Center and Weyhe Galleries, New York; Fleming Museum, Burlington, Vermont; Gallery America House, Stockholm, Sweden; and the Bennington Museum, Bennington, Vermont. She and husband Simon cooperated with the Harmon Foundation in filming major European and American artists.

Scope and Content Note

The Herta Moselsio Photographs of Martha Graham's *Lamentation* collection is composed of 19 different shots of Martha Graham performing her solo dance work titled *Lamentation* (which premiered in 1930), at which time the performance was also filmed. Date of the photographs is uncertain: the dance premiered in New York City in 1930, but the filming and photography at Bennington has been variously cited as 1937, 1939, or the date of the release of Moselsio's documentary film, 1943.

Several of the photographs are represented in this collection by a number of prints with different contrast. Two poses are photocopies or contemporary prints of originals. Most of the images in this collection have been digitized and are accessible online.

Organization of the Herta Moselsio Photographs of Martha Graham's *Lamentation*

The collection is organized in a single series:

- [Photographs, circa 1939](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1

Series

Photographs, circa 1939

Nineteen folders contain the photographic print or prints of a specific pose. Where several prints of one pose are provided, they differ in printing contrast, grain, saturation, or focus.

Folder 20 contains photocopies provided by the collection donor, Elizabeth Marshall, to document the range of images.

Organization of prints corresponds to numbering assigned during digitization of this collection.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BOX 1 | Photographs, circa 1939 Nineteen folders contain the photographic print or prints of a specific pose. Where several prints of one pose are provided, they differ in printing contrast, grain, saturation, or focus. Folder 20 contains photocopies provided by the collection donor, Elizabeth Marshall, to document the range of images. Organization of prints corresponds to numbering assigned during digitization of this collection. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/1 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation No. 1], circa 1939 Digital content available |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/2 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 2], circa 1939 2 prints Digital content available |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/3 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 3], circa 1939 2 prints Digital content available |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/4 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 4], circa 1939 2 prints Digital content available |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/5 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 5], circa 1939 3 prints Digital content available |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/6 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 6], circa 1939 Digital content available |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/7 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 7], circa 1939 Digital content available |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/8 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 8], circa 1939 Digital content available |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/9 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 9], circa 1939 2 prints Digital content available |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/10 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 10], circa 1939 Digital content available |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/11 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 11], circa 1939 Digital content available |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/12 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 12], circa 1939 3 prints Digital content available |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/13 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 13], circa 1939 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/14 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 14], circa 1939 Digital content available |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/15 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 15], circa 1939 Digital content available |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/16 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 16], circa 1939 Digital content available |

Photographs, circa 1939

| Container | Contents |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BOX-FOLDER 1/17 | Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 17], circa 1939 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/18 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 18], circa 1939 Digital content available |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/19 | [Martha Graham in Lamentation, No. 19], circa 1939 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/20 | Copies, undated 24 items Printouts or photocopies of original photos, including several images not acquired, that were used as documentation during acquisition of the collection. |