

Contents of the NCAF Archives  
Status: 1 November 2013

**Overview of the Collection**

Creator: Niki de Saint Phalle

Title: Niki Charitable Art Foundation Archives

Inclusive Dates: 1938 - Present

Quantity:

Abstract: Niki de Saint Phalle is a Franco-American artist associated with the works of the New Realists, colorful whimsical polyester sculptures and her life work, the Tarot Garden, a mosaic sculpture park in Italy. The collection includes correspondence (both personal and professional), writings, memorabilia, a large amount of printed material, video and audio recordings, artwork, and photographic material in regards to Niki de Saint Phalle and her oeuvre. Furthermore, the Archives hold some documents and files about Jean Tinguely that were left to Niki de Saint Phalle after his death.

Language: most in French and English, some Italian and German files

Repository: Niki Charitable Art Foundation Archives  
9920 Prospect Ave, Ste. 114  
Santee, California 92071  
USA  
<http://www.nikidesaintphalle.org>

**Scope and Contents of the Collection**

The Niki Charitable Art Foundation Archives are a collection of Niki de Saint Phalle's private archives spanning most of her artistic career starting in the early 1960's, and Foundation activities since its creation. It includes correspondence (both personal and professional), writings, multimedia, photographic material, memorabilia, and large amounts of printed material (papers, reports, handbooks, manuals, etc) relating to projects and exhibitions. The collection holds valuable information on understanding Niki de Saint Phalle as an artist, woman of her time, as a member of the New Realists, as well as in her artistic and private relationship to Jean Tinguely. Additionally, the NCAF Archives holds files about artist Jean Tinguely, including 5 personal scrapbooks, photographic material, press articles, printed material, and memorabilia.

**Restrictions**

Access Restrictions

The NCAF Archives are a resource for curators and scholars but it is not open to the general public. A written request to access the Archives must be submitted at least 3 months before visiting the facilities.

#### Use Restrictions

Written permission must be obtained from NCAF and all relevant rights holders before publishing quotations, excerpts or images from any materials in this collection.

### Arrangement of the Collection

Material is arranged chronologically within topical subdivisions.

### Contents

#### I. Original materials

##### A. Correspondence

- NdSP to Jean Tinguely 1967-1991
- Jean Tinguely to NdSP 1960-1989
- Fax correspondence with Jean Tinguely 1989-1991
- NdSP and Jean Tinguely to Pontus Hultén 1960-1972
- Associated Galleries 1983-1998
- Various manufacturers
  - Resines d'Haligon
  - Clementi
  - Pierre-Marie Lejeune
  - Flammarion
- Various storages
- Archival correspondence 1999-Present
- Legal documentation re: NdSP and NCAF
- ADAGP/Artists Rights Society

##### B. Projects

- Permanent Installations (14 binders)
- Films / Theatre Plays / Ballet (10 binders)
- Books and Manuscripts (6 binders and 4 folders)
- Special Projects – Perfume, stamps, wine label design, jewelry (6 folders)
- Tarot Garden and Tarot Garden Foundation (19 folders)
- Project Proposals (3 binders)
- Research material (1 box and 2 folders)
- Collaborations (1 binder)
- Donations (13 binders)

##### C. Graphics and Original drawings, Design materials, Snipits, Personalized stationary

##### D. Memorabilia

- Awards
- Clothing

- Personal records and School report cards
- Lung X-rays
- Fan Mail
- E. Inventories of art storages and associated galleries
- F. Catalogue Raisonné Research

## **II. Printed Materials**

- A. General Press coverage in chronological order (specific press coverage is filed within subject folders) (70 binders)
- B. Obituaries worldwide (2 binders)
- C. Exhibitions
  - Invitations and Related Materials (10 binders)
  - Exhibition material with contracts, correspondence, design and press (40 binders)
- D. Architectural plans
- E. Scholar / Student Thesis (2 boxes)
- F. Auctions
  - Auction Catalogues 1972 – Present
  - Correspondence with Auction Houses
  - Press coverage

## **III. Library**

Circa 400 books sorted in sections of:

- Publications by Niki de Saint Phalle as author and designer
- Solo Exhibition catalogues
- Groups Exhibition catalogues
- Nouveaux Realistes
- Niki de Saint Phalle's permanent installations/sculpture parks
- Artist References and Catalogue Raisonné
- Educational publications / Lesson plans about NdSP and her work
- Publications on various topics featuring NdSP's art work or design
- Jean Tinguely, including exhibitions and Catalogue Raisonné (I-III)

Circa 400 Periodicals sorted chronologically 1946 – Present including all periods of NdSP's oeuvre, exhibitions, modeling and major projects.

## **IV. Multimedia**

Circa 80 video recordings of and about NdSP. 1960 - Present

- Films by NdSP
  - Nana Island
  - Daddy
  - Un reve plus long que la nuit
  - My life
  - La sida tu ne l'attraperas pas

- Interviews
- Reports on NdSP and exhibitions
- Television Programs
- Rough footage on major art projects

Circa 85 audio recordings – to be transferred, sorted and indexed

Circa 80 interview CD's by Philippe Ungar, 2009 – 2012 with friends, collaborators of NdSP

## **E. Photographs**

Thousands of photographic materials, including

- Images of all recorded artworks by NdSP
- Events, exhibitions, major projects
- Portraits and images of NdSP working
- Personal images of childhood, family and friends
- NdSP and Jean Tinguely

## **F. Digital Database**

The NCAF has registered in its database all known artwork through manufacturer correspondence, public and private collections, exhibition history and public auction listings. It encompasses NdSP's oeuvre from early Oil Compositions, early material Assemblages, Tirs (Shooting paintings), Assemblage Reliefs and sculptures and Nanas to Polyester and mosaic sculptures, Architecture, Furniture, Jewelry, Prints and Drawings. The Foundation documents the image, title, date, size, media, provenance, and publication and exhibition history for each work. Updates to these records continue daily from research and correspondence with museums, collectors, galleries, and auction houses worldwide.

## **G. Jean Tinguely**

The Archives hold some documents and files about Jean Tinguely that were left to NdSP after his death. They include:

- Over 400 original drawings and prints
- Press coverage 1991-1998 (13 binders) and Periodicals
- 5 oversized scrapbooks maintained by Jean Tinguely containing exhibition invitations, photographs, press reviews and some other items pertaining both to JT and NdSP's artistic career
- Succession Jean Tinguely (2 binders)
- Invitations and Related Material
- Original writings and correspondence (2 folders)
- Photographic material of Jean Tinguely and his works within the succession (11 folders)