

# Empty Bottle Photograms and Related Material

WA Photos 1341



Matthew Daniel Mason

January 2022

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA Photos 1341

**CREATOR:** Hays, Susannah , photographer

**TITLE:** *Empty Bottle Photograms* and Related Material

**DATES:** 1998-2016

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.21 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** Collection that includes a complete set of the *Empty Bottle Photograms* series of photographs created Susannah Hays, 1998-2000, that comprise fifteen photograms of empty bottles placed on photographic paper as well as a photogram of a leaf that marks a shift in her practice to photograms of plant leaves. Material in the collection related to the series includes copy photographs of the images as color transparencies and digital surrogates as well as documentation of associated exhibitions, reviews, and publications.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.haysbottles>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.haysbottles>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Susannah Hays on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2022.

## Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Access

Box 2, folder 20 (Compact disc (CD-R): Complete Bottle Series): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies of electronic files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Susannah Hays, *Empty Bottle Photograms and Related Material*, is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Susannah Hays, *Empty Bottle Photograms and Related Material*. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit. These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

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## Susannah Hays (born 1959)

Susannah Hays is an experimental photographer, book artist, and educator. She is known for using camera-less and historical photographic processes in her experimentation in visual media.

Hays was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and earned a Bachelor of Arts from Mills College in 1982 and a Master of Fine Arts in photography from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1991 as well as a Master of Arts in Visual Studies in 2002 and doctoral degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in 2016 from the University of California, Berkeley.

From 1990 to 2012 Hays was the sole proprietor of Works on Paper, a paper conservation laboratory specializing in the preservation of photographs and the production of Artist's books. She was also a faculty member of the San Francisco Art Institute from 2001 to 2012.

From 1991 to 1997 she was married to artist Matt Phillips. She lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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## Scope and Contents

Collection that includes a complete set of the "Empty Bottle Photograms" series of photographs created Susannah Hays, 1998-2000, that comprise fifteen photograms of empty bottles placed on photographic paper as well as a photogram of a leaf that marks a shift in her practice to photograms of plant leaves. Material in the collection related to the series includes copy photographs of the images as color

transparencies and digital surrogates as well as documentation of associated exhibitions, reviews, and publications.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into two series: I. *Empty Bottle Photograms*, 1998-2000. II. Material Related to Empty Bottle Photograms, 1998-2016.

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## Collection Contents

### *Empty Bottle Photograms*, 1998-2000

Complete set of the *Empty Bottle Photograms* series of photographs created Susannah Hays in 1998-2000 that comprise fifteen photograms of empty bottles placed on photographic paper as well as a photogram *Seed Leaf* (2000), which Hays included with the series to represent her transition to photograms of plant leaves. Most prints are signed, dated, numbered, and titled on verso in graphite except where noted in this guide. Inscriptions on some prints indicate editions of 5, 6, 10, and 25; print with smaller edition numbers reflect decisions by Hays to not print these images in larger editions.

Series I is arranged alphabetically.

b. 1 (Oversize), f. 1	<i>Bottle No. 1</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 15 from an edition of 25; no graphite inscriptions on verso	1998
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 2	<i>Bottle No. 2</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 5 from an edition of 25	1998
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 3	<i>Bottle No. 3</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 15 from an edition of 25	1998
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 4	<i>Bottle No. 4</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 5 from an edition of 6	1998
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 5	<i>Bottle No. 5</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 15 from an edition of 25	2000
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 6	<i>Bottle No. 6</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 15 from an edition of 25; no graphite inscription of the date on verso	1998
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 7	<i>Bottle No. 7</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 15 from an edition of 25; no graphite inscription of the date on verso	1998
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 8	<i>Bottle No. 8</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 15 from an edition of 25; no graphite inscription of the date on verso	1998
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 9	<i>Bottle No. 9</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 15 from an edition of 25; no graphite inscription of the date on verso	1998
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 10	<i>Bottle No. 10</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 4 from an edition of 25	1998

b. 1 (Oversize), f. 11	<i>Bottle No. 11</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 4 from an edition of 5	1999
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 12	<i>Bottle No. 12</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 15 from an edition of 25	1998
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 13	<i>Bottle No. 13</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 15 from an edition of 25	1998
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 14	<i>Bottle No. 14</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 3 from an edition of 25	1998-2000
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 15	<i>Bottle No. 15</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 15 from an edition of 25	1998
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 16	<i>Seed Leaf</i> 1 photographic print, 50.5 x 40.6 cm Print number 10 from an edition of 10	2000

**Material Related to *Empty Bottle Photograms* , 1998-2016**

Material related to the *Empty Bottles Photograms* that include copy photographs of the images as color transparencies and digital surrogates as well as documentation of associated exhibitions, reviews, and publications.

Series II is organized into three subseries: Copy Photographs, Exhibitions, and Publications and Reviews.

## Copy Photographs

Organized chronologically.

b. 2, f. 17	Susannah Hays, Picture postcards of <i>Bottle No. 1</i> (1998) and <i>Bottle No. 3</i> (1998) <i>2 picture postcards, 15.2 x 10.8 cm</i>	1998
b. 2, f. 18	San Francisco Art Institute, Picture postcard of <i>Bottle No. 3</i> (1998) <i>1 picture postcard, 17.9 x 12.7 cm</i>	2000
b. 2, f. 19	Transparencies of <i>Empty Bottle Photograms</i> images <i>18 color transparencies, 1.9 x 3.5 cm, in mounts, 5.1 x 5.1 cm</i>  Copy photographs of images in the <i>Empty Bottle Photogram</i> series as well as <i>Seed Leaf</i> (2000), a detail from <i>Leaves: Ancestral Portrait</i> (2000), and a self-portrait of Hays at Berkeley, California, approximately 1998	approximately 2000
b. 2, f. 20	Compact disc (CD-R): Complete Bottle Series 2023-wa-0002_0001 <i>1 CD-R 613540481 bytes (613.54 Megabytes.)</i> <i>584.5 megabytes (15 files)</i>  Digital surrogates of images in the <i>Empty Bottle Photogram</i> series; compact disc accompanied by a trimmed picture postcard that reproduces <i>Bottle No. 3</i> (1998)	2000-2001

## Exhibitions

Organized chronologically.

b. 2, f. 21	<i>Everyday Constellations</i> , Townsend Center for the Humanities, University of California, Berkeley	2002 January-March
b. 2, f. 22	<i>The Cameraless Image</i> , Photo-Eye Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico	2003 June-July

## Publications and Reviews

Organized chronologically.

b. 2, f. 23	<i>Parabola</i> , Volume 26, No. 2 <i>title: Seed Leaf</i>	2001 May
b. 2, f. 24	John Corzine, Scott Fritz, Susannah Hays, "Feature Through the Looking Glass," <i>Berkeley Science Review Journal</i>	2001
b. 2, f. 25	In/Visible Cosmos, Generative Art International Conference, Politecnico di Milano University, Italy, conference proceedings	2002 December
b. 2, f. 26	Catherine Siphron, "Susannah Hays at Scott Nichols Gallery," <i>Artweek</i>	2002 July-August
b. 2, f. 27	Satish Kumar, "Art & Science: The Photograms of Susannah Hay," <i>Resurgence</i>	2003 January-February



## Publications and Reviews (continued)

b. 2, f. 28	Heather Snider, "Susannah Hays," <i>Black &amp; White Spotlight</i>	2004 July-August
b. 2, f. 29	Heather Snider, "In/Visible Cosmos"	2004
b. 2, f. 30	DeWitt Cheng, "Nature Word," <i>East Bay Express</i>	2008 September 24
b. 2, f. 31	John Rapko, "Embodied Camera," essay	2008
b. 2, f. 32	Susannah Hays, "Equipoise" Excerpt from her dissertation: Susannah Hays, "Nature As Discourse : A Co-Evolutionary Systems Approach to Art and Environmental Design," University of California Berkeley, 2016	2016

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Bottles in art -- Pictorial works

### **Genres / Formats**

Born digital  
Color transparencies  
Gelatin silver prints  
Photograms  
Photographs

### **Acquired From**

Hays, Susannah , bookseller