Nena Ivon Collection, 1964-2009

By FBE

Collection Overview

Title: Nena Ivon Collection, 1964-2009
ID: 1000/06/RG1000.06
Creator: Ivon, Nena
Extent: 15.0 Cubic Feet

Arrangement: The portion of the collection in printed form has been divided into three series arranged chronologically.

Series 1: Papers, 1964-2009
Series 2: Photographs, 1990-2002
Series 3: Objects/Realia, 1984-2008

The photographs and realia have not yet been put into their final arrangement.

Date Acquired: 00/00/2008

Genres/Forms of Material: Correspondence; Interviews; Magazines (periodicals); Newsletters; Newspaper Clippings; Photographs; T-shirts

Languages: English

Scope and Contents of the Materials

The collection consists of published newspaper and magazine articles detailing the professional and charitable activities of Nena Ivon and Saks Fifth Avenue including event programs and brochures, color and black & white photographs of fashion shows and other events, signed or personalized portraits of many designers, and a realia including posters, perfume bottles, trophies, plaques, clothing, and promotional items.

The strength of the collection lies in the chronicling of activity for a Director of Fashion and Special Events that offers a snapshot of the history of fashion marketing, local designers, and the fashion business in Chicago.
Biographical Note

Nena Ivon grew up in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood and in Evanston, Illinois. When she was 16 she took a summer job with Saks Fifth Avenue in downtown Chicago selling sportswear. The unexpected death of her father the following year changed her plans to attend college and she continued to work for Saks. At age 17 was promoted to assistant fashion director and eight years later became the director of fashion and special events, the job she held for the next forty years.

She began teaching in the Fashion Studies program of Columbia College Chicago, developed the Skrebneski Scholarship awarded annually, and works extensively with Fashion Columbia.

She has served on numerous industry, civic, and charitable boards, including: The Fashion Group of Chicago; the Chicago Apparel Industry Board; Chicago Historical Society's Costume Collection Committee; Childrens Memorial Hospital; Chicago Symphony Orchestra; Grant Park Concert Society; and the Lincoln Park and Brookfield zoos.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: Materials available for research

Use Restrictions: Materials are the property of Columbia College Chicago. Intellectual property rights of work belong to the original creator(s).

Acquisition Source: Nena Ivon

Acquisition Method: Gift


Box and Folder Listing

Series 1: Papers, 1964-2009

Box 1: Bio Material
Box 2: Clippings: 1965-1989, 1965-89
    Clippings from various newspapers and magazines about or referencing NI grouped by year in individual folders. Duplicate copies where available.
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    Invitations, programs, brochures, and other items relating to various events (such as fashion shows or fundraisers). Grouped by year.
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In addition there are Annual Reports, Newsletters, and Correspondence files in this box.

Clippings from various newspapers and magazines relating to Sak's Fifth Avenue.

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Box 9: SFA Materials, 1981-90
Miscellaneous files, mostly relating to the opening of the new SFA store in 1990.

Series 2: Photographs, 1990-2002

Sub-Series 1: Photographs
Sub-Series 2: Video

Box 1

Item 1: Bob Mackie 5/90; Opera Show 8/90
VHS tape
Item 2: Chicago Place: ...8/28/90
VHS tape, lists various Chicago news programs with dates from 8/28/90 to 9/8/90.
Item 3: Bob Mackie- Chicago Fall 1991
VHS tape
Item 4: Chanel- Collection Boutique... 4/5/91
VHS tape
Item 5: Chanel, Inc. Ready-to-Wear Fall/Winter 1993
VHS tape
Item 6: Yves Saint Laurent- "Rive Gauche"... 96/97
VHS tape
Item 7: Karl Lagerfeld, Fall/Winter 96/97
VHS tape
Item 8: Yves Saint Laurent- Collection Fall/Winter 1998/1999
VHS tape
Item 9: Dolce & Gabbana- Women's Fall/Winter 1998-99
VHS tape
Item 10: Saks Fifth Avenue- Fall 2002
VHS tape
Item 11: Kiddie Culture tape
VHS tape
Item 12: W: the Designer Collection- the Best Music...
VHS tape
Item 13: The Beauty Queens: Elizabeth Arden, Helena Rubinstein, Estee Lauder
VHS tape

Series 3: Objects/Realia, 1984-2008

Sub-Series 1: Perfume
Sample/display sized bottles of designer perfumes.
Item 1: Agent Provocateur
Item 2: Angel (Thierry Mugler)
Item 3: Anne Klein
Item 4: AV (Adrienne Vittadini)
Item 5: Beautiful (Estee Lauder)
Item 6: Bill Blass
Item 7: C'est La Vie! (Christian Lacroix)
Item 8: Champs-Elysees (Guerlain)
Item 9: Chloe
    2 bottles
Item 10: Chopard Casmir
Item 11: Clive Christian
Item 12: Coco Mademoiselle (Chanel)
Item 13: Dazzling Gold (Estee Lauder)
Item 14: Dazzling Silver (Estee Lauder)
Item 15: Decadence
Item 16: Detchema
Item 17: DK (Donna Karan)
    2 bottles
Item 18: Dolce & Gabbana
    Oversized: 6 bottle boxed set.
Item 19: Doulton
    2 bottles
Item 20: Egoiste Platinum (Chanel)
Item 21: Ellen Tracy
Item 22: Escada
Item 23: Eternity (Calvin Klein)
Item 24: Flore (Carolina Herrera)
Item 25: Flowerbomb (Viktor & Rolf)
Item 26: Galanos
Item 27: Guerlain
    Oversized: 2 multi-bottle boxed sets.
Item 28: Idylle (Guerlain)
Item 29: Il Bacio (Princess Marcella Borghese)
    2 bottles
Item 30: Insolence
Item 31: Intrusion (Oscar de la Renta)
Item 32: Island (Michael Kors)
Item 33: Jean-Louis Scherrer
Item 34: Jean Paul Gaultier
Item 35: Joy (Jean Patou)
Item 36: Lalique
Item 37: Lauren (Ralph Lauren)
Item 38: L'insolent (Charles Jourdan)
Item 39: Lolita Lempicka
    Oversized: decorative box, with display stand and brooch.
Item 40: Mackie (Bob Mackie)
Item 41: Missoni
Item 42: Moschino
Item 43: Murano
Item 44: Must de Cartier
Item 45: Narciso Rodriguez
Item 46: Nena
   2 bottles
Item 47: Obsession (Calvin Klein)
Item 48: One Perfect Rose (Georgette Mosbacher)
Item 49: Opium (Yves Saint Laurent)
   2 bottles
Item 50: Organza (Givenchy)
Item 51: Penthaligon's
   Multi-bottle tin.
Item 52: Perry Ellis
Item 53: Pheromone (Marilyn Miglin)
Item 54: Poison (Christian Dior)
Item 55: Prada
Item 56: Pure Turquoise (Ralph Lauren)
Item 57: Roadster (Cartier)
   2 bottles
Item 58: Romeo (Gigli)
Item 59: Rosamor
Item 60: Rouge Pur (Yves Saint Laurent)
   2 bottles
Item 61: Safari (Ralph Lauren)
   3 bottles
Item 62: Shanghai
Item 63: Sinan (J. Marc Sinan)
Item 64: Spellbound (Estee Lauder)
Item 65: St. John (Marie Gray)
   Box only
Item 66: Stella (Stella McCartney)
Item 67: Style (Jil Sander)
Item 68: Sun Moon Stars (Lagerfeld)
Item 69: Tiffany
   Cloth bag only
Item 70: Tom Ford
Item 71: Vera Wang
Item 72: Versace
Item 73: Vivara (Emilio Pucci)
Item 74: Xeryus (Givenchy)
Item 75: Ysatis (Givenchy)

Sub-Series 2: Objects
Various objects from NI, including trophies, plaques, and mementos.

Item 1: Small crystal bird
   Apx. size: 4.5" x 2"

   [Box 1]
Item 2: Crystal angel
   Apx. size: 6" x 3"

   [Box 1]
Item 3: Crystal pendant with two silhouettes
   Apx. size: 3" diameter
   [Box 1]

Item 4: Crystal squirrel
   Apx. size: 4.5" x 2.5"
   [Box 1]

Item 5: Glass plaque
   Engraved: "75th Anniversary Gala"
   Apx. size: 4" x 3.25"
   [Box 1]

Item 6: Crystal baton, octagon-shaped
   Engraved: "To Nena with Thanks"
   Apx. size: 7.75" x 2"
   [Box 1]

Item 7: Small crystal egg with stand
   Engraved: "1986"
   Apx. size: 3" high
   [Box 1]

Item 8: Plastic plaque
   "Fashion Group, Inc., Chicago Board of Directors"
   Apx. size: 4.25" x 3.5"
   [Box 1]

Item 9: Faceted crystal paperweight
   Engraved: "Juvenile Protective Assoc."
   Apx. size: 4" x 2.75"

Item 10: Crystal obelisk with stand
   Apx. size: 10" x 2.25"
   [Box 1]

Item 11: Crystal cube
   Engraved: "Chicago Architecture Foundation"
   Apx. size: 1.5"
   [Box 1]

Item 12: Star-shaped crystal award
   Engraved: "The Fashion Group Award, 1990"
   Apx. size: 4" x 3.25"
Item 13: Crystal plaque
Engraved: "Chicago Hearing Society, 1995"

Apx. size: 6.25" x 5"

Item 14: Green crystal vase
Engraved: "Spirit of Art in Life Award, 2005"

Apx. size: 6" x 6.5"

Item 15: Trophy
Stylized figure on tiered base; "Hanchen Stern Awards, 1993"

Apx. size: 10.5 x 5"

Item 16: Trophy
Stylized figure on tiered base; "Hanchen Stern Award, 1995"

Apx. size: 10.5" x 5"

Item 17: Painted ceramic plate
Two female figures, black and white, with designers' names "Badgley/Mischka."

Apx. size: 10.5" diameter

Item 18: Framed poem
"Ode to Miss Nena," numerous signatures.

Apx. size: 8.5" x 11"

Item 19: Wood plaque
"Appreciation Award, Lions Club"

Apx. size: 8" x 10"

Item 20: Wood plaque
"Appreciation Award, St. Jude Childrens' Research Hospital"

Apx. size: 5" x 7"

Item 21: Wood plaque
"Misericordia Heart of Mercy"
Item 22: Wood plaque  
"Certificate of Appreciation, Columboa College Management Department"

Apx. size: 8" x 10"

Item 23: Wood plaque  
"Misericordia Heart of Mercy"

Apx. size: 10.5" x 13"

Item 24: Framed certificate  
"Platinum Awards, 1999"

Apx. size: 12.25" x 9.75"

Item 25: Framed advertisement  
"Fashion Targets Breast Cancer, 2000"

Apx. size: 10.25" x 15.25"

Item 26: Framed diploma  
"International Academy of Merchandising and Design, 1992"

Apx. size: 14.5" x 16.5"

Item 27: Framed certificate  
Congratulations from Columbia College.

Apx. size: 15.5" square

Item 28: Magnetic badges  
three small magnetic badges from SFA: 1 with a goat, 1 with a snowflake, 1 with "Wanted"

Item 29: Framed clipping, 1996  
clipping from "Zweiker's People" column

Item 30: Small brass heart, 1984  
apx. 1.5" diameter, engraved "Chicago Heart Association, 1984-1984"
Item 31: ID badges
   five badges, "Nena Ivon Saks Fifth Avenue"

[Box 1]
Item 32: Lapel pins
   four small lapel pins with SFA and flags

[Box 1]
Item 33: Pneumatic tube container
   Container for exchanging money and receipts in old department store pneumatic tubes.

[Box 1]
Item 34: Pin badges
   Five pin badges: 2 SFA "1st Anniversary", 2 SFA "Fall Fashion Forecast", 1 "Patrick Kelly"

[Box 1]
Item 35: Luggage tag
   SFA "On the Move"

[Box 2]
Item 36: Name plates
   Four name plates for NI

[Box 2]
Item 37: Embroidered patch
   "Saks Love to Shop"

[Box 2]
Item 38: Book marks, 1990
   3 metal bookmarks, "Chicago Historical Society Costume Committee, 1990"

[Box 2]
Item 39: Christmas ornaments, 1990
   3 metal swan ornaments, "Lincoln Park Zoological Society, 1990", boxed

[Box 2]
Item 40: Brass star
   Small brass star, engraved "Saks Star", boxed

[Box 2]
Item 41: Cork screws
   Two cork screw/bottle openers in the shape of a bow tie, "Saks Fifth Avenue"

[Box 2]
Item 42: Playing cards
   2 double deck sets of playing cards, "SFA", boxed

[Box 2]
Item 43: Postage stamps
   1 set of commemorative postage stamps: "SFA 10022-shoe"
Item 44: Handbell, 1989
Brass handbell, apx 9"x5", engraved: "Ogden School 1989"

Item 45: Tote bag
SFA tote bag, signed by numerous people

Item 46: Shopping bag
Paper shopping bag: "SFA Chicago Place"

Item 47: T-shirt
2 shirts: "Love is Life, Diane von Furstenberg"

Item 48: T-shirt, 2008
"Karl Lagerfeld"

Item 49: T-shirt, 2004
"Marc Jacobs"

Item 50: T-shirt
"Oscar Di Laurenta"

Item 51: T-shirt
"Stella McCartney"

Item 52: T-shirt
"Museum of Contemporary Art"

Item 53: T-shirt
"SFA- Gauiiidae Common on Nicolette Mall"

Item 54: T-shirt
"SFA", line drawing of store

Item 55: T-shirt
"SFA- Chicago is on the Move"

Item 56: Sweatshirt
"SFA Chicago is 60"
Sub-Series 3: Artwork
   Original 2-dimensional artwork from NI, including drawings and photographs.