



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Jewelle Gomez papers

1968-2010

Sc MG 790

Processed by Steven G. Fullwood, July 2014.

Summary

Creator: Gomez, Jewelle, 1948-

Title: Jewelle Gomez papers

Date: 1968-2010

Size: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift of Jewelle Gomez, 2006.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Jewelle Gomez is a self-identified "Black", "Native", lesbian feminist poet and playwright. She has published nine books, including three books of poetry, a novel, a play, an essay collection, and two books of collaboration. Gomez is best known for her double Lambda Award winning novel, *The Gilda Stories*, and its subsequent theater adaptation, *Bones and Ash: A Gilda Story*. Born in 1948, Gomez was raised in a poor, Black neighborhood in Boston, Massachusetts, by her great-grandmother Grace, to whom she dedicated her first book of poetry, *The Lipstick Papers* (1980). The Jewelle Gomez papers include manuscripts, interviews, reviews, articles, speeches, and essays. The collection contains a photocopy of the original self-published book of poetry *The Lipstick Papers*, and versions of her play, "Waiting for Giovanni", which is based on James Baldwin's life right before the publication of his second and controversial novel, *Giovanni's Room* in 1956.

Preferred citation: [Item], Jewelle Gomez papers, Sc MG 790, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Steven G. Fullwood, July 2014.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

Related Materials:

In the Life Archive (ITLA) miscellaneous collections, Sc MG 736, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Jewelle Gomez Papers, James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco Public Library

Creator History

Jewelle Gomez is a self-identified "Black", "Native", lesbian feminist poet and playwright. She has published nine books, including three books of poetry, a novel, a play, an essay collection, and two books of collaboration. Gomez is best known for her double Lambda Award winning novel, *The Gilda Stories*, and its subsequent theater adaptation, *Bones and Ash: A Gilda Story*. Born in 1948, Gomez was raised in a poor, Black neighborhood in Boston, Massachusetts, by her great-grandmother Grace, to whom she dedicated her first book of poetry, *The Lipstick Papers* (1980).

Scope and Content Note

The Jewelle Gomez papers include manuscripts, interviews, reviews, articles, speeches, and essays. The collection contains a photocopy of the original self-published book of poetry *The Lipstick Papers*, and versions of her play, "Waiting for Giovanni", which is based on James Baldwin's life right before the publication of his second and controversial novel, *Giovanni's Room* in 1956.

Arrangement: Arranged into two series: I. Biographical and II. Writing.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American feminists
African American women
African American women authors
African American women poets
Authors, Black
Lesbian authors
Women -- Political activity

Names

Gomez, Jewelle, 1948-
Pratt, Minnie Bruce
Saint, Assotto, 1957-1994
Waters, Harry, Jr.

Container List

Biographical 1968-2010

This series contains papers on Gomez's published works (such as interviews and advertisements) and her personal life (such as her resume).

- b. 1 f. 1 **Resume**
- Interviews**
- b. 1 f. 2 Gomez and Assotto Saint undated
- b. 1 f. 3 "Say Brother WGBH-TV" 1968-1971
- b. 1 f. 4 "Clippings about J.G." 1990s
- b. 1 f. 5 "Poets Live the Questions: Jewelle Gomez and Minnie Bruce Pratt" 1991
- b. 1 f. 6 Other
- b. 1 f. 7 Flyers
- b. 1 f. 8 "Kuumba: A Poetry Journal for Black People in the Life" 1997 Summer
- b. 1 f. 9 Journals and magazines 1997-1998

Writing 1977-2010

The series contains manuscripts, transcripts of lectures, anthology excerpts, and article clippings for Gomez's poems, playscripts, anthologies, articles, critical essays, reviews, and speeches and lectures.

Poems

- b. 1 f. 10 Various 1977
 Includes "Golden Song", "Public Places: chinass y criollas", and "A First Affair", among others.
- b. 1 f. 11 *The Lipstick Papers* 1980

Playscripts

- b. 1 f. 12 *Bones and Ash: A Gilda*
- b. 1 f. 13-16 Unpublished 2000-2010
 Includes drafts of "Character" (2000) and "Waiting for Giovanni" (2000 and 2010).

Anthologies

- b. 1 f. 17 "Saint Louis 1990" 1998-1999
 Excerpt from *To Be Continued*.
- b. 1 f. 18 "Chicago 1927" 2000
 Published in *Dark Matter*.

Essays

The essays above have been anthologized in "Skin Deep", "At Midlife", "Home Girls", "Tender Headed", and "The Question of Equality." These have also been published in *Quarterly Photographic Magazine*, *New York Law School Review*, and *Zyzyva*.

- b. 1 f. 19 "Across the Glittering Sea" undated
- b. 1 f. 20 "In the Heat of Shadow" undated
- b. 1 f. 21 "Black Lesbians: Passing, Stereotypes and Transformation" 1998
- b. 1 f. 22 "Somebody Almost Walked Off Wid Alla My Stuff" 1999
- b. 1 f. 23 "Choose: A Biomythography" 2001
- b. 1 f. 24 "In the Kitchen: 1.99"
- b. 1 f. 25 "To Grandmother's House I Go" 1999
- b. 1 f. 26 "A Cultural Legacy Denied and Discovered: Black Lesbians in Fiction by Women"

Writing (cont.)

Essays (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 27 "Repeat After Me: We Are Different. We Are the Same" 1986
- b. 1 f. 28 "Showing Our Faces: A Century of Black Women Photographed" 1987
- b. 1 f. 29 "Do We Have a Chance Against the Far Right?" 1993
- b. 1 f. 30 "Out of the Past"
- b. 1 f. 31 "Femme Erotic Independence" 1998

Articles and reviews

- b. 1 f. 32 *Panga Nyeusi* 1971
- b. 1 f. 33 "For Pandora Edition of ZAMI" 1996
About Audra Lorde's *Zami*; published in Great Britain.
- b. 1 f. 34 Other articles
- b. 1 f. 35 Reviews 1992-1997
- b. 1 f. 36 Speeches and lectures 1998-2000