



CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC
Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

LYDIA LUNCH COLLECTION

22-029

Creator:

Lunch, Lydia (June 2, 1959 -)
[Koch, Lydia Anne]

Type of Material:

Books, Promotional Card, DVD, Commercial Sound Recordings.

Physical Description:

.5 linear foot of manuscript materials housed in 1 box

Dates:

1991-2021, bulk 2013-2020.

RESTRICTIONS:

All materials in this collection are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. Center staff are also able to assist with copyright questions for this material.

Provenance and Acquisition Information:

The Center for Popular Music purchased this collection from Lydia Lunch in 2022 in conjunction with her visit as the third recipient and first female of the Center for Popular Music Fellows Award. The Center of Popular Music received the collection directly from the artist. The items were purchased to be put on exhibition for Lydia Lunch's visit and presentation.

Arrangement:

There was no original arrangement; the processing archivist created an organization order by format for ease of access and preservation.

Subject/Index Terms:

No Wave
Spoken Word

Experimental
Avantgarde

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:

From the talent rep website, <https://kassnermusic.com/songwriters/lydia-lunch/>:

Multi-talented Lydia Lunch was a pioneer of the late 70s no wave music scene, having been heavily influenced by the genre when she moved into a communal house of musicians in New York at 16 years old. Though she was an originator of no wave, she also performed and wrote songs in many different musical styles to avoid categorisation. As “one of the 10 most influential performers of the 1990s”, Lunch has defied expectations, acquired international acclaim and proved herself to be one of the most unique and courageous artists of our generation.

In the mid-70s, Lunch formed the band Teenage Jesus and the Jerks with musicians James Chance, Reck, Jody Harris and Bradley Field. The band wanted their music to challenge the normative depictions of women and the rebellion of traditional rock music. After the band broke up in 1979, Lunch released her first solo debut album “Queen of Siam” in 1980, collaborating with a range of artists including Nick Cave, Sonic Youth, Kim Gordon, Cypress Grove and Thurston Moore (amongst a long list of others). Widowspeak, Lunch’s own record label, was founded in 1984 and was home to her experimentations with spoken word (through her album “The Uncensored Lydia Lunch”). Her works appear in several books including “Paradoxia” (2007) and “Will Work for Drugs” (2009).

Scope and Content:

This collection provides a representative sample of the career of confrontational ‘no-wave’ artist, musician, spoken word performer, and author Lydia Lunch, including several books, among the musical output on vinyl and CD. A release on a USB drive includes audio tracks paired with video of a live performance. The collection also includes a DVD documentary on the artist’s career.

Collection Contents:

Books:

Lunch, Lydia. *So Real it Hurts*. with an introduction by Anthony Bourdain. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2019.

Lunch, Lydia. *Will Work for Drugs*. with a foreword by Karen Finley. 2nd printing. New York: Akashic Books, 2009.

Lunch, Lydia. *Paradoxia: A Predator’s Diary*. Introduction by Jerry Stahl, afterword by Thurston Moore. New York: Akashic Books, 2007.

Soulsby, Nick. *Lydia Lunch: The War is Never Over. A companion to the film by Seth B.* London: Jawbone Press, 2020.

12-inch vinyl:

Honeymoon in Red (featuring Lydia Lunch, Rowland S Howard, Genevieve McGuckin, Tracy Pew, and Thurston Moore). "Honeymoon in Red" LP remastered gatefold reissue on Bang! Records, BANG!-LP109, 2016. Originally issued on Lunch's Widowspeak Productions in 1988. Nick Cave also appears on the record, credited as "Her Dead Twin" on track A5 "Done Dun." Vinyl comes in printed inner sleeve with credits and lyrics.

Lydia Lunch. "13.13" 35th anniversary LP reissue edition with bonus tracks. Rustblade Records, rblp021. 2017. A limited edition of 499 copies on red vinyl, includes an 8.25 x 11.5" high gloss-insert.

Lydia Lunch. "Retrovirus" LP on translucent red vinyl. Interbang Records, IBR-016. 2013. This version is a limited edition of 500 copies.

Lydia Lunch. "Queen of Siam" LP reissue on Amphetamine Reptile Records, AMRep 115, 2017. This is a limited edition numbered reissue of Lunch's seminal 1980 album. This version features hand-applied artwork by artist Haze XXL. [This copy is signed by Lydia Lunch on the front with a gold marker pen and framed next to her CPM Fellows certificate in the Reading Room at CPM.]

Lydia Lunch & Cypress Grove. "A Fistful of Desert Blues" LP limited edition of 299 copies on red vinyl. Rustblade records, RBL045LP, 2014.

Lydia Lunch & Cypress Grove. "Under the Cover" LP limited edition on 300 on blue marble vinyl. Rustblade records, RBL061LP, 2017.

Lydia Lunch & Philippe Petit. "In Comfort" 45 rpm 12" picture disc. Comfortzone, cz007, 2011. Release does not have a cover, with vinyl placed directly in a protective plastic outer sleeve.

Rowland S. Howard and Lydia Lunch. "Shotgun Wedding" LP reissue on Bang! Records, BANG!-LP138, 2019. Originally issued on Lunch's Widowspeak Productions in 1991. Vinyl comes in printed inner sleeve with pictures and credits.

Teenage Jesus and the Jerks. "Live 1977-1979" LP. Other People record company, OP035, 2015.

10-inch vinyl: Various Artists. "Bash 17." Amphetamine Reptile Records, AmRep 116. 2017. This version is the orange and red transparent splatter vinyl. Ltd Edition of 200. This one has a stamp on back cover "020." Features directly applied artwork by artist Haze XXL.

7-inch vinyl:

Lydia Lunch. "Unearthly Delights" b/w "Busted." Clawfist XPIG-19, 1993

Lydia Lunch. "Twisted" b/w "Past Glas" Inspid Vinyl IV-03, 1991. Cover wrap and original sleeve are damaged in top left corner, resembling cat bites and chewing. (Lunch has said in interviews she enjoys caring for her cats.)

CD: Lydia Lunch. "The War is Never Over. An Audio Compilation to the Motion Picture" Widowspeak Productions, WSP 30. 2021

Boxsets:

Lydia Lunch & Philippe Petit. "Taste our Voodoo." Limited edition 2xCD in a 7.5" x 5.3" metal box (roughly the same size of a standard DVD case), with a black candle, sticker, liner notes card, and postcard in a mesh drawstring baggie. Rustblade – RBL041BOX, 2013. [candle was wrapped in archival tissue and placed back into the satchel]

Lydia Lunch. "Retrovirus." 4" x 4" cardboard jewelry box with removable lid. Includes a printed card with track listings, member info, and video information, along with 4 photos printed on paper. USB comes on a 2" x 3.25" plastic card with an image of Lydia Lunch. USB contents are 4 songs and a video performance, "Live at Rough Trade NYC 1.10.15. (2020)"

DVD: "Lydia Lunch - The War is Never Over" A film by Seth B. B Productions, 2019.

Promo card: The Lydian Spin podcast on one side and the documentary graphic on the reverse, 4.25" tall by 5.5" wide

Materials Cataloged Separately:

All items maintained together as a collection. No items are cataloged separately.

Location:

All manuscript materials are located in the special collections storage area filed by accession number.

Related Materials:

The Center holds recordings, photographs, and poster from Lydia Lunch's Fellow Award program hosted by the Center at MTSU on September 20, 2022.

The CPM maintains a digital scan of two other books by Lunch in Manuscript Collections within the Special Collections Digital Images:

“AS-FIX-E-8” with stories by Lydia Lunch and Nick Cave, with artwork by Mike Matthews. San Francisco: Last Gasp, 1993. Scan courtesy of the Widener Library at Harvard University.

“Incriminating Evidence” illustrated by Kristian Hoffman. San Francisco: Last Gasp, 1992. Scan courtesy of the Williams Library at the University of Mississippi.

Processed and finding aid written by Jon Sewell, Aug/Sept. 2024