

Syracuse University

SURFACE at Syracuse University

SOURCE Explore Program

Special Collections

3-2-2024

Linda Troeller Papers

Miral Ali

Syracuse University, mali51@syr.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://surface.syr.edu/source>



Part of the [Digital Humanities Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ali, Miral, "Linda Troeller Papers" (2024). *SOURCE Explore Program*. 1.
<https://surface.syr.edu/source/1>

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections at SURFACE at Syracuse University. It has been accepted for inclusion in SOURCE Explore Program by an authorized administrator of SURFACE at Syracuse University. For more information, please contact surface@syr.edu.

LINDA TROELLER PAPERS

SOURCE Explore

By: Miral Ali

WHO IS LINDA TROELLER?

Born in 1949, Troeller is a photographer and journalist who uses her creativity as an outlet to express her pain, grievances, and opinions on the world through her art. She was first inspired to explore photography after visiting Georgia O'Keefe's ranch. She received her BS in journalism in Virginia, then came to SU to get her MS in photojournalism and public relations at Newhouse!

Troeller created the TB/AIDS Diary to address the stigma that surrounds these issues. She had close, personal relationships with people afflicted with both diseases, and wished to humanize those who suffer with the disease. Her mother died from TB, and Barbara Cleaver (a hairdresser) became an advocate for AIDS after she began to lose patients due to her son's ailment. This piece is dedicated to them.

ABOUT THE OBJECT

- This binder consists of photo negatives, planning documents, correspondence with university officials, newspaper/magazine clippings, and more.
- Personally, what I found to be the most important part of this binder were the notes Troeller wrote when planning the layout of each photograph in the TB/AIDS photo series.
- The layering in each image is so intricate. Troeller consistently uses abstract shapes, pops of color, and personal handwritten mementos to draw the viewers attention.



MY PROCESS

STEP 1

EXPLORING SU LIBRARIES

- Explore interests on the website
- Discovered Linda Troeller
- Became fascinated & had to explore more

STEP 2

ANALYZING THE SUBJECT

- Looked at the TB/AIDS Diary
- Analyzed Troeller's Binder
- Conducted secondary research about her

STEP 3

FORMULATING QUESTIONS

- Became interested in Troeller's process.
- Began to wonder why she did what she did, and how she did it

STEP 4

ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS

- Revisited & reanalyzed the collections
- Interpreted her process

STEP 5

CONCLUSION & REFLECTION

- Concluding thoughts.

QUESTIONS & CONNECTIONS

- What was Troeller's thought process when picking which photos to layer, and what writings to highlight in each piece?
- On some of the photographs in the series, a clear 'infected with' stamp overtop of the images. How did Troeller decide which photos to stamp this on & why?
- Troeller does a fantastic job showcasing the pain of her loved ones through her own pain. How did she manage to balance representations of both?

CONCLUSION & REFLECTION

Drilled into us since we first learn about research, the importance of primary sources. For the first time ever, I have gotten the opportunity to actually interact with, study, and analyze primary sources in the form of Troeller's very own binder full of planning documents, photo negatives, and reviews from critiques and galleries.

So many of my questions I could have never found the answers to online. It was only when I revisited the archives that I was able to really gain a deeper understanding of Troeller's process and the whys and hows of what she did.

When I first heard of Linda Troeller and the type of work she did, I had automatically assumed that she was some odd, eccentric artist that saw the world in brighter colors than the rest of us.

When I began to look at her work and process, I learned that I had completely misjudged her. Troeller was a woman whose heart was forever full of love, pain, loss, and grief. Not only was her TB/AIDS diary a message to the world to destigmatize these issues and treat those who suffer from them as human beings, it was a love letter to those she had lost.