

## ***Michelle Fire Papers 1973-2016***

**Creator:** Michelle Feuer (Fire) (1951- )  
**Extent:** 0.5 linear feet (1 box)  
**Language:** English  
**Repository:** Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

### **Administration Information**

**Access Restrictions:** None.

**Usage Restrictions:** Copyright transferred from Michelle Fire to the Women and Leadership Archives for materials created by Fire.

**Preferred Citation:** Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Michelle Fire Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

**Provenance:** Michelle Fire donated her papers to the Women and Leadership Archives on June 11, 2017 (WLA2017.09).

**Processor:** Molly Sampson, February 2019.

**Processing Information:** Finding aid updated January 2025.

**Separations:** 0.2 linear feet of extraneous newspaper was discarded.

**See Also:** Other artists related to Artemisia at the Women and Leadership Archives and the Artemisia Records at the Art Institute of Chicago.

### **Biographical History**

Michelle Feuer, aka Michelle Fire, was born in 1951 in Chicago. Michelle goes by the name Fire because Feuer is often misspelled and mispronounced. She grew up in West Chicago before attending the University of Illinois at Chicago and earning a BA in graphic arts in 1975. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Fire created and exhibited her artwork in galleries across the city. She worked closely with the Artemisia Gallery, a women-owned art cooperative in Chicago, as well as creating exhibits with other local galleries and artists.

Fire was a prominent supporter of the LGBTQ community in Chicago in the 1980s. In 1986, she opened Big Chicks, an LGBTQ bar in Uptown. The bar became a welcoming place for all LGBTQ people in Chicago. Fire also uses the space to display local artwork. In 2003, she opened Tweet, a sister restaurant to go alongside Big Chicks. Tweet prides itself on its locally sourced and organic menu. Both establishments are still prominent in the Uptown neighborhood today.

### **Scope and Content**

This collection contains 0.5 linear feet of materials related to Fire’s personal and professional life from 1973 to 2016. During this time, Fire worked with Artemisia, and other Chicago area art organizations before opening her bar, Big Chicks, and later Tweet. The material in this collection is organized chronologically within each series. Additionally, oversized material is stored separately in the flat file drawers (FF).

**Series 1: Art, 1873-1985, Box 1**

Contains materials relating to Fire’s art career including exhibits she participated in, grants, recommendation letters, and correspondence. This series is comprised of 16 folders. Materials include artwork, gallery invoices, exhibit programs, photographs, newspaper articles and reviews. Excluding Galleries, Grants, Photographing Guide, and Recommendation Letters, all folders in this series are the title of an exhibition in which Feuer participated.

**Series 2: Personal, 1973-1980, 2011, Box 1**

This series is comprised of personal photographs of Fire and her art resumes.

**Series 3: Professional 1986-2016, Box 1**

This series contains material relating to Big Chicks and Tweet. Material includes menus, photographs, advertisements, newspaper articles, and Chicago travel and entertainment guides. Much of the material relates to the culture and community of the Uptown neighborhood where the restaurants are located.

**Subjects:**

- Art
- Artemisia Gallery
- Feuer (Fire), Michelle (1951-)
- LGBTQ history
- Uptown

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
<b><i>Michelle Fire Papers, 1973-2016</i></b>			
<b>Series 1: Art, 1973–1985</b>			
1	1	Galleries	1973-1983
1	2	<i>Automaton</i>	1975
1	3	<i>Chicago Vicinity Show</i>	1976-1978
1	4	<i>Untitled</i>	1976
FF 3	1	<i>Untitled</i> Exhibition program	1976
1	5	<i>Works on Paper</i>	1982
1	6	Recommendation Letters	1979
1	7	<i>Send a Postcard to Barbara</i>	1979-1980
1	8	<i>6/6 Name Gallery Show</i>	1980
1	9	Grants	1980
1	10	<i>Gay American Arts Festival</i>	1982
1	11	<i>Architectural Fantasies</i>	1983

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1	12	<i>Art Whores</i>	1985
1	13	<i>Looking at Men</i>	1985
1	14	<i>Looking at Women</i>	1985, 2012
1	15	<i>Time Clock, Clock time</i>	undated
1	16	Photographing Guide	undated
<b>Series 2: Personal, 1973–2001</b>			
1	17	Resume	1973-1980
1	18	Photographs	2011
<b>Series 3: Professional, 1986–2016</b>			
1	19	Big Chicks	1998-2009
1	20	Tweet	2003-2016
FF 3	2	<i>Chicago Tribune</i> Big Chicks/Tweet article	2009