

# Gregory Corso:

## An Inventory of His Art Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

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### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Corso, Gregory, 1930-2001
<b>Title:</b>	Gregory Corso Art Collection
<b>Dates:</b>	1950s-1970s
<b>Extent:</b>	126 items
<b>Abstract:</b>	The collection consists primarily of drawings by Gregory Corso (American, 1930-2001), several of which are part of two bound sketchbooks. Also included is a portrait of Corso by Raphael Soyer.
<b>Call Number:</b>	Art Collection AR-00044
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Access:</b>	Open for research. Please note that a minimum of 24 hours notice is required to pull Art Collection materials to the Ransom Center's Reading and Viewing Room. Some materials may be restricted from viewing. To make an appointment or to reserve Art Collection materials, please contact the Center's staff at <a href="mailto:art@hrc.utexas.edu">art@hrc.utexas.edu</a> . Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
<b>Use Policies:</b>	Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.
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**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation** Gregory Corso Art Collection (AR-00044). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

**Acquisition:** Purchases, 1968, 1977-1978

**Processed by:** Ransom Center Staff; Jill Morena, 2019

**Repository:** Harry Ransom Center, [The University of Texas at Austin](#).

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## Biographical Sketch

For a brief biography of Corso, see the finding aid for the Gregory Corso Papers (MS-00936).

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of two bound sketchbooks and loose pages that illustrate Corso's poems or have known and unknown persons, places, or events as their subjects. Many of the works reference Greek mythology, spiritual or supernatural beings, or historical and contemporary social and political circumstances. The collection is divided into four series: Series I. Sketchbooks, circa 1960s; Series II. Drawings for *Earth Egg*, circa 1974; Series III. Drawings, circa 1950s-1960s; and Series IV. Works by Others, 1968. Series I. describes drawings within two sketchbooks, one of which is dedicated to London while Corso was visiting, likely in 1961. The other, dated January 1962 and dedicated to New York City, also contains a page of verse. Series II. consists of original drawings that were published with accompanying verse under the title *Earth Egg* in 1974. The drawings are taped on illustration board, some of which have measurements and other annotations for printing, such as guideline marks for the accordion folds in the final publication. Series III. describes drawings on loose pages, including two self-portraits. Items listed with an additional lowercase letter in the accession number appear to have been taken from the same paper or sketchbook pad, with a few pages still bearing a tenuous physical attachment to each other. Series IV. consists of one portrait of Corso and his second wife, Belle Carpenter, by Raphael Soyer (American, 1899-1987).

Text appearing within brackets are the cataloger's titles or descriptions.

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## Related Material

Letters and manuscripts by, to, and about Corso can be found in the Gregory Corso Papers (MS-00936) and the Gregory Corso Collection (MS-05295). A contact sheet of portraits of Corso can be found in the Gregory Corso Literary File Photography Collection (PH-02889).

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## Index Terms

### People

Borden, Lizzie, 1860-1927.

Burroughs, William S., 1914-1997.

Carpenter, Belle.

Corso, Gregory, 1930-2001.

Rimbaud, Arthur, 1854-1891.

Soyer, Raphael, 1899-1987.

### **Subjects**

Abstract drawings--1950-1970.

Art and mythology.

Figurative art.

Portraits--1950-1970.

### **Places**

London (England).

### **Document Types**

Crayon drawings.

Ink drawings.

Marker drawings.

Pencil drawings.

Sketchbooks.

**Series I. Sketchbooks, circa 1960s**

Sketchbook, circa 1960s

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.1** Sketchbook, circa 1960s. Vinyl and board, 27.9 x 21.4 cm.

**Location**  
Corso,  
G., Box  
1

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.2** Winter Still Sitting Against a Tree With Angels in the Sky Watching, circa 1960s. The word "Leaning", preceding "Sitting", has been crossed through. Ink on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.3** No one is alone ever ever--ever! -Eros in Piccadilly-, circa 1960s. Ink on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.4** Light & Dark The Old Old Vic, circa 1960s. Ink and crayon on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.5** Autumn Bush Babies from London Zoo, circa 1960s. Ink, graphite pencil, and crayon on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.6** The Lion Must Never Eat the Unicorn!!!, circa 1960s. Ink and crayon on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.7** Medieval Times, circa 1960s. Ink and crayon on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.8** [Superimposed letters or monograms], circa 1960s. Ink on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.9** Greece, circa 1960s. Ink and crayon on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.10** [Gestural abstraction], circa 1960s. Ink on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.11** Detail of Tintoretto painting at National Gallery, circa 1960s. Ink and crayon on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.12** 3 Falling Angels, circa 1960s. Ink and crayon on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.13** [Large tree with falling leaves], circa 1960s. Crayon and pastel, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.14** Eureka!, circa 1960s. Ink and crayon on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.15** [Parent and child, cow, and figures in field within mountainous landscape], circa 1960s. Ink on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.16** [Abstract with grid, cloud and plant-like forms], circa 1960s. Crayon on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.17** [Two figures, suggesting mother and child, in a field], circa 1960s. Ink and crayon on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.18** [Figure with beard in black tunic and hat], circa 1960s. Crayon with graphite pencil on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.19** Happening Inside the Battersea House, circa 1960s. Ink on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.20** [Nativity scene], circa 1960s. Crayon on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.21** [Abstract configuration of arches, staffs and star-like elements], circa 1960s. Crayon on paper, 28 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.29.22** [Two female figures wearing niqabs or burkas in landscape with city and beacon in the distance], circa 1960s. Ink and crayon, 28 x 21 cm.

Sketchbook, 1962

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.1** Sketchbook, 1962. Vinyl and board, 28 x 22 cm.

**Location**  
Corso,  
G., Box  
1

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.2** Portrait of Wm [William] Burroughs as a Goth!, 1962. Ink and residual marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.3** [Three cattle in foreground with a train in background], 1962. Ink with residual marker, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.4** The Vigilantes, 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.5** [Short-horned steer], 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.6** [Egyptian figure seated in profile], 1962. Ink, marker, and wash on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.7** [Train in Landscape], 1962. Ink and wash on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.8** Tragic Music, 1962. Ink and marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.9** [Geometric abstract with assembled gears and instruments], 1962. Ink and marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.10** Ban is a Sad Necessary Word, 1962. Ink and marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.11** [Arctic peoples ice fish, a seal drives a sled pulled by walrus, and a penguin is silhouetted in the top right corner], 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.12** [Abstract figure], 1962. Ink and marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.13** [Abstract figure with lamppost, lute, and garden], 1962. Ballpoint pen and marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.14** [Two figures in an intimate embrace], 1962. Ballpoint pen on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.15** [Landscape over plaid-like pattern background], 1962. Ballpoint pen, ink, and marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.16** [Monster and human figures], 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.17** Lizze [sic] Borden Had an Axe, 1962. Ink and marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.18** Jet-Mercury, 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.19** [Procession of figures holding wilted flowers], 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.20** [Monster figure with floral-like head], 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.21** [Cityscape with ice cream vendor driving cart], 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.22** [Eight figures, five with flame-like heads], 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.23** [Figure asleep with book], 1962. Ballpoint pen on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.24** [Ship flying flag with purple cross, and cityscape in background], 1962. Ink and marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.25** [Orb-like object with vine-like tendrils], 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.26** [Abstract in red, blue, green, brown, and orange], 1962. Marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.27** [Face], 1962. Marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.28** [Abstract garden or forest], 1962. Marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.29** [Flowers and plants], 1962. Marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.30** [Witch seated in front of a cauldron, surrounded by spiders, an owl, and magic books], 1962. Marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.31** The Moschops, 1962. Marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.32** [Two figures on a bed or divan], 1962. Marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.33** [Abstract with hieroglyphic-like elements], 1962. Ink and marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.34** The Centaur, 1962. Marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.35** [Abstract figure], 1962. Black ballpoint pen and marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.36** [Seated figure], 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.37** [Plants and balustrade with pointillist pattern in foreground], 1962. Ink and marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.



**Accession Number: 65.402.30.38** [Vase with single flower and butterfly, with framed drawing on wall], 1962. Ink and marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.39** [Ostrich with egg], 1962. Marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.40** [Portrait head wearing pilot's cap], 1962. Marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.41** [Street scene with two figures], 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.42** [Abstract portrait], 1962. Ink and marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.43** [Portrait of figure holding cigarette and wearing epaulets], 1962. Ink and marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.44** [Abstract with flowers and biomorphic forms], 1962. Marker on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.45** Eurail, 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.46** Europe [poem], 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.47** [Abstract figure studies], 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.48** [Figure seated under tree playing pipes, with centaur in background and birds on branches], 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.30.49** [Mother holding startled child with cat in lap and retreating angel], 1962. Ink on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Series II. Drawings for Earth Egg, circa 1974**

**Accession Number: 78.30.1** [Earth Egg, drawings for sheets 1 and 2], circa 1974. Graphite, ink, and pressure-sensitive tape, 50.6 x 76.1 cm (board). **Location**  
Flat Files

**Accession Number: 78.30.2** [Earth Egg, drawings for sheets 4 and 5], circa 1974. Graphite, ink, zinc white, and pressure-sensitive tape, 50.5 x 76.2 cm (board).

**Accession Number: 78.30.3** [Earth Egg, drawings for sheets 3 and 4], circa 1974. Graphite, ink, pressure-sensitive tape and adhesive, 50.5 x 76.2 cm (board).

**Accession Number: 78.30.4** [Earth Egg, title], circa 1974. Graphite, ink, zinc white, and pressure-sensitive tape, 36.7 x 43.2 cm (board).

**Series III. Drawings, circa 1950s-1960s**

- |   | <b>Location</b>        |
|---|------------------------|
| <b>Accession Number: 65.159</b> Self portrait, 1961. Pen, ink, and marker on paper, 27.2 x 20.9 cm.   | Corso,<br>G., Box<br>1 |
| <b>Accession Number: 65.402.1</b> [Abstract with flowers], circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.   |                        |
| <b>Accession Number: 65.402.2</b> [Tree with bare branches], circa 1950s-1960s. Pen and ink on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.   |                        |
| <b>Accession Number: 65.402.3</b> [Abstract landscape of human and human-like figures], circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 27.9 x 20.6 cm.                                |                        |
| <b>Accession Number: 65.402.4</b> [Bird flying over mountains], circa 1950s-1960s. Pen on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm.  |                        |
| <b>Accession Number: 65.402.5</b> [Post-birth or abortion scene with rose window], circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 27 x 21.1 cm.                                       |                        |
| <b>Accession Number: 65.402.6</b> College Girl, Hipster, Tourist, Mrs. Kindhead, Apache, Poetman, Beauty, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 20 x 25.4 cm.                |                        |
| <b>Accession Number: 65.402.7</b> Portrait of a Lady, 1950s. Ink on paper, 26.8 x 21 cm.  |                        |
| <b>Accession Number: 65.402.8</b> [Abstract with human-like forms], circa 1950s-1960s. Pen on paper, 26.8 x 21 cm.  |                        |
| <b>Accession Number: 65.402.9</b> The Burdeners, circa 1950s-1960s. Pen on paper, 27.8 x 21.4 cm.   |                        |
| <b>Accession Number: 65.402.10</b> [Abstract with heraldic motifs], circa 1950s-1960s. Pen on paper, 27.8 x 21.6 cm.  |                        |
| <b>Accession Number: 65.402.11</b> [Abstract of female figure with children and angel with gun], circa 1950s-1960s. Pen on paper, 27.8 x 21.6 cm.                       |                        |
| <b>Accession Number: 65.402.12</b> [Two human figures holding rakes beneath tree, with abstract figures to the right], circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 25.4 x 20.3 cm. |                        |
| <b>Accession Number: 65.402.13</b> [Abstract figures in landscape], circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 20.3 x 25.4 cm.  |                        |

**Accession Number: 65.402.14** "What Should We Do?" "He's Sitting" "He's Also Got Two Arms", circa 1950s-1960s. Crayon and ink on paper, 27.9 x 20.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.15** [Two figures with red balloon], circa 1950s-1960s. Pen, ink, and marker on paper, 20.8 x 27.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.16** Molly and Her Tragedy, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 21 x 27 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.17** [Abstract of angels, deities, humans, animals, and violence], circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 20.5 x 25.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.18** [Man and dog in landscape], circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 21.3 x 27.8 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.19** [Funeral scene with crucifix], circa 1950s-1960s. Ink and marker on paper, 20.8 x 27.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.20** [Abstract in yellow, orange, red, and purple over typewritten verse], circa 1950s-1960s. Watercolor and ink on paper, 26.8 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.21** [Abstract in yellow and red], circa 1950s-1960s. Watercolor on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.22** [Man in movie theatre], circa 1950s-1960s. Watercolor, gouache and ink on paper, 26.8 x 20.8 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.23** [Abstract in orange and yellow], circa 1950s-1960s. Watercolor on paper, 27 x 21 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.24** [Church interior with angels, stained glass, and pipe organ], circa 1950s-1960s. Crayon and ink on paper, 25.4 x 35.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.25a** War!, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 25 x 35.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.25b** Lilly Pond, circa 1950s-1960s. Crayon, ink, and zinc white on paper, 25.2 x 35.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.25c** [Abstract configuration of human bodies], circa 1950s-1960s. Crayon and ink on paper, 25.4 x 35.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.25d** Japanese Style Done in Primrose Hill, London, circa 1960s. Ink on paper, 25.4 x 35.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.26a** The Bar of Spies, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 25 x 35.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.26b** Meeting of Interior Decorators, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 25 x 35.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.27** [Figures in field with Pan and Cupid], circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 25.2 x 35.4 cm.

**Accession Number: 65.402.28** [Landscape], circa 1950s-1960s. Crayon and ink on paper, 25 x 35.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.363.1** [Ship flying flag with red cross on colorful sea], circa 1950s-1960s. Crayon and wash on paper, 27.4 x 35.2 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.363.2** [Angels], circa 1950s-1960s. Crayon on paper, 35.2 x 27.6 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.363.3** [Woman giving birth], circa 1950s-1960s. Crayon and ink on paper, 27.3 x 35.2 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.363.4** [Nude male], circa 1950s-1960s. Crayon and ink on paper, 27.2 x 35.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.363.5** [Male and female nude lying together], circa 1950s-1960s. Crayon and ink on paper, 27.2 x 35.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.363.6** [Mythological figures dancing with mermaid], circa 1950s-1960s. Crayon and ink on paper, 35.4 x 27.2 cm.

**Accession Number: 73.363.7** Fire Island, circa 1950s-1960s. Crayon and pastel on paper, 27.2 x 35.2 cm.

**Accession Number: 78.30.5** Milarepa, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 24.6 x 19.1 cm.

**Accession Number: 78.30.6** [Two frowning figures holding wilted flowers, one smiling figure holding fresh flower], circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 25.4 x 17.5 cm.

**Accession Number: 81.11.1** [Figures in headgear, one in a wheelchair, flowers, and insects on recto, bottles and coins on verso], circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 24.4 x 19.1 cm.

**Accession Number: 81.11.2** Mediterranean Merchant Prince (ca. A.D. 300), circa 1950s-1960s. Pen and ink on paper, 24.6 x 19.1 cm.

**Accession Number: 81.11.3** [Tropical scene and stream], circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 24.6 x 19.1 cm.

**Accession Number: 81.11.4** Sanskrit, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 24.6 x 19.1 cm.

**Accession Number: 81.11.5** [Woman's face], circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 25.4 x 18.3 cm.

**Accession Number: 81.11.6** Opera, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 25.4 x 18.1 cm.

**Accession Number: 81.11.7** Thinking of the Isaian Lamp, circa 1950s-1960s. Ink on paper, 25.4 x 18.1 cm.

**Accession Number: 82.14** Rimbaud & Self Portrait In My Blood, circa 1950s-1960s. Pen, ink wash, and blood on paper, 27.9 x 21.5 cm.

**Series IV. Works by Others, 1968**

**Accession Number:** 68.90 Soyer, Raphael, 1899-1987. Gregory Goya Corso / New York / Corso and Bell / Raphael Soyer / In Friendship, 1968. Pencil on paper, 37.5 x 53 cm (irregular).

**Location**  
Flat Files