



BHC-MSS 0030  
Guide to the Records of Anne Brignolo Studio  
By Meg Rinn  
January 2019

**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Anne Brignolo

**Title:** Records of Anne Brignolo Studios

**Dates:** 1931-2007 [bulk 1980-1989]

**Quantity:** 2 manuscript boxes, 18 oversized boxes, includes digital formats

**Abstract:** Portrait photographer Anne Brignolo was an institution in Bridgeport, having taken over the studio from her father in the 1970s. From the mid-1970s until her retirement in 2009, Brignolo's keen eye, sense of perfection, and dedication to photography helped her to become an award winning photographer. Within the Anne Brignolo Studio collection is not only her correspondence and notes on her work, but a substantial collection of the work itself.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

**Biographical History**

Anne Brignolo (1919-2014) was a prominent studio photographer based in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Her father, Bartholomew, and her mother, May Smith, were both involved in the photography business since before Anne's birth, and she learned the art of not only taking photographs but retouching and dark room work from them. They established the family business, Brignolo Studios, back in 1912, and after they retired from the work, Anne managed the enterprise until she retired in 2009.

Brignolo Studio, located on Kossuth Street and Barnum Avenue from 1927 onward, was the only studio that Anne worked in. While she hired other photographers to go out and do on-location photographs at various events such as bar/bat mitzvahs and weddings, Anne herself was an exclusively studio based photographer. This allowed her to control her surroundings to perfection, and many photographers and sitters have remarked that she was meticulous in her work. A single shoot was likely to last for at least a few hours, sometimes even a full day.

Her portrait work was immensely respected by her peers. Upon the announcement that she would be retiring in 2009, many fellow photographers stated that her sense of perfection and skills would be sorely missed. At the time of her retirement, she had 50 years of experience and was considered a premier portrait photographer by those in her profession. Many of the works held by the Bridgeport History Center were honored with awards from professional associations.

Brignolo's personal life saw her attend Russian ballet school in New York City at age 17. She married her husband Lauren Hourcle sometime in the late 30s, and the couple had two children together. After her retirement, Brignolo moved to Washington State to be with her daughter. Anne Brignolo died in February of 2014.

**Scope and Content Note:**

Most of the collection is 16 by 20 portraits from the 1980s, many of which Brignolo submitted to various photograph competitions and won awards for. Many of these portraits are wedding photographs of brides from the greater Bridgeport area, and showcase both Brignolo's talent and popular styles at the time. Digital files exist on CD-ROMs.

Also included in the collection are notes about her lighting set ups, and a remarkable piece of early photography equipment that Brignolo's father used to measure out photograph developing chemicals.

**Arrangement note:**

The collection is arranged into three series – the first contains notebooks, correspondence, and advertisements used to promote the studio. The second and the largest is series two, which consists of a large body of Brignolo's studio portraiture beginning in the 1970s and continuing to the mid 2000s. This includes both traditional and digital photography. The final series consists of several objects.

**Administrative information:**

**Provenance:** Donation of Brignolo's grandson.

**Preferred Citation:**

Records of Anne Brignolo Studios (BHC-MSS 0030), Bridgeport History Center.

**Names and Subject Tracings***Personal Names*

Brignolo, Anne.

*Subject tracings*

Bridgeport, Conn.

Portrait photography--20th century.

Portrait photography--21st century.

Women photographers--United States.

**Detailed box and folder listing**

## Box 1

## Series 1, Notebooks and correspondence

1. Lens and light set ups, 1975-1977
2. Professional Photographers Association correspondence, 2001
3. Additional correspondence, 1990s

## Series 2, Advertising

4. Theatre programs with studio ads, 1971; 1976
5. Theatre programs with studio ads, 1983-1985
6. Theatre programs with studio ads, 1986-1990
7. Theatre programs with studio ads, 1990-1992
8. Theatre programs with studio ads, 1993-1999
9. Theatre programs with studio ads, 1990-2005

### Series 3, Photographs

10. Photographs by B. Birgnolo, Gray and Vastrum families
11. Photographs by B. Birgnolo, Seeley family home

### Box 2

1. Photograph, Portrait of Shirley Pistey , ca. 1960's
2. Photograph, Portrait of Makey , 1967
3. Photograph, Portrait of Mike Boyle, ca.1970
4. Photograph, unknown Wedding Day –bride & father dancing, ca. 1970
5. Photograph, Portrait of Evelyn Orzechowski, 1983
6. Photograph, Portrait of Aubrey Thomas, 1984
7. Photograph, Casey Bridal , 1985
8. Photograph, Portrait of Maureen Shea Bridal, 1985
9. Photograph, Unknown couple ca. 1988
10. Photograph, Portrait of Dawn Martin & Monica Stevens, 1990
11. Photograph, Portrait of Mr. & Mrs. Christine Slevinsky, 1990
12. Photograph, Portrait of Terrie Davies, 1990
13. Photograph, Portrait of Mr. Dang Mai, 1991
14. Photograph, Portrait of Ms. Dawn Marie Gibson, 1991
15. Photograph, Portrait of Dawen Casenta, 1992
16. Photograph, Portrait of Gina Le Bron & Wayne Sherwood, 1992
17. Photograph, Portrait of Kenny Sorrentino & Dawn Dery, 1992
18. Photograph, Portrait of Katie Morris, 1993
19. Photograph, Portrait of Don & Carmen Gravy & Family, 1994
20. Photograph, Portrait of Ann Costello & Kenkabel, 1994
21. Photograph, unknown couple, 1995
22. Photograph, Color print, unknown person, 1995
23. Photograph, Color print, unknown couple, 1995

### Box 3

1. Photograph, Color print, Unknown Bridled, 1995
2. Photograph, Unknown Family, 1995
3. Photograph, unknown person, 1995
4. Photograph, unknown person, 1995
5. Photograph, unknown person, 1995
6. Photograph, Mary Ann Batista, 1995
7. Photograph, Portraits of Carmelo & Gloria Correct, 1995
8. Photograph, Portrait of Christine Frunco, 2001
9. Photograph, Portrait of Linda Keophilavannh, 2001
10. Photograph, Portrait of Bouse Family, 2001
11. Photograph, Portrait of Nancy Monaslaue & Angelo, 2001
12. Photograph, Portrait of Katerina Baraja Gonzalez, 2001
13. Photograph, Portrait of Tammy Harvey and Dong Fisher, 2001
14. Photograph, Portrait of Julissa Ortiz, 2001
15. Photograph, Portrait of Patricia Rhinvil, 2001
16. Photograph, Portrait of Vincento & Monica Huggan & Family, 2001
17. Photograph, Portrait of Jodi Mannino Wedding, 2001
18. Photograph, Portrait of Faith Marchi, 2002
19. Photograph, Portrait of Andrea Summerville, 2002

20. Photograph, Portrait of Kelly Vazquez, 2003
21. Photograph, Portrait of Carmen Morcano, 2004
22. Photograph, Portrait of Coral Haines Family, 2005
23. Photograph, Portrait of Coral Haines Family, 2006
24. Photograph, Portrait of Aaron
25. Photograph, Portrait of Heather Nolan.
26. Photograph, Portrait of Maria Rud Valentines.
27. Photograph, Portrait of Ballester's Communion.
28. Photograph, Portrait of Unknown Young man with white shirt & brown watch. Angel Lasada.
29. Photograph, Portrait of Unknown Young man in a suite.
30. Photograph, unknown group of 5 girls and 1 older lady .

#### Box 4

1. Photograph, Portrait of "The Shepard Children" 1976  
Label: CPPA, Connecticut Pro. Photo. Assn.  
Photograph, Portrait of "Candace" R. L. Love Stamp c. 1977  
Labels: Seal of Approval, Professional Photographers of America INC, P.A.N.E, September, 24, 1977
2. Photograph, Portrait of "I Do" 1979.
3. Photograph, Portrait of "I Do, I do" 1980
4. Photograph, Portrait of "Mother's Little Girl" 1980

#### Box 5

1. Photograph, Portrait of "Promises, Promises" 1980  
Photograph, Portrait of Nitza Soloman, "I Only Have Eyes For You" 1980  
A Merit Award Print From The Monthly Competition of the Connecticut Professional Photographers
2. Photograph, Portrait of "Three Smart Girls" January 1980
3. Photograph, Portrait of Police Superintendent Joseph A. Walsh, "The Bridgeport Police Chief" June 25, 1980.
4. Photograph, Portrait of Regina Zujewski, "Golden Girl",1980.  
A Merit Award Print From The Monthly Competition of the Connecticut Professional Photographers Association. An Award of Expert Connecticut Professional Association. A Stamp CERTIFIED - Professional Photographer

#### Box 6

1. Photograph, Portrait of N. Jayne Kisk, " The Way You Look Tonight" 1980-1981.  
Photograph, Portrait of Marilou Bennett, "Where There's Smoke There's Fire" 1981.  
A Merit Award Print, From the Monthly Competition of the Connecticut Professional Photographers Association.
2. Photograph, portrait of Paulette Gaglia and others, "A Family Affair" 1981
3. Photograph, Portrait of Alissa Hill, "Alissa" 1981  
Blue ribbon by the P.P.A.N.E. Award, 1981.

#### Box 7

1. Photograph, Portrait of Marcia Holmes, "A Rose, Is Rose, Is A Rose" 1981  
Photograph, Portrait of Lizette Perez, "Lizette" c. 1981  
A Merit Award Print, from the 91th Annual Exhibition of the Professional Photographers of America INC, Las Vegas Nevada, 1982. An a Award of Expert Connecticut Professional Photographers Association. with a yellow ribbon by the C.P.P.A. Annual Convention Court of Honor, 1981.
2. Photograph, Portrait of Kathleen Warren, "Queen For A Day" with a red ribbon, 1981
3. Photograph, Portrait of "Justico ofThe Peacs", Carol Collins, Submitted for the CPPA, Connecticut Pro. Photo. Assn. ca.1982. A Merit Award Print From the 91st Annual Exhibition of the Professional Photographers of America, INC. Las Vegas, Nevada, 1982. And "BEST IN SHOW, C.P.P.A. Monthly Print Competition."

Box 8

1. Photograph, Portrait of Julie Colangelo, "Till the End of Time" 1982
2. Photograph, Portrait of Shari Jones-" I Could Have Danced All Night" 1982.  
Label: Connecticut Pro. Photo. Assn.
3. Photograph, Portrait of Chickie Karosy, "Can't Take My Eyes Of You" February 24, 1982  
A Merit Award Print From The Monthly Competition of the Connecticut Professional Photographers Association.
4. Photograph, Portrait of Kathy [?]. "Kathy's Wedding Day" 1982
5. Photograph, Portrait of Sue Vecsey, "Misty" 1982

Box 9

1. Photograph, Portrait of Susan Segale, "Susan," 1982
2. Photograph, Portrait of Lizette Perez Suarez, "This is my Beloved,," 1982
3. Photograph, Portrait of the Debbie Luk 4 sisters, "All In The Family", 1983.
4. Photograph, Portrait of Anne Kelly Sliva, "The Look of Love, " 1982
5. Photograph, Portrait of Sheri Smith, "The Rose," 1983
6. Photograph, Portrait of Georgette Christian, "Armour," 1984"

Box 10

1. Photograph, Portrait of Maria Cural, "Maria's Day," 1984
2. Photograph, Portrait of Juanna Gonzales, "Marry Me, Marry Me" 1984
3. Photograph, Portrait of Monsignor John Pitonak, "The Monsignor" September 1984  
A Merit Award Print From The Monthly Competition of the Connecticut Professional Photographers
4. Photograph, Portrait of Carrie Sanchez, "Day Dreams" March 1984  
Label: CPPA, Connecticut Pro. Photo. Assn., A Merit Award Print From The Monthly Competition of the Connecticut Professional Photographers Association. An a Award of Expert Connecticut Professional Association.
5. Portrait of Portrait of Mary Szamatlski- Wedding "Mary" May 23, 1984.  
Label: Connecticut Pro. Photo. Assn.
6. Photograph, Portrait of "Vanessa", 1984  
Label: CPPA, Connecticut Pro. Photo. Assn., BEST IN SHOW, March 1984

Box 11

1. Photograph, Portrait of Jodi Hancock, "Jodi's Wedding Day," 1985
2. Photograph, Portrait of Virginia Battaglio, "Antique Satin," 1985

Photograph, Portrait of Debbie Donofrio, " Spanish Dancer"1985  
CPPA Convention, Selected for Exhibition by the Connecticut Professional Photographers Association Annual Convention. with a ribbon by the P.P.A.N.E – Court of Honor

3. Photograph, Portrait of Georgette Christian," AMOUR" 1985
4. Photograph, Portrait of Linda Fitzsimmons "For Sentimental Reasons" 1985.  
A Merit Award Print From The Monthly Competition of the Connecticut Professional Photographers Association. An Award of Expert Connecticut Professional Association.

#### Box 12

1. Photograph, portrait of Laurie Ries, "Ready When You Are" 1985
2. Photograph, Portrait of Nancy Morales & Roberto Rodriquez, "Heaven Can Wait" c. 1985  
A pink ribbon from the P.P.A.N.E., 1985., A Merit Award Print, from the 94th Annual Exhibition of the Professional Photographers of America INC, Rosemont, ILLinois, 1985. Professional Photographers Association of New England, 1988.
3. Photograph, Portrait of Susan Spanenburg, "The Promise of your Smile" 1985
4. Photograph, Portrait of Elizabeth Connolly, "Elizabeth" 1986  
C.P.P.A. Convention 86, Category W, Entry 20-A, Score, 1986.

#### Box 13

1. Photograph, Portrait of Testiani, 1986
2. Photograph, Portrait of Diane Thompsom, 1986.
3. Photograph, Portrait of Carol Collins - 44 years, 1987
4. Photograph, Portrait of Carol Collins - 44 years, 1987, mounted on canvas.
5. Photograph, Portrait of Grace Paoletti, "Glitter" 1987  
Selected for Exhibition by the Connecticut Professional Photographers Association Annual Convention. An a Award of Expert Connecticut Professional Association.

#### Box 14

1. Photograph, Portrait of Alissa Maki or Hill, "Alissa" 1988
2. Photograph, Portrait of Susan Stauvola, "Victorianna" 1988  
A Merit Award Print, from the 87th Annual Exhibition of the Professional Photographers of America INC, Las Vegas Nevada, 1988. An Award of Expert Connecticut Professional Photographers Association.
3. Photograph, Portrait of Michelle Ortrga, "Jazz It Up" 1989. - Stamp C.P.P.A. Convention, Category P , Entry 22-B, Score 77.
4. Photograph, Portrait of Sheri Carlson, "Red Glitter" c. 1980s
5. Photograph, Portrait of Paula Ciccone c. 1980s
6. Photograph, Portrait of Jody Collins, " Remembering The 20's- with Love" c. 1980s  
A Merit Award Print, From The Monthly Competition, of the Connecticut Professional Photographers Association. Award of Expert Connecticut Professional Photographers Association. ca.1980.

#### Box 15

1. Photograph, Anne Curral, "My Wonderful Day" c. 1980s
2. Photograph, Portrait of Kelly Ekout, c. 1980s  
Blue Ribbon P.P.A.N.E – Award.
3. Photograph, Portrait of Irene K., "Happiest Day of my Life" c. 1980
4. Photograph, Portrait of Kathy, "Kathy" c. 1980s

5. Photograph, Portrait of Andrene "Chickey" Karosy, "The Eyes Have It", c. 1980s  
Stamp – C.P.P.A. Convention, Category P, Entry 20-F, Score 75. A Merit Award Print From  
The Monthly Competition of the Connecticut Professional Photographer Association.  
Ribbons Expert Connecticut Professional Association.

#### Box 16

1. Photograph, Portrait of The Family Trio" c. 1980s A Merit Award Print, From the Monthly  
Competition of the Connecticut Professional Photographers Association. An a Award of  
Expert Connecticut Professional Photographers
2. Photograph, Portrait of "Honey Baby" c. 1980s
3. Photograph, Portrait of "Heidi", Heide Kline c. 1980s
4. Photograph, Portrait of "The White Rose", Lilia Prekarska c. 1980s  
Entered PPANE Convention.
5. Photograph, Portrait of Tracey Riccio Wedding, "Lavender and Pearls" c. 1980s  
Selected for Exhibition by the Connecticut Professional Photographers Association Annual  
Convention. An a Award of Expert Connecticut Professional Association.
6. Photograph, Portrait of Marie Torres, "Wish Upon A Star" c. 1980s  
Award of Excellence, Connecticut Professional Photographers Association. ca.1980.

#### Box 17

1. Photograph, Portrait of Nitza Soloman, "I Only Have Eyes For You", c. 1980s  
A Merit Award Print From The Monthly Competition of the Connecticut Professional  
Photographers Association. An a Award of Expert Connecticut Professional Association.
2. Photograph, Portrait of unknown person /Mc Coullough Bridal, ", c. 1980s
3. Photograph, Portrait of unknown woman, "Smiles are happiness"
4. Photograph, Portrait of the 7 men and 2 women in the Band Lundy, 1991
5. Photograph, Portrait of Betty Cayne and family? c. 1990s
6. Photograph, Portrait of "Angel Lasada", 2000
7. Photograph, Portrait of ONeil Aderson, College Student, 2000

#### Box 18

1. Photograph, Portrait of Kristy Bouffard, Bpt. Symphony Orchestra, 2000
2. Photograph, Portrait of Kristy Bouffard, "The Little Protégé" Symphony Orchestra,  
1987/2000.
3. Photograph, Portrait of Lisa Pavia and Asher, 2007.
4. Photograph, Portrait of Ratita Dennis, 2007.
5. Diploma belonging to May Brignolo for Oil Painting Course from the National Art School,  
Inc., Chicago Illinois, October 24, 1931.  
Note: May Smith Brignolo was Anne Brignolo Horcle's Mother.

#### Box 19

1. Digital photographs, October 6, 2003
2. Digital photographs, October 7, 2003
3. Digital photographs, October 22, 2003
4. Digital photographs, October 23, 2003
5. Digital photographs, November 4, 2003
6. Digital photographs, November 21, 2003
7. Digital photographs, January 22, 2004
8. Digital photographs, March 5, 2004

9. Digital photographs, March 16, 2004
10. Digital photographs, April 19, 2004
11. Digital photographs, April 29, 2004
12. Digital photographs, April 29, 2004
13. Digital photographs, June 2, 2004
14. Digital photographs, June 9, 2004
15. Digital photographs, July 6, 2004
16. Digital photographs, July 9, 2004
17. Digital photographs, July 28, 2004
18. Digital photographs, July 28, 2004
19. Digital photographs, July 29, 2004
20. Digital photographs, July 29, 2004
21. Digital photographs, August 18, 2004
22. Digital photographs, August 18, 2004
23. Digital photographs, August 25, 2004
24. Digital photographs, August 31, 2004
25. Digital photographs, August 31, 2004
26. Digital photographs, September 2, 2004
27. Digital photographs, September 7, 2004
28. Digital photographs, September 10, 2004
29. Digital photographs, September 15, 2004
30. Digital photographs, September 27, 2004
31. Digital photographs, September 28, 2004
32. Digital photographs, October 13, 2004
33. Digital photographs, October 15, 2004
34. Digital photographs, October 24, 2004
35. Digital photographs, October 29, 2004
36. Digital photographs, November 29, 2004
37. Digital photographs, December 17, 2004
38. Digital photographs, February 10, 2005
39. Digital photographs, April 4, 2005
40. Digital photographs, April 4, 2005
41. Digital photographs, May 3, 2005
42. Digital photographs, May 3, 2005
43. Digital photographs, September 6, 2005
44. Digital photographs, September 13, 2005
45. Digital photographs, September 15, 2005
46. Digital photographs, September 21, 2005
47. Digital photographs, October 21, 2005
48. Digital photographs, October 27, 2005
49. Digital photographs, November 2, 2005
50. Digital photographs, November 16, 2005
51. Digital photographs, December 2, 2005
52. Digital photographs, March 7, 2006
53. Digital photographs, March 15, 2006
54. Digital photographs, March 28, 2006
55. Digital photographs, April 3, 2006
56. Digital photographs, April 4, 2006
57. Digital photographs, June 1, 2006
58. Digital photographs, June 19, 2006



59. Digital photographs, December 11, 2006

60. Digital photographs ,June 12, 2007

Box 20

Set of scales used by Bartholomew Brignolo to mix and develop darkroom chemicals.