

M018

Floyd Hopper Papers, 1920-1982 | Archives, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields

By Evan N. Miller, September 2017

Overview

Title: Floyd Hopper Collection

Reference Code: M018

Date(s) of creation: 1920-1982

Creator: Hopper, Floyd (1909 – 1984)

Extent: 2.11 cubic feet | 2.75 linear feet | 4 legal manuscript cases, 1 drop-front box (OVA box 1; 11.5" X 15" X 3")

Forms of Material:

Correspondence,

Documents,

Newspaper clippings,

Pamphlets,

Photographs

Languages and Scripts: English

System of Arrangement: The collection is organized chronologically according to scrapbooks' content.

Processing Information: Floyd Hopper collected and compiled the scrapbooks, but it is unknown whether the scrapbooks were altered after Hopper's death in 1984 (e.g. clippings or photographs added, pages rehoused in new binders); this is probable noting the late-twentieth century binders and plastic sleeves on early-twentieth century pages. Scrapbooks 1-17 were removed from their binders due to preservation concerns, and scrapbook pages are housed in folders; pages remain in their plastic sleeves to keep loose materials together. Scrapbooks 18 and 19 remain in their bound housing, which are most likely original. Original order has been maintained. Information added by the processor is in square brackets.

Scope and Content

The Floyd Hopper Collection contains scrapbooks compiled by Floyd Hopper, an Indiana painter and printmaker. The scrapbooks contain ephemera from Hopper's life connected to school, college, and work as an artist. Materials include newspaper clippings, correspondence, awards, photographs, and sketches and drawings. The scope of the material includes many subjects such as West Baden High School, John Herron Art Institute, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Noblesville Casting Iron Company, Indiana Sesquicentennial, among many others. Organizations discussed include the American Artists Professional League, Brown County Art Guild, Conner Prairie Pioneer Settlement, Hamilton County Artists Association, Hoosier Salon, Indiana Artists Club, Kiwanis International, Marian County Art League, and Philadelphia Watercolor Club. A range of miscellaneous items are in the collection, e.g.: Hopper's artist sketchbook containing inspirational clippings, 1928 Butler University basketball ticket, Walt Disney Productions Pass, 1939 New York World's Fair ticket, Hopper's original poetry, special edition prints of Hopper's work from John Foland's *Remembrances*, and a 1976 history of Hamilton County, Indiana, in honor of the United States' bicentennial celebration.

Biographical History

Floyd D. Hopper (1909-1984) was born near French Lick in Martin County, Indiana. He turned down a scholarship to DePauw University to attend John Herron School of Art in Indianapolis, Indiana; he attended on scholarship. He received a certificate in 1933, since no official degrees were offered at the time. He later returned to Herron to earn a Bachelor of Arts, graduating in 1940. Artists that Hopper studied under while at Herron include William Forsyth, Clifton Wheeler, Paul Hadley, Roy C. Nuse, George Harding, Francis Speight, Donald M. Mattison, Henrik M. Mayer, Eliot O'Hara, Francis Chapin, and Max Kahn. Before returning to Herron for his bachelor's degree, Hopper studied briefly at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. In 1936, he married Hazel Glenne Whiteleather (1906-2001); Hazel worked at the Indiana State Library for forty-four years, from 1931-1975.

During World War II, Hopper was unable to join the military. In order to support the war effort, he worked for Hetherington & Burnet, an Indianapolis foundry, running a wood pattern shop. In 1945, after the war, Hopper opened the Noblesville Casting Iron Company (Noblesville Foundry) with two partners. He worked there until 1958 when he left to pursue art, with a focus on painting, and teaching the arts full-time (primarily through the Indianapolis Art League).

Hopper primarily worked in two mediums: painting and printmaking. Regarding painting, he is most well-known for his oil and watercolor works. His printmaking foci were etchings, lithographs, and woodblock prints. Hopper painted a variety of subjects including landscapes and portraits, but he "...prefer[red] painting ash cans,

old buildings and people 'from the other side of the tracks.'" Hopper was influenced by the painters of the 1930's (Great Depression) such as John Steuart Curry and Grant Wood along with Indiana and Midwestern scenery.

Hopper was a member of several Indiana-based organizations throughout his lifetime including Brown County Art Guild, Hamilton County Artists Association, Hoosier Salon, Indiana Artists Club, Indiana Federation of Art Clubs, IU Alumni Association of Herron School of Art, Indianapolis Art League, Society of Indiana Pioneers, among others. Hopper was also involved in Kiwanis International and Conner Prairie Pioneer Settlement, serving in officer and board positions.

He was known prior to his death as the "Dean of Indiana Watercolorists."

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

Floyd D. Hopper: Cherry Tree Hill Studio. 1976. Floyd Hopper Artist File, Stout Reference Library, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.

Gugin, Linda C. and James E. St. Clair. "Hopper, Floyd." *Indiana's 200: The People Who Shaped the Hoosier State*. Indiana Historical Society, 2015.

"Hazel Whiteleather Hopper." *Find a Grave*, www.findagrave.com/memorial/61677860/hazel-hopper. Accessed 26 Mar 2018.

"Hazel Whiteleather Hopper." *Indianapolis Star*, 8 July 2001.

"Hoosier Artists: Floyd Hopper." *Star Magazine*, 18 December 1966. Floyd Hopper Artist File, Stout Reference Library, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.

"Hopper Exhibit Shows Greatness." *Indianapolis News*, 4 December 1986. Floyd Hopper Artist File, Stout Reference Library, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.

Razak, Zulaiha. *Floyd D. Hopper Collection*. Indiana Historical Society, May 2014. www.indianahistory.org/our-collections/collection-guides/floyd-d-hopper-collection.pdf. Accessed 26 Mar 2018.

Further Research

Related Archival Materials:

Floyd D. Hopper Artwork and Papers, 1929-1980 (L463). Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library. Indianapolis, IN. 8 May 2018. www.in.gov/library/finding-aid/L463_Hopper_Floyd_D_Artwork_and_Papers.pdf

Floyd D. Hopper Collection. 1967-1986 (P0535). Indiana Historical Society. Indianapolis, IN. 26 Mar 2018. www.indianahistory.org/our-collections/collection-guides/floyd-d-hopper-collection.pdf

Hazel W. Hopper Papers, 1864-1942 (S0681). Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library. Indianapolis, IN. 8 May 2018. https://www.in.gov/library/finding-aid/S0681_Hopper_Hazel_W_Papers.pdf

Notes:

The Indianapolis Museum of Art collection includes works by Floyd Hopper (search online collection portal with artist name or work: <http://collection.imamuseum.org/>).

Subject/Index Terms:

Brown County (Ind.),	Indiana State Museum
Conner Prairie (Museum),	John Herron Art Institute. School,
Drawing,	Kiwanis International,
French Lick (Ind.),	Landscape painting,
Hendricks County (Ind.),	Martin County (Ind.),
Herron School of Art,	Noblesville (Ind.),
Hoosier Salon,	Painting,
Hopper, Floyd D.,	Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine
Indiana Artists' Club,	Arts,
Indiana Federation of Art Clubs,	Poetry,
Indiana—History,	Print—Technique,
Indiana. Sesquicentennial Commission,	Watercolor painting,
Indiana State Fair,	West Baden Springs (Ind.),
Indiana State Library,	World War, 1939-1945

Administrative Information

Repository: Archives, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields. 4000 Michigan Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208. (317) 923-1331 x 276. archives@discovernewfields.org

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Curator Marty Krause received the Floyd Hopper Papers from his widow, Hazel Hopper, circa 1997-2001.

Citation: [Item title], [DD Month YYYY], [Container information]. Floyd Hopper Collection (M018). Archives, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields. Indianapolis, IN.

Access & Use

Conditions Governing Access: Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder. Please contact the Archivist for more information.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

- Folder 1: Scrapbook #1 [1 of 2], 1920-1938
- Folder 2: Scrapbook #1 [2 of 2], 1920-1938
- Folder 3: Scrapbook #2 [1 of 2], 1925-1940
- Folder 4: Scrapbook #2 [2 of 2], 1925-1940
- Folder 5: Scrapbook #3 [1 of 3], 1939-1949
- Folder 6: Scrapbook #3 [2 of 3], 1939-1949
- Folder 7: Scrapbook #3 [3 of 3], 1939-1949

Box 2

- Folder 1: Scrapbook #4 [1 of 2], 1951-1961
- Folder 2: Scrapbook #4 [2 of 2], 1951-1961
- Folder 3: Scrapbook #5 [1 of 2], 1962-1963
- Folder 4: Scrapbook #5 [2 of 2], 1962-1963
- Folder 5: Scrapbook #6 [1 of 2], 1964
- Folder 6: Scrapbook #6 [2 of 2], 1964
- Folder 7: Scrapbook #7 [1 of 2], 1965
- Folder 8: Scrapbook #7 [2 of 2], 1965

Box 3

- Folder 1: Scrapbook #8 [1 of 2], 1966
- Folder 2: Scrapbook #8 [2 of 2], 1966
- Folder 3: Scrapbook #9 [1 of 2], 1967
- Folder 4: Scrapbook #9 [2 of 2], 1967
- Folder 5: Scrapbook #10 [1 of 2], 1968
- Folder 6: Scrapbook #10 [2 of 2], 1968
- Folder 7: Scrapbook #11 [1 of 2], 1969
- Folder 8: Scrapbook #11 [2 of 2], 1969

Box 4

Folder 1: Scrapbook #12 [1 of 2], 1970
Folder 2: Scrapbook #12 [2 of 2], 1970
Folder 3: Scrapbook #13 [1 of 2], 1971-1972
Folder 4: Scrapbook #13 [2 of 2], 1971-1972
Folder 5: Scrapbook #14 [1 of 1], 1973
Folder 6: Scrapbook #15 [1 of 1], 1974-1975
Folder 7: Scrapbook #16 [1 of 2], 1976
Folder 8: Scrapbook #16 [2 of 2], 1976
Folder 9: Scrapbook #17 [1 of 1], 1977-1982

OVA Box 1

Item 1: Scrapbook #18, Press clippings on Herron School of Art, 1925-1940
Item 2: Scrapbook #19, Color prints of Hoosier Salon and other artists' work, 1920-1940