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Guide to the Blumenstiel Collection

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Helen Blumenstiel
Guide to the Helen Blumenstiel Collection
1948-1995

Creator: Helen Blumenstiel

Title: Helen Blumenstiel Collection

Dates: 1948-1995

Quantity: 3 linear feet of boxes; 3 linear feet of artwork

Summary: This collection comprises many documents of Helen Blumenstiel's life and the influence she had on Linfield College (now University) during her many years running the art department. This collection includes class notes, sketches, portraits and farm photos to her will and some small personal belongings.

Repository

Jereld R. Nicholson Library

Linfield University

900 SE Baker Street

McMinnville, OR 97128

Reference Number: 503-883-2734

Reference Email: archives@linfield.edu

Language: English

Biographical Note

Helen Blumenstiel was an artist and teacher throughout her life. She taught at Linfield College from 1946 to 1947, and then returned in 1952 to accept a full-time position teaching art. From that time until 1965, she led the expansion of the department and became the chairwoman of the Fine Arts department. Blumenstiel championed the awareness of the department by giving faculty lectures, and upon her retirement, the department was offering a dual degree in Art and Education. Outside of the Linfield College arena, Blumenstiel exhibited her work in New York, Seattle, Portland, and Salem, among other locations. Her later life involved much bicoastal travel, but she eventually settled on a farm in Salem, Oregon.

Content Description

This collection contains materials related to Helen Blumenstiel's life at Linfield as well as many other institutions and also her personal affairs. From letters and journals to class notes and assignment sketches, this collection is composed of many documents that tell her life's story. This collection also contains many photos of Helen's work, her farm, and Helen herself.

Restrictions on Access

Access is by appointment only. Please contact the archivist to make an appointment.

Preferred Citation

Helen Blumenstiel Collection. Jereld R. Nicholson Library. Linfield University, McMinnville, Oregon. Gift of Peggy Reuler and Donna Jean McDaniel.

Provenance

Donna Jean McDaniel donated to the Helen Blumenstiel collection for the Linfield University Archives in 2017, and Peggy Reuler donated additional materials in January, 2020.

Location of Originals

Jereld R. Nicholson Library, Linfield University.

Processing Information

Processed by archives technicians Anna Vanderschaegen and Sofia Zielinski, with the assistance of archivist Rich Schmidt.

Revised 6/29/2023 by archives coordinator Alyssa Ralston.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into seven boxes:

Box 1: Helen's sketchbooks including pencil, charcoal, ink, and watercolor sketches

Box 2

Folder 1: Notes from art fundamentals course

Folder 2: Notes, Christmas song lyrics and block prints

Folder 3: Notes from spring 1948

Folder 4: Class and test notes from Helen's education

Box 3

Folder 1: Woodcuts

Folder 2: Pencil sketches (loose paper)

Folder 3: Notes and sketch assignments

Folder 4: Pencil sketches and collages

Folder 5: Newspapers and block prints

Folder 6: Old prints and cutouts

Box 4

Folder 1: Helen's work at Linfield 1995

Folder 2: Large black and white portraits and farm photos

Folder 3: Black and white farm photos

Folder 4: Envelope full of slides: art pieces from Linfield gallery

Box 5

Folder 1: Eulogies

Folder 2: Newspapers about Helen

Folder 3: Property sales documents and news clippings

Folder 4: Articles about Helen written by Emmerson

Folder 5: Letters from Helen to Stella D and Peggy R

Folder 6: Story and history of Helen's early employment

Folder 7: Radio interview

Folder 8: Helen's will

Folder 9: Retrospective 1995

Box 6: Oversized items

-Farm journal

-Scrapbook full of photos

-Unbound copy of farm journal

-Rolled up canvas art of some sort

Box 7: Yellow photo box

- Leather trifold key holder
- Miniature book of Psalms 1903 edition
- Old case of fountain style ink pens
- 2 cds containing photo copies

Additional materials

The archives has five oversized pieces of Helen's artwork, photos of which are here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6roof0w5mz5uaqy/AACdXHuyNCMz9n15V6MuJ8x4a?dl=0>

One is located in the archivist's office, and four are stored in the archives.

A digital collection of Helen Blumenstiel's art is available here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/155417544@N05/sets/72157687432539734/with/23527973118/>