



Gerald Hansen Library
216 O Street, Sacramento CA 95814

Finding Aid to the Edan Milton Hughes Archive circa 1850-2010

Collection Number: 002.CRART.CAU

Finding Aid prepared by: Priscilla Amenityro

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection title

Edan Milton Hughes Archive

Collection number

002.CRART.CAU

Creators

Hughes, Edan Milton

Extent

47 linear feet comprised of approximately 7,000 artist files occupying 14 hanging file drawers, two Hollinger boxes of microfiche, and one Hollinger box of slides.

Repository

Crocker Art Museum, Gerald Hansen Library
216 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Abstract

The archive contains the artist research files of Edan Milton Hughes that informed the contents of his artist reference book *Artists in California 1786-1940*. The files contain exhibition catalogs, magazine and newspaper articles, photographs, copies of death certificates, letters, and other materials with information about the life and works of approximately 7,000 artists active in California from the late 18th century to 1940.

Language

Records are in English.

Physical location

Collection is housed in the Gerald Hansen Library.

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Access and use restrictions

Call 916-808-8856 or email library@crockerart.org for an appointment or questions. Collection items are for research purposes only. Researchers are responsible for verifying the accuracy of information contained within the archive. Property rights to the physical object belong to the Crocker Art Museum. Due to potential copyright restrictions, reproductions may not be provided for some materials.

Publication information

It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine who holds the copyright and pursue the copyright owner or his or her heir for permission to publish, where applicable.

Preferred citation

[Identification of item], Edan Milton Hughes Archive, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento

Access points

Topical

Art–Collectors and Collecting–United States

Art, Visual

Western Art

Pioneers

Painters

Landscapes

Geographic

California, Northern

San Francisco Bay Area (Calif.)

Genre Form

Artist files

Related materials

Nan and Roy Farrington Jones Archive of Early California and Western Art, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition

Through consultation with Associate Director and Chief Curator of the Crocker Art Museum, Scott Shields, the archive was presented to the Crocker Art Museum by Hughes shortly before his death in 2015.

Level of description

Container level, by artist name A-Z.

Processed by

Priscilla Amenityro and Phyllis Graham, with contributions by Ellen Halteman.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Edan Milton Hughes was born June 4, 1935, in Kentucky and came to San Francisco with the U.S. Navy in 1956 where he became an avid collector of early California art over five decades. He is the author of *Artists in California 1786-1940*, of which the third edition contains 20,000 artist biographies. The first edition was published in 1986, the second three years later, and the third in 2002 by the Crocker Art Museum. Artist information was obtained from books, newspapers, periodicals, auction and gallery catalogues, census records, and interviews with artists and their descendants. Hughes bequeathed numerous paintings to the Crocker Art Museum where a gallery is named for him. He died in his home on April 21, 2015.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The materials in the Edan Milton Hughes archive span approximately 1850 to 2010. Around 7,000 artists are represented from the late 18th century up to 1940. The artist research files are arranged alphabetically by last name (a searchable list of artist names is in preparation). Many folders contain only a copy of a death certificate or scant documentation, whereas others are more substantial. Items found in the research files include handwritten and typed notes, printed emails, letters, magazine and newspaper articles, exhibition catalogs, auction records, photocopies of pages from art books, and photographs.