John Heliker sketchbooks, 1970-2012  
MC.881  
Finding aid prepared by Grace Thiele

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April 29, 2016  
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

Repository  Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections
Creator      Heliker, John, 1909-2000
Title        John Heliker sketchbooks
Date [inclusive]  1970-2012
Extent       0.5 Linear feet (1 box, 1 ovs notebook)
Language     English

Preferred Citation

John Heliker sketchbooks (MC 881), Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.
Biographical note

John Heliker was born in Yonkers, New York in 1909. He first started studying art on his own after dropping out of high school in 1923, and later attended the Art Students League from 1927 to 1929. Heliker taught art for many years, first at the Colorado Springs Art Center and then at Columbia University as a Professor of Art for 27 years. He also taught at his own former school, the Art Students League, as well as the New York Studio School, at which he was a founding faculty member, and in the MFA Painting Program at Parsons School of Design. His works have been exhibited in major survey exhibitions at the Carnegie Institute, the Brooklyn Museum, the Cleveland Museum, the Corcoran Gallery, the Museum of Modern Art, and are held by the Metropolitan Museum, the Walker Art Center, the Philadelphia Museum, the Whitney Museum and the aforementioned Museum of Modern Art and the Brooklyn Museum. Heliker was awarded the Prix de Rome in 1948, a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1951, three Ford Foundation Purchase awards and several awards from the National Academy of Design. His work gained Heliker a retrospective exhibit at the Whitney Museum, and a Gold Medal for Merit and a Purchase award and grant in 1967 from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Heliker held Honorary Doctorates from both Colby College in Maine as well as Bard College in New York. He died in Bar Harbor, Maine, in February of 2000.


Scope and Contents note

The John Heliker sketchbooks are divide into two series: sketchbooks and exhibits. The sketchbooks series consists of ten sketchbooks of various subject and media. The majority of the sketchbooks contains charcoal sketches of human and animal subjects as well as still lifes and landscapes, and also contain several watercolor drawings of human figures, still lifes, and landscapes. Five of the sketchbooks are 11"x14", two are 9"x12", and the rest, ranging from smallest to largest, are 5.25"x8", 6.5"x9.5", and 13"x15.75". Though there is no definitive date for this collection, all of the sketchbooks are believed to have been created between the 1970s and the 1990s. The exhibits series contains two pamphlets about exhibits of Heliker's work in 2000 and 2012.

Arrangement

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Materials in the collection are arranged in order of the "SB" number assigned to them by the Heliker-LaHotan foundation. SB629 is housed separately because it is oversize.

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**Administrative Information**

**Publication Information**

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections July 2014

**Use Restrictions**

Standard federal copyright laws (U.S. Title 17) apply.

**Acquisition**

These materials were donated in 2014 by the Heliker-LaHotan Foundation.

**Processing Information**

Processed by Grace Thiele, July 2014.
## Collection Inventory

<table>
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<th>Sketchbooks 1970-1999</th>
<th>Box 1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exhibits 2000-2012</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
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</tbody>
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