

Minneapolis College of Art and Design General Collection Finding Aid

Summary Information

Title: Minneapolis College of Art and Design General Collection

Dates: 1886-2013

Creator: Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD)

Extent: 12 4-drawer legal file cabinets, 8 oversized boxes, and 2 bookshelves
[approximately 90 linear feet]

Language: English

Identifier: MCAD.0001

Abstract: This collection contains material created by or related to the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. As of December 2013, the bulk of the material in the Archives is included in this collection with the exception of some material in special formats.

Repository: Minneapolis College of Art and Design Archives, Library, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Minneapolis, Minnesota. [MCAD Library](#)

Access and Use

Acquisition Information:

The contents of the MCAD General Collection begin in 1886 with the birth of the school and end in 2013 with the creation of the MCAD Archives. In 1988, when MCAD separated from the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts (MSFA) and became an independent organization, some records were transferred from the Minneapolis Institute of Art to the MCAD Library. In addition, some materials were contributed by individual MCAD faculty, staff, and alumni or associated organizations such as Out of Hand Press. All new accessions of material created during the academic year 2013/2014 or later will be part of the new MCAD Archives. There is some overlap between the two collections as they both cover part of 2013. Future donations of older materials will be added to existing collections covering the appropriate time period or be treated as individual small collections.

Access Restrictions: Material in the MCAD Archives does not circulate and may be used on site only. Appointments are strongly recommended.

Copyright: Researchers may quote from the collection under the fair use provision of the copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Requests to publish materials from the MCAD Archives should be arranged with the MCAD Library staff.

Preferred Citation: Minneapolis College of Art and Design General Collection, Minneapolis College of Art and Design Archives.

Historical Note

The Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) is a cultural institution located in the city's historic Whittier neighborhood. Originally known as the Minneapolis School of Fine Arts and located in downtown Minneapolis, the college is the first institution founded by the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts (MSFA) in 1886. By 1910 the school had changed its name to the Minneapolis School of Art, because, in

addition to fine arts courses, they had added applied arts to the curriculum. In 1911 local banker Clinton Morrison donated 10 acres of land to the city for the site of an art museum that would also house the school. Villa Rosa, the home of Morrison's parents (Dorilus Morrison, the first mayor of Minneapolis, and Harriet Putnam Whitmore Morrison) was demolished to make way for the new museum, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. When construction was completed in 1915 the school moved from its space in the Minneapolis Public Library and set up classrooms and studios within the museum. In 1916, Ethel Morrison Van Derlip and her brother, Dr. Angus Washburn Morrison, funded an adjacent structure, the Julia Morrison Memorial Building, to permanently house the school. By 1950 the school met the standards required for the granting of Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees and they graduated their first B.F.A. candidates. In 1970, the school's name was changed to the Minneapolis College of Art and Design to reflect its academic standing as an arts college with an integrated liberal arts program and focus on commercial art and design. Although the school had already accommodated expanding enrollments by adding on additional classroom and studio spaces in 1924, 1958 and 1968, they still needed more room. In 1973, with an enrollment of 580, MCAD expanded into a not-yet completed building designed by Pritzker prize-winning modernist architect Kenzo Tange. This structure, the "Main Building," is Tange's only major U.S. project, and is connected to the Morrison building by an innovative 50-yard skyway. In 1988 MCAD separated from the MSFA and became an independent organization. At the time of separation, archival materials related to the college were transferred to the MCAD library. The MCAD Archives is housed in the college library.

Funding Note

Collection and Series Level Scope and Content Notes

The MCAD General Collection spans from roughly 1886 to 2013. Most of the material was collected or created by staff and faculty in the course of their work for the College. Items include (but are not limited to) newspaper clippings, publicity and press releases, magazine and journal articles, student publications, course catalogs and course schedules, exhibition catalogs, résumés and curriculum vitae, correspondence, scrapbooks, handbooks, intra- and interdepartmental documents, long-range plans, material pertaining to commencement, flyers for events, material pertaining to fellowships and awards, slides, audiovisual recordings, images, books, original artwork, and ephemera. The collection includes both primary and secondary sources. The General Collection is housed in legal filing cabinets, bookshelves, and oversize boxes. Material pertaining to the same subject or person can be found in multiple locations. The collection is divided into the following series:

Academics: Includes material pertaining to academic programs and departments, fellowships and awards, diplomas, lectures, conferences, Grand Marais Art Colony, and MCAD Library.

Administration and Events: Includes material pertaining to faculty and staff, presidents, trustees, committees, assemblies, facilities and finances as well as

promotional material for events, calendars, reports, intra- and interdepartmental correspondence and memos, and long-range plans.

Admissions and Commencement: Includes material related to commencement, student recruitment, and career development activities, events, and publicity.

Alumni and Faculty Subject Files: Includes newspaper clippings, correspondence, exhibition catalogs, magazine and journal articles, résumés, curriculum vitae, books, slides, and sound recordings. See separate series finding aid.

Associations and History: Includes primary and secondary material documenting MCAD's history as well as material by and about organizations connected to MCAD such as the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts, and the Children's Theater Company. In addition, there are some public relations materials

Books: Published books about MCAD or containing essays contributed by MCAD faculty. Researchers looking for books by a specific individual are encouraged to check the Alumni and Faculty Subject Files series.

Course Catalogs: Includes all known course catalogs published between 1886 and 2012, course schedules, and additional materials on extension, summer, and continuing studies courses.

Newspaper Clippings: Includes articles about MCAD and its affiliates published between 1886 and 2011.

Publications: Magazines and newsletters published by MCAD, students, and associated entities.

Scrapbooks: MCAD alumni and staff assembled these. Materials utilized include photographs, letters, and newspaper clippings.

Exhibitions and Events: Covers exhibitions that took place at the MCAD Gallery and other MCAD sponsored or related exhibits. Materials include exhibition catalogs and promotional material.

Students and Alumni: Includes alumni newsletters, directories, surveys, Alumni Show material, and original artwork by alumni as well as student handbooks, and other student life related materials. For information on individual alumni, see also the Alumni and Faculty Subject Files series.

Visiting Artists: Material relating to visiting artists and speakers, including newspaper clippings, correspondence, exhibition catalogs, résumés, curriculum vitae, transcriptions of speeches, and visiting artist lists. See separate series finding aid.

Related Material

For related material, users can search other collections in the MCAD Archives such as the Photograph Collection, the Oversize Materials on Paper Collection, and the Out of Hand Press Archive. It could also be worthwhile to consult MCAD Library's circulating collection for books on the topic. Researchers that are engaging in an in-depth project are also encouraged to visit other Twin Cities archives. Some relevant archives are:

Minneapolis Institute of Arts' Art Research & Reference Library
University of Minnesota's Children's Literature Research Collection
Minnesota Historical Society

The Minneapolis Collection, Special Collections department, Hennepin County
Library
Hennepin History Museum Library and Collections

Subject Terms

Researchers desiring material about related topics, people, or places should search the Minneapolis College of Art and Design Library's catalog using these headings. These subject terms do not reflect all of the topics in the General Collection, only the ones for which there are headings in the Library of Congress Authorities.

Organizations:

Minneapolis College of Art and Design -- Alumni, faculty, students.
Minneapolis College of Art and Design -- Alumni, faculty, students. -- Directories.
Minneapolis College of Art and Design -- Alumni, faculty, students -- Exhibitions.
Women's Art Registry of Minnesota -- Exhibitions.

Subjects:

Art -- Study and teaching -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
Art -- Study and teaching (Graduate) -- United States.
Art -- Study and teaching (Higher) -- United States.
Art, American -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis -- Exhibitions.
Art school directors.
Art schools -- Administration -- United States.
Art schools -- Curricula.
Artists -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
Artists -- Vocational guidance.
Artists and community.
Arts -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
Cartooning -- Study and teaching.
Design -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis -- Exhibitions.
Design -- Study and teaching -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
Fashion design -- Study and teaching -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
Graphic arts -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis -- Exhibitions.
Graphic arts -- Study and teaching -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
Independent filmmakers -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
Installations (Art) -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis -- Exhibitions.
Painters -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis -- Exhibitions.
Photography -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis -- Exhibitions.
Sculpture -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis -- Exhibitions.

General Collection Folder Level Detailed Contents

For folder-level detailed contents of the Alumni and Faculty Subject Files or the Visiting Artist Series, consult their respective series-level finding aids. Currently, there is no folder level list for the other series in the General Collection, but users can search by title, subject heading, person, or keyword in MCAD's ArchivesSpace database at <http://qumran.mcad.edu:8081/>.