

**McLean County Museum of History**

**McLean County Arts Center (MCAC) Collection**

Processed by Aingeal Stone  
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**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1888-1892, 1981-2013
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also Photos – Subjects -Central Illinois Art Exposition 1939

**Historical Sketch**

In 1870, Mrs. Horace Smith established a studio and gathered a class of students in oil painting. In 1888, one of her students and three other members of the Bloomington Sketch Club were appointed to organize the Bloomington Art Association. Minutes of this organization were recorded through March, 1892. Following this period, a division of the Women's Club maintained community interest in art.

A group of enthusiasts rejuvenated the Bloomington Art Association in 1922. The Charter was issued on April 6, 1922. Their purpose was: "To cultivate an appreciation of art in all of its branches, and to encourage civic improvements." The Russell Gallery in Withers Library housed the Art Association exhibits from 1922 until 1976.

After the roof collapsed in Withers Library, the McLean County Arts Center began operating at 210 E. Washington Street in Bloomington. In addition to the exhibition schedule, art classes for

adults and children and the Sales and Rental Gallery were added to the Arts Center programming.

Facing the demolition of the rental building, the Art Association Board of Directors began looking for a permanent home. In the summer of 1979, the Arts Center moved to its present location. Purchase and renovation of the building at 601 N. East Street was made possible by pledges from the community. Having taken over the agency functions of the McLean County Arts Council, the Arts Center was now facilitating space, scheduling, and programming for all of the county's arts organizations.

The Town of Normal granted official agency designation in 1991 and by the City of Bloomington, as well as McLean County in 1992.

Currently the Arts Center presents approximately twelve exhibitions yearly, including the annual Holiday Treasures exhibition as well as the annual Amateur Competition and Exhibition, which has for over 70 years, showcased the best amateur artists from the region. The Center also offers art classes, artist lectures, art workshops for young and old, as well as associated performing and literary arts presentations. The community is also offered opportunities to purchase or rent artwork through the Center's Sales and Rental Gift Gallery.

-- from <http://www.mcac.wildapricot.org/history>

## **Scope Note**

This collection includes exhibition catalogs and promotional materials, a coloring and activity booklet for children, event brochures, letters sent to members, a CD-ROM containing images (JPEG, PDF, and PPT) of the 125th anniversary exhibition, and copies made from the Bloomington Arts Council record book.

## **Box Inventory**

### **Folder 1: 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition 2013**

- 1.1.1 1 CD ROM in jewel case containing 75 JPEG images (300 dpi) of the exhibition, a PDF of the "Celebrating 125 Years" brochure, a PDF of the press release, a PDF of the

promotional postcard, a PowerPoint presentation (89 slides) of the 1939 Central Illinois Art Exhibition in black and white.

1.1.2 “Celebrating 125 Years” brochure August 23-September 14, 2013, 1 bi-fold

1.1.3 Promotional postcard, 6” x 11”, colour

### **Folder 2: History**

1.2.1 Includes Constitution and By-Laws and minute meetings 1888-1892, including membership lists, 22 photocopied pages.

1.2.2 “Statement of Purpose,” June 12, 1972, 6 pgs.

### **Folder 3: Coloring/Activity Book**

1.3.1 “Fall for Art: an adventure in art activities from The Arts Center” created by Holly Foy and The Arts Center, copyright 1984. 24 pages, 8 ½” x 11”.

### **Folder 4: Correspondence**

1.4.1 December 1, 1999 - Letter addressed to Preston Hawks from Morgan Hartman, Membership Coordinator, 1 p.

1.4.2 September 29, 2000 – Letter addressed to members from Cathy Hall Nottoli, President, and Cathy Sutliff, Executive Director, 1 p.

1.4.3 September 12, 2001 – Letter addressed to members from Cathy Hall Nottoli, President, 1 p.

1.4.4 February 2002 – Letter addressed to Preston Hawks from Gayla Betts, Executive Director, 1 p.

### **Folder 5: Events**

1.5.1 “Staf Partie” flier, May 2, no year specified.

1.5.2 “A Special Sesquicentennial Celebration” brochure, January 12-18, 1981, 1 p. bifold.

1.5.3 “Create a Summer of Fun for Your Family” brochure, Summer 1981, 1 p. trifold.

1.5.4 MCAC Gala Opening exclusive preview, Thursday November 11, 1999, 2 tickets, numbered ‘185’ and ‘186’.

1.5.5 “Cultural Districts: Using the Arts to Revitalize Downtowns”, Hilary Anne Frost-Kumpf, guest lecturer, Monday, April 10, 2000. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.

1.5.6 “Reading by R.M. Berry” author reading excerpts from *Dictionary of Modern Anguish*, Thursday, June 29 [2000]. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.

1.5.7 “Dedication: Nancy S. Merwin Building”, October 15, 2000, bifold.

1.5.8 “Margarita Nite 2001”, Friday, July 20, 2001. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.

1.5.9 “What’s Happening @MCAC”, September 2001—October 2001, 1 p.

- 1.5.10 “Van Gogh & Gauguin” MCAC bus trip to the Art Institute of Chicago, Monday, October 15, 2001, trifold, addressed to Preston Hawks.

### **Folder 6: Exhibition Catalogs**

- 1.6.1 “Students of Bloomington High School 1946–1970, May 9 – June 5, 1982”, 16 p., b/w.  
1.6.2 “But is It Art? An Exhibition of Graphic Design, September 14 – October 17, 1986”, 5 p., b/w.  
1.6.3 “A View from Here: Heartland Landscape Painters, August 21 – October 16, [1992]”, 19 p., color.  
1.6.4 “Tale of the Blue Dog: George Rodrigue, April 2 – April 23 [1993]”, 24 p., color.

### **Folder 7: Exhibit Promotional Materials**

- 1.7.1 “Mourning, October 19 – December 9, 1995; In Pursuit of Jack: Family Pumpkin Carving, October 22, 1995”. Promotional postcard.  
1.7.2 “Landscape + States of Nature: Michael Chandler, January 7 – February 19, 2000”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.  
1.7.3 “Landscape + States of Nature”. Promotional poster, 8 ½” x 11”, color.  
1.7.4 “Mary Jones Perkins: Painting & Sculpture, February 4 – March 18, 2000”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.  
1.7.5 “Interior Spaces Still Lives: Illinois Women Artists Invitational, May 5 – August 5, 2000”. Promotional material, trifold; includes envelope and ticket order form.  
1.7.6 “phos.pho.res.cent: Jonathan Stein, May 12 – June 24, 2000”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.  
1.7.7 “Downtown Artists Group Show, June 3 – July 8, 2000”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.  
1.7.8 “Water Resisting: Dawn Gavin, June 30 – August 5, 2000”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.  
1.7.9 “Circus: Danell Dvorak, Elizabeth Stein, July 15 – September 10, 2000”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.  
1.7.10 “Songs at the Meridian: Edward McCullough, August 18 – October 15, 2000”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.  
1.7.11 “Drawing to Print: Constance Estep Wells, Karin Broker, Sean Caulfield, Walter Jule, August 25 – October 21, 2000”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.  
1.7.12 “Picturing Death Project: Deborah Boardman, March 2 – March 31, 2001”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.  
1.7.13 “don’t I know you? An Environment of Recent Sculptures by Michael James Amis, June 8 – July 21, 2001”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.  
1.7.14 “The Sacred Romance: Angel Ambrose, July 14 – August 24, 2001”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.

- 1.7.15 “Parts is Parts: Print/Collage Monotypes by Ray E. George, August 3 – September 29, 2001”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.
- 1.7.16 “Celebrating the Creative Impulse: Paintings by 13 yr. old Peter Eide, August 10 – August 25, 2001”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.
- 1.7.17 “Yonder: A Collaborative Project by Jennifer A. Lapham & Paul Sacaridiz, September 14 – October 20, 2001”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.
- 1.7.18 “Forgery, October 16 – December 1, 2001”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.
- 1.7.19 “Fishing for Holiday Treasure: Holiday Treasures 2001 Exhibition & Sale, November 8-9, 2001”. Promotional material, trifold, addressed to Preston Hawks.
- 1.7.20 “Michael Dubina: New Works, February 8 – March 30, 2002”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.
- 1.7.21 “Kay Seefield: New Works, April 5 – June 1, 2002”. Promotional postcard addressed to Preston Hawks.
- 1.7.22 “Stephen Cartwright: Moraine, September 20 – October 26, 2013”. Promotional postcard addressed to Patricia Hamilton.
- 1.7.23 “Shades of Summer: Discover ParkLands, September 20 – October 26, 2013”. Promotional postcard addressed to Patricia Hamilton.
- 1.7.24 Fall 2015 Exhibitions, Events, Classes, Promotional postcard.
- 1.7.25 Spring Bloom Arts Festival promotional postcard, March 12, 2016.

#### **Folder 8: MCAC Brochures**

- 1.8.1 “An Investment in the Cultural Future of McLean County”, [1979], trifold.
- 1.8.2 “McLean County Art Association & Arts Center: 61<sup>st</sup> Season”, [1982], 12 p.
- 1.8.3 Membership form and envelope, (dated after 1982?).

#### **Folder 9: Newspaper Articles (*Pantagraph*, unless indicated)**

- 1.9.1 “Art Association Growing,” September 25, 1949, p. 2.