

Guide to the Theodore Van Soelen Scrapbook Collection

New Mexico Museum of Art Library and Archives

Processed by Rebecca Potance, May 2015

Extent: 1.83 linear feet (3 boxes)

Dates: 1914-2014

Language: English

Biography

Theodore Van Soelen was a painter and lithographer born in St. Paul, MN on February 15, 1890. He is primarily known for his ranch-life genre paintings, landscapes and formal portraits, and produced several popular lithographs on cowboy themes. His formal academic training was at the St. Paul Institute of Arts and Sciences and Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. For years he split his time between his studios in New Mexico and Cornwall, Connecticut. Van Soelen first came to New Mexico in 1916 for treatment of tuberculosis and spent time in Albuquerque before settling in Santa Fe in 1922 and finally Tesuque in 1926. During the Great Depression, he was commissioned to paint murals for the Grant County Courthouse in Silver City as well as the Post Office buildings of Portales, NM, Waurika, OK and Livingston, TX. He was elected an associate member of the National Academy of Design in 1933 and academician in 1940. In 1947, he became a member of the New Mexico State Police board after the death of his daughter Virginia in an automobile accident. This museum held a major retrospective of his works in May 1960, at which point he was also awarded an honorary fellowship in Fine Arts by the School of American Research (now School for Advanced Research). He died in Santa Fe on May 15, 1964.

Scope and Content

Three scrapbooks contain correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings and ephemera documenting the career of artist Theodore Van Soelen.

Access and Use

No restrictions

Acquisition information

Gift of D. D. (Don) Van Soelen, 2014.

Related Material

Theodore Van Soelen exhibited at the New Mexico Museum of Art many times and information on these exhibitions can be found in the museum's exhibition history files, *El Palacio*, catalogs as well as the artist biographical files.

Contents

Box 1 Dismantled black scrapbook 16 x 11.5 x 2.5 inches, 1914 - 2014 (bulk 1914-1945)

Primarily photographs of Theodore Van Soelen's artworks with some correspondence concerning the art pictured in the scrapbook.

Condition Note: Scrapbook was bound when received at museum and unbound by Librarian, Rebecca Potance, for ease of use. Several photographs, catalogs, newspaper articles and letters were loose upon acquisition.

Box 2 Black scrapbook 16 x 11.5 x 2.5 inches, 1917-1953

Primarily news clippings and ephemera concerning the artist's honors and exhibitions. Loose materials include Christmas cards, exhibition catalogs and correspondence with Theodore Van Soelen.

Box 3 Light brown scrapbook 16 x 11.5 x 2 inches, 1941-1951

Photographs of Theodore Van Soelen's artworks. Mostly blank pages. Loose materials include reproductions of Van Soelen's work.