

Dudley Huppler book, The Lesson

MS.014

Finding Aid prepared by Hoang Tran



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY
OF THE FINE ARTS

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Updated by Hoang Tran, January 2015

Summary Information

Repository	The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Archives, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives
Creator	Dudley Huppler (1917–1988)
Title	Dudley Huppler book, The Lesson
Date [bulk]	
Date [inclusive]	1946
Extent	1 book
Location note	
Language	
Language of Materials note	English
Abstract	One book, The Lesson Book, published 1946.

Preferred Citation note

[identification of item], Title of Collection, Collection ID#, The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Dorothy and Kenneth Woodcock Archives, Philadelphia, PA.

Historical note

“Dudley Huppler studied English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, but received no formal art training. His interest in drawing began in the 1940’s in Madison as he became part of a circle of artists, composers, and writers such as Sylvia Fein, Marshall Glasier, Lee Hoiby, James Watrous, and John Wilde. This circle had connections with artists in Milwaukee and Chicago including Gertrude Abercrombie, Karl Priebe, Charles Sebree, Felix Ruvulo and Julia Thecla.

What brought these artists together was an interest in European Surrealism. Feeling constrained by the tradition of Realism in the Midwest, Huppler and his colleagues sought to explore new, innovative techniques and subject matter. They wanted to break away from those who believed in creating art aimed at isolating the Midwest, so they turned to Surrealism, an art movement that began in Paris in the 1920’s. Artists such as Salvador Dali and Man Ray began creating work inspired by Sigmund Freud’s theories of psychoanalysis. Their work explored the unconscious as a source of creativity.

Huppler’s style and subject matter is diverse, with elements of humor and mystery. He loved the experience of drawing, working mostly in pen and ink. His early work from 1943 includes hard-edged lines with biomorphic structures, but most of his work after 1945 is composed of tiny dots. In the late 1940’s through the 1950’s he focused on still life and animals. After traveling to Italy in the 1950’s he became interested in fantasy in nature. From the 1960’s onwards Huppler became obsessed with the human figure. The abstract quality of Huppler’s work relates to the style of Jean Arp and Yves Tanguy.

In 1954, Huppler met Andy Warhol through photographer Otto Fenn. Warhol and Huppler corresponded and exchanged drawings for many years. In the mid-1950’s Huppler lived in New York City where he designed windows for Bonwit Teller and sold drawings to companies such as Parker Pen Co.

In addition to his career as an artist, Huppler wrote two books of surreal prose. He spent many years traveling and teaching in New York, Italy, and Colorado. In 1966 he returned to Wisconsin where he took a position in the English Department of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Huppler died in 1988 and while many of his friends have been regionally and nationally recognized, Huppler has remained relatively unknown in the art world.”

Reference: <http://www.wisconsinart.org/archives/artist/dudley-huppler/profile-73.aspx>

Scope and Contents note

One book, The Lesson Book, published 1946.

Arrangement note

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access note

Collection is open for research.

The archives reserves the right to restrict access to materials of sensitive nature. Please contact the department for further information.

Conditions Governing Use note

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Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Provenance note

The collection was the gift of Dudley Huppler estate, 2016.

Processing Information note

Processed by Hoang Tran.

Controlled Access Headings

Person(s)

Corporate Name(s)

Genre(s)

Geographic Name(s)

Subject(s)

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Collection Inventory

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
The Lesson Book	1946	1	1