Charles Rudy papers  
circa 1930s-1995, 13 linear feet  

Finding aid prepared by Sarah Leu and Anastasia Matijkiw through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories using information provided by the James A. Michener Art Museum Archives

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit  
September 19, 2016

James A. Michener Art Museum Archives  
138 South Pine Street  
Doylestown, PA, 18901  
215-340-9800
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### Summary Information

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<tr>
<th><strong>Repository</strong></th>
<th>James A. Michener Art Museum Archives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator</strong></td>
<td>Rudy, Charles, 1904-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
<td>Charles Rudy papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>circa 1930s-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent</strong></td>
<td>13.0 Linear feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abstract</strong></td>
<td>Charles Rudy (1904-1986) achieved national status as a sculptor for his work on public buildings across the United States, as well as for his prize-winning sculptures. His work has been exhibited at such prestigious institutions as the Corcoran Gallery, the Carnegie Institute, and the National Sculpture Society, as well as at local Bucks County, Pennsylvania galleries. Charles Rudy papers, circa 1930s-1995, includes an extensive compilation of newspaper and magazine clippings, sketchbooks, exhibition catalogues, and correspondence documenting Charles Rudy's career as an artist. There are also photographs and a small amount of personal papers.</td>
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Biographical/Historical Note

Charles Rudy (1904-1986) achieved national status as a sculptor for his work on public buildings across the United States, as well as for his prize-winning sculptures. His most famous commissions included Noah on the Bronx post office in New York, the Sun Seaman's Memorial in Delaware, and the Confederate War Memorial on Stone Mountain in Georgia. Some Pennsylvania commissions are the frieze on the Lehigh County court house, two bas-relief profiles of Benjamin Franklin on the Benjamin Franklin Bridge in Philadelphia, and the flagpole base outside the University of Pennsylvania. His work has been exhibited at such prestigious institutions as the Corcoran Gallery, the Carnegie Institute, and the National Sculpture Society, as well as at local Bucks County galleries. One of his most popular sculptures, The Letter, won a gold medal award from the National Sculpture Society. Rudy's artistic development started in the stained glass studio of his father, artist J. Horace Rudy, and continued during his education at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. A 1942 Guggenheim fellow, Rudy taught as the head of Cooper Union's sculpture department for ten years. He also held teaching positions at the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Art, Michigan State College, and Philadelphia Museum School of Art.

Bibliography:


Scope and Content Note

The collection includes an extensive compilation of newspaper and magazine clippings, exhibition catalogues and correspondence documenting Charles Rudy's career as an artist. Sketchbooks, drawings, notes on techniques and patinas, and blueprints for commissioned works are included, as well as materials such as photographs, clippings, and postcards of subject matter and works of art that may have been used as inspiration for the artist's work. Personal items include correspondence, handmade cards made by the artist for his wife, photographs of the artist, his wife and friends (including George Sotter), Doctor of Humane Letters certificate from York College dated 1981, insurance papers, invoices, and banking and tax documents. The collection also holds drawings of stained glass windows created by J. Horace Rudy, the artist's father. There is also correspondence between the artist, his wife, and the James A. Michener Art Museum.

The collection is arranged into eight groupings:
- Correspondence and official papers
- Newspaper and magazine clippings
- Sketches
- Negatives
• Postcards
• Watercolor paints
• Camera
• Measuring devices

A more detailed finding aid, biographical note, or inventory for this collection may be available on-site or on the Michener Archives finding aid page: http://www.michenerartmuseum.org/collections-research/archives/finding-aids/.

Administrative Information

Publication Information
James A. Michener Art Museum Archives

Conditions Governing Access Note
Contact James A. Michener Art Museum Archives for information about accessing this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note
The collection was a bequest to the James A. Michener Art Museum Archives by Lorraine Rudy, the artist's wife on May 15, 1997.

Processing Information Note
Summary descriptive information on this collection was compiled in 2014-2016 as part of a project conducted by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to make better known and more accessible the largely hidden collections of small, primarily volunteer run repositories in the Philadelphia area. The Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR) was funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This is a preliminary finding aid. No physical processing, rehousing, reorganizing, or folder listing was accomplished during the HCI-PSAR project.

In some cases, more detailed inventories or finding aids may be available on-site at the repository where this collection is held; please contact James A. Michener Art Museum Archives directly for more information.
Related Materials

Related Archival Materials Note
Syracuse University Libraries: Charles Rudy papers, 1947-1964

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Bucks County (Pa.)
- Doylestown (Pa.)
- New York

Personal Name(s)

- Rudy, Charles, 1904-

Subject(s)

- Sculptors