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05.04 Art Institute of Boston, Alumni 1993-2008

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Art Institute of Boston, Alumni

1993-2008

By Marie Wasnock

Collection Overview

Title: Art Institute of Boston, Alumni, 1993-2008

ID: 05/04

Creator: Art Institute of Boston (1912 -)

Extent: 2 Boxes

Arrangement: Arranged by series and in chronological order.

Languages: English

Scope and Contents of the Materials

This collection comprises materials about alumni of the School of Practical Art (SPA) and the Art Institute of Boston (AIB). These materials include alumni directories, news articles, and papers from alumni.

Historical Note

The Art Institute of Boston was founded by Roy Davidson in 1912 as the School of Practical Art and was one of the first private, nonaffiliated studio schools in the United States. A pioneer in the field of commercial art education, Davidson sought an alternative to the traditional art training of his day, which was the apprenticeship system with long years of menial, repetitive labor. To keep pace with the growing needs of industry, the School of Practical Art developed a program that would allow young people to complete their art training in a reasonable length of time and enter fields equipped for successful contribution on a professional level. Davidson was influenced by art critic John Ruskin, in particular his notion that it is “in art that the heart, the head, and the hand of a man come together.” AIB's early philosophy was based on Davidson's

own belief that "beauty comes from the use." The school opened in Davidson's own studio, three small rooms in Boston's Back Bay. As the institution prospered and attracted the attention of the art community, the curriculum expanded to include a wide range of artistic exploration and discipline. The school soon outgrew its first location and moved to progressively larger facilities. (See below for a full listing of addresses and directors.)

Through the mid-twentieth century the school increasingly embraced the fine arts and developed a growing liberal arts curriculum. In 1967 the school was renamed the Art Institute of Boston (AIB), establishing itself as a non-profit institution of higher education and preparing for future expansion and development. The name change also acknowledged the school's increased focus upon fine art as well as design, illustration, and photography. In 1970 AIB moved to Kenmore Square into a building with 40,000 square feet of studio and workshop space, including a library, gallery, lecture rooms, and administrative offices. In 1972 AIB joined with Northeastern University to create an exchange program, giving AIB students the option of earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Art, Photography, or Fine Art.

In 1998, AIB merged with then Lesley College, located in Cambridge, Massachusetts and founded in 1909. In Autumn 2013, the University officially changed the name of the Art Institute of Boston to the Lesley University College of Art and Design (LUCAD).

LUCAD is governed by the Lesley University Board of Trustees and the larger University administration. The school and University are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Directors:

Roy Davidson served as Director from 1912 to 1940. When Davidson died, he was succeeded by Harold Pollock who served as director from 1941 to 1945, until he became president, a post he held from 1945 to 1962. During this time Alan Furber served as for one year from 1944 to 1945 as president. Pollock was followed by William Willis, who was President from 1962 to 1990. Stan Trecker became president in 1991 and served until 1998. After serving as president of Montserrat College in Beverly, Mass., Trecker returned to Lesley as the art school's dean.

Locations:

711 Boylston Street (1918-1924)
797 Boylston Street (1925-1926)
857 Boylston Street (1927-1931)
883 Boylston Street (1932-1940)
10 Newbury Street (1941-1951)
665 Atlantic Avenue (1952-1960)
683 Atlantic Avenue (1953-1955)
718 Beacon Street (1960-1969)
700 Beacon Street (1970-2014)
Massachusetts Avenue, Porter Square (2014-present)

Administrative Information

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Processing Information: Processed by Marie Wasnock, January 2012.

Finding Aid Revision History: To be revised as materials are accessioned into collection.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1: AIB Alumni and Alumni Relations, 1993 to 2008

- Folder 1: AIB - Alumni Directories, 1993
- Folder 2: Design Grad/Alumni Reception, 1997
- Folder 3: Career Profiles of Graduates, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2008
- Folder 4: AIB Alumni Profiles / Press, 1995-1996, 2007
- Folder 5: Alumni Council / Friends of AIB, 1980s

Box 2: AIB, Alumni manuscripts

- Folder 1: Letter to Maud Morgan, from artist John von Wicht at Yaddo, July 1956 includes original drawing by von Wicht.
- Folder 2: MacLeod, Charlotte - "Fat Lady's Ghost" (Mss.), c. 1968?