

2009

Robert Freimark Collection

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Guide to the Robert Freimark Collection

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Guide to the Robert Freimark Collection

Collection number: MSS-2008-05-01



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Processed by:

Michael Condon

Date Completed:

2009

Encoded by:

Mary Ellen Petrich

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Robert Freimark Collection

Dates: 1952-2007

Bulk Dates: 1952-1969

Collection number: MSS-2008-05-01

Creator: Freimark, Robert M., 1922-

Collection Size: 1 oversize flat file drawer(4.5 linear feet)

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The Robert Freimark Collection, 1952-2007 [bulk 1950-1960] is a small representation of the creative work of the San Francisco Bay Area artist. Freimark's work in abstract expressionism and figurative art reflects his interest in Mexican culture as well as social and political justice. The collection consists of 19 limited edition prints, lithographs and posters produced by Freimark over a 50-year time period.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open for research.

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Robert Freemark Collection, MSS-2008-05-01, San José State University Library, Special Collections & Archives.

Processing History

Collection processed by Michael Condon. Finding aid EAD encoded by Mary Ellen Petrich. Reviewed by Danelle Moon and Erin Louthen.

Project Information

This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.

Biographical History

Robert Freemark was born January 27, 1922 in Doster, Michigan. After serving in the United States Navy from 1939 to 1946, Freemark enrolled in college and graduated in 1950 from the University of Toledo, Ohio with a bachelor's degree in creative writing, as well as from the Toledo Museum of Art with a major in painting.

In 1951 Freemark received his Master of Fine Arts degree from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield, Michigan, and had his first solo exhibit that year at the Circle Gallery in Detroit. This was the beginning of a lifelong career in printmaking, painting, lithography, tapestry and video art.

While establishing himself as an artist, Freemark began an extensive teaching career in the early 1950s, including teaching at the Toledo Museum of Art; Ohio University (in Athens, Ohio); and at San José State University from 1964 to 1986, where he was awarded a Professor Emeritus designation in 1986. In addition, he has been an artist-in-residence at Mus Regla, Cuba in 2001; Mus Guayasamin, Quito, Ecuador in 2002; and Balatonfured, Hungary in 2002.

Freemark's art career is inseparable from his commitment to all aspects of the Mexican culture, including its art, music and history, and political and social causes. In 1966, he participated in the historic march organized by Cesar Chavez, from Delano, California to Sacramento California, which brought national attention to the plight of immigrant farm workers.

Over the past 50 years, Freemark's work has been featured in numerous exhibitions across the United States and around the world, including the National Gallery of American History in Washington, D.C. and the Galeria Galiano in La Habana, Cuba.

In 2007, a solo retrospective of his work, *Bob Freemark: Art of Dissent*, was exhibited at the Mexican Heritage Plaza in San José, California to celebrate the re-opening of the Plaza. Curated by Peter Selz, the exhibit demonstrated Freemark's dissident voice as expressed in artwork that examined the two U.S. wars in Iraq; Los Desaparecidos of Argentina; and the maltreatment of Dolores Huerta at the hands of the San Francisco Police, among other themes. Freemark's work, *Art Protis Tapestries*, was also featured in two additional exhibitions that year, at the San José Museum of Quilts and Textiles and History San José.

Freemark currently works out of his Grass Valley Studios in Morgan Hill, California.

Bibliography

About Bob Freemark. <http://www.bobfreemark.com/about.htm> (accessed June 8, 2009).

En la Galeria: Bob Freemark: Art of Dissent. <http://www.mhcviva.org/events/detail/2007-02-08-Bob-Freemark-Art-of-Dissent.html> (accessed June 8, 2009).

Scope and Content of Collection

The Robert Freemark Collection, 1952-2007 [bulk 1950-1960] is a small representation of the creative work of the San Francisco Bay Area artist and San José State University art professor. Freemark's work in abstract expressionism and figurative art reflects his interest in Mexican culture as well as social and political justice. The collection consists of 19 limited edition prints, lithographs and posters produced by Freemark over a 50-year time period. Of particular note are three images culled from his *Fifty States* series, completed in the 1960s. As an artist, Freemark has moved steadily towards painting abstractly. He has avoided painting objects or things, while at the same time understanding the landscape and human figure to develop a sense of reality. His work symbolizes ideas, values and states of mind in pure abstract terms.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into one series: Series I: Artwork, 1952-2007.

Subject Headings

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Freemark, Robert

Abstract expressionism -- Specimens

Figurative Art -- Specimens

Art, American -- 20th century

Series I: **Artwork 1952-2007**

Physical Description: 1 oversize flat file drawer

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series consists of 19 limited edition prints, lithographs and posters produced by Freimark over a 50-year time period. The bulk of the material is from the 1950s and 1960s, with five pieces spanning the years 1979-2002. Of particular note are three images culled from his *Fifty States* series, completed in the 1960s. As an artist, Freimark has moved steadily towards painting abstractly. His work symbolizes ideas, values and states of mind in pure abstract terms.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date of creation.

Drawer: R. Freimark
Art Pieces

Paintings & Drawings 1952-2007

Item 1	No Place to Hide, (50/50). Paper size: 16" x 13". 1952-1953
Item 2	Shipyard 1. (54/60). Paper size: 16-1/4" x 25-1/2". 1952
Item 3	Kamikaze. (8/10). Paper size: 21" x 10-3/8". 1954
Item 4	The Stone Throwers. (41/47). Paper size: 12" x 18". 1957
Item 5	Man With A Knife. (6/17). Paper size: 20-1/2" x 16-1/2". 1958
Item 6	Censored. (54/54). Paper size: 20" x 13". 1959
Item 7	California. Serigraph. (25/71). Paper size: 18-3/4" x 24-1/2". 1962
Item 8	Moment of Truth. (1/49). Paper size: 26" x 20". 1962
Item 9	Screaming Figure of Hate. (22/40). Paper size: 29-1/2" x 23". 1962
Item 10	The Dissenter. (16/25). Paper size: 28-5/8" x 23". 1963
Item 11	Indiana. Serigraph. (41/62). Paper size: 24" x 18". 1967
Item 12	Mississippi. Serigraph. (28/65). Paper size: 24" x 18-1/4". 1967
Item 13	Justice. (31/40). Paper size: 20" x 13". 1969
Item 14	Daniel Valdez. (2/4). Paper size: 28" x 19-7/8". 1979
Item 15	Figure. (2/5). Paper size: 39-3/8" x 26". 1979
Item 16	Campeños: Air, Fire, Water. Paper size: 22" x 30". 1981
Item 17	Free Kuwait. Lithograph. (23/50). Paper size: 21" x 30". 1993
Item 18	Person Disintegrating. (32/34). Paper size: 30" x 22-1/2". 2002
Item 19	Children's Hospital El Salvador. Paper size: 36" x 24". n.d.

Miscellaneous Items n.d., 2007

Item 20	Photograph of the artist. n.d.
Item 21	"Art of Dissent" exhibition catalog. 2007
