



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Timothy Casper Papers, 1943-1981, bulk 1950-1969, in the Archives of American Art.

Sabine Lipten

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Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National
Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Timothy Casper papers
Date:	1943-1981 bulk 1950-1969
Identifier:	AAA.casptim
Creator:	Casper, Timothy F., 1943-1964 Casper, Elise Ott
Extent:	3.4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Timothy Casper measure 3.4 linear feet and date from 1943-1981, with bulk dates from 1950-1969. The papers document Casper's career and life which was cut short when he died from a car crash at age twenty-one. Included are biographical material; correspondence between Casper and his mother Elise Casper Ott, and from Elise to others regarding Timothy's artistic legacy; writings; exhibition files; personal business records; printed material; photographic material and artwork.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Bequest of Elise Ott Casper, mother of Tim Casper, in 1998.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sabine Lipten in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Timothy Casper papers, 1943-1981. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

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Biographical / Historical

Timothy Casper (1943-1964) was a printmaker and draftsman from Milwaukee, Wisconsin whose artistic ability was recognized at a young age by artist and professor Gerald Landt, leading to Casper enrolling in special art classes at the Milwaukee Art Institute in 1953. From there Casper continued studying art throughout high school at the Putney School in Vermont, going on to start his bachelor's degree in art history at New York University in 1962. During his short life Casper managed to travel across Europe and the East Coast of the United States, visiting art museums and historical landmarks, including a fateful trip to Paris in 1964 where Casper died as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident. After his death, his mother Elise Ott Casper organized a series of memorial exhibitions across the United States as well as at the Galerie Wolfgang Gurlitt in Munich, Germany.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Timothy Casper measure 3.4 linear feet and date from 1943-1981, with bulk dates from 1950-1969. The papers document Casper's career and life which was cut short when he died from a car crash at age twenty-one. Included are biographical material; correspondence; writings; exhibition files; personal business records; printed material; photographic material and artwork. Biographical material includes Casper's birth and baptism certificates, his social security card, materials related to Casper's education and resumes and biographic summaries. Correspondence contains letters from Timothy Casper to his mother Elise Ott Casper, and from Elise to others regarding Timothy's artistic legacy. Writing by Timothy Casper include a diary, an eight grade essay on monoprinting, travel notes and a draft of a New York University course schedule. Writings by others include teacher feedback notes, an annotated list of Casper's artwork, writings related to the planning and publishing of a book on Timothy Casper including an introduction outline, lists of artworks to be featured and correspondence. Exhibition files document six memorial exhibitions of Casper's work. Items include guest and address lists, agendas, writings, invoices, artwork insurance policies, correspondence and printed material. Personal business records include Timothy Casper's estate papers and life insurance documentation, alphabetized artwork title cards with corresponding loan and sale information and an invoice for napkins from Casper's printing business "Casper Studios". Printed Material includes exhibition flyers and newspaper clippings, primarily related to Casper's memorial exhibitions; a copy of *Timothy F. Casper 1943-1964* a retrospective book on the life and career of Casper; a program for an elementary school play Casper participated in; brochures for different museums; New York University Graduate School bulletin publications; postcards from different locations in Washington D.C and miscellanea. Photographic material contains portraits of Timothy Casper as a child as well as photographs of his artwork. Also found are three family photo albums of the Caspers, their family and various places they visited, along with a photo album of Casper attending Woodcraft summer camp. Artwork consists of seven sketchbooks, loose and matted sketches, paintings, etching and linocut prints, a woven basket and bracelets. Also found is an extensive amount of Timothy Casper's childhood artwork including drawings, paintings, a molded plaster sculpture and a ceramic monogram.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as eight series

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1943-1966 (0.3 Linear feet Box 1, OV 5)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1943-1981 (1 Linear foot Box 1-2)
- Series 3: Writings, 1953-1969 (0.2 Linear feet Box 2)
- Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1965-1967 (0.2 Linear feet Box 2)
- Series 5: Personal Business, 1956-1967 (0.4 Linear feet Box 2-3)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1956-1960 (0.1 Linear feet Box 3)

- Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1943-1965 (0.4 Linear feet Box 3)
- Series 8: Artwork, circa 1945-1964 (0.9 Linear feet Box 3- 4, OV 6)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Occupations:

Draftsmen (artists) -- Wisconsin -- Milwaukee
Printmakers -- Wisconsin -- Milwaukee

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, 1943-1966

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 5)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes Casper's birth and baptism certificates, his social security card and resumes and biographic summaries. Also included are materials related to his education such as school report cards, school merit certificates and graduation records; along with a baby book and summer camp achievement patches.

Box 1, Folder 1	Birth and Baptism Certificates, 1943
Box 1, Folder 2	Social Security Card, circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 3	Compiled Biographical Summary and Resumes, circa 1958-1966
Box 1, Folder 4	Elementary School Certificates and Awards, 1955-1958
Oversize 5, Folder 1	The Putney School Graduation Diploma, 1962
Box 1, Folder 5	Report Cards, 1953, 1962-1964
Box 1, Folder 6	Baby Scrapbook, 1943-1953
Box 1, Folder 7	American Red Cross and Summer Camp Achievement Patches and Certificates, circa 1953-1956

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1943-1981

1 Linear foot (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence contains letters from Timothy Casper to Elise Ott Casper from when he was attending the Putney boarding school in Vermont, traveling abroad and during his time at New York University. Other correspondence from Timothy Casper include post cards to Paul Reisen and holiday cards from Casper. Also found in this series are correspondence to Elise Ott Casper related to her son's career and/or life. Notable correspondence includes dancer and family friend Gerard Willem Van Loon and the Smithsonian's National Collection of Art. Also found are holiday and birthday cards to Thomas Casper from friends and family.

Correspondence from Timothy Casper is arranged chronologically and other correspondence to Elise Ott Casper is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 8	Letters to Elise Ott Casper from Timothy Casper, The Putney School, 1958
Box 1, Folder 9-10	Letters to Elise Ott Casper from Timothy Casper, The Putney School, 1959
Box 1, Folder 11	Letters to Elise Ott Casper from Timothy Casper, The Putney School, 1960
Box 1, Folder 12	Letters to Elise Ott Casper from Timothy Casper, The Putney School, 1961
Box 1, Folder 13	Letters to Elise Ott Casper from Timothy Casper, The Putney School, 1962
Box 1, Folder 14-15	Travel Letters to Elise Ott Casper from Timothy Casper, 1960-1962
Box 1, Folder 16-18	Letters to Elise Ott Casper from Timothy Casper, New York University, 1962-1964
Box 1, Folder 19	Postcards from Timothy Casper to Paul Riesen, 1959-1962
Box 1, Folder 20	F, circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 21	J, 1958, 1966
Box 1, Folder 22	L, 1955, 1963
Box 1, Folder 23	Ragnar Ness, 1966
Box 1, Folder 24	Walter Ott, 1943
Box 1, Folder 25	Smithsonian National Collection of Fine Art, 1965-1966
Box 1, Folder 26-29	Gerald Willem Van Loon, 1950-1981
Box 2, Folder 1-6	Gerald Willem Van Loon, 1950-1981
Box 2, Folder 7	Miscellaneous Correspondence, Last Name Unsigned, 1954-1967

Box 2, Folder 8 Holiday Cards from Timothy Casper, circa 1956-1963

Box 2, Folder 9 Holiday and Birthday Cards to Timothy Casper, circa 1944-1953

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Series 3: Writings, 1953-1969

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Writings contain writings by Timothy Casper, Elise Ott Casper and others. Writing by Timothy Casper include a diary, an eight grade essay on monoprinting, travel notes and a draft of his New York University course schedule. Writings by others include teacher feedback notes, an annotated list of Casper's artwork, writings related to the planning and publishing of a book on Timothy Casper including a introduction outline, lists of artworks to be featured and correspondence.

Box 2, Folder 10	Timothy Casper Diary, 1953
Box 2, Folder 11	Eight Grade Composition on Monoprints, 1958
Box 2, Folder 12	The Putney School Teacher Feedback Notes, 1958-1961
Box 2, Folder 13	New York University Class Schedule Outline, 1964
Box 2, Folder 14	Travel Notes, circa 1959-1960
Box 2, Folder 15	Annotated List of Artwork, circa 1965
Box 2, Folder 16	Artwork Notes, circa 1966
Box 2, Folder 17	Timothy Casper Book Planning Documents, 1966-1969

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Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1965-1967

0.2 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Exhibition files document six memorial exhibitions of Casper's work. Items include guest and address lists, agendas, writings, invoices, artwork insurance policies, correspondence and printed material.

Timothy Casper Memorial Exhibitions

Box 2, Folder 18	Milwaukee Art Center (Sept. 13-Oct. 3, 1965), 1965
Box 2, Folder 19	University School of Milwaukee (Apr. 4-May 15, 1966), 1966
Box 2, Folder 20	The Putney School, 1966
Box 2, Folder 21	Anthroposophical Society in America, 1966
Box 2, Folder 22-23	Timothy F. Casper (Apr. 13-May 8, 1967), Galerie Wolfgang, 1966-1967
Box 2, Folder 24	Woman's Club of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (Jan. 1966), 1966

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Series 5: Personal Business, 1956-1967

0.4 Linear feet (Box 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Personal business records include Timothy Casper's estate papers and life insurance documentation, alphabetized artwork title cards with corresponding loan and sale information and an invoice for napkins from Casper's printing business "Casper Studios".

Box 2, Folder 25	Estate Settlement and Life Insurance Records, 1958-1966
Artwork Loan and Sale Record Information Cards	
Box 2, Folder 26	A, 1962-1967
Box 2, Folder 27	B, 1958-1967
Box 2, Folder 28	C, 1957-1967
Box 2, Folder 29	D, 1958-1967
Box 2, Folder 30	E, 1958-1967
Box 2, Folder 31	F, 1958-1967
Box 2, Folder 32	G, 1956-1967
Box 2, Folder 33	H, 1956-1967
Box 2, Folder 34	J, 1958-1967
Box 2, Folder 35	L, 1958-1967
Box 2, Folder 36	M, 1957-1967
Box 2, Folder 37	N, 1960-1967
Box 2, Folder 38	O, 1960-1966
Box 2, Folder 39	P, 1959-1967
Box 3, Folder 1	R, 1958-1967
Box 3, Folder 2	S, 1957-1967
Box 3, Folder 3	T, 1957-1967
Box 3, Folder 4	V, 1958-1967
Box 3, Folder 5	W, 1956-1967

Box 3, Folder 6	Z, 1961-1966
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Box 3, Folder 7	Casper Studio Invoice, 1956
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Series 6: Printed Material, 1956-1960

0.1 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Printed Material includes exhibition flyers and newspaper clippings, primarily related to Casper's memorial exhibitions; a copy of *Timothy F. Casper 1943-1964*, a published book on the life and career of Casper; a program for an elementary school play Casper participated in; brochures for different museums; New York University Graduate School bulletin publications; postcards from different locations in Washington D.C and miscellanea.

Box 3, Folder 8	Timothy F. Casper 1943-1964, Retrospective Book Published by Moebius Printing Company, 1968
Box 3, Folder 9	Timothy Casper Exhibition Flyers, 1965-1966
Box 3, Folder 10	Newspaper Clippings, 1959-1965
Box 3, Folder 11	5 With Fear, Elementary School Play Program, 1956
Box 3, Folder 12	New York University Graduate School of Art and Science Bulletins, 1964
Box 3, Folder 13	Museum Brochures, circa 1959-1960
Box 3, Folder 14	Blank Postcards from Trip to Washington D.C., circa 1961
Box 3, Folder 15	Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1957-1960

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Series 7: Photographic Material, circa 1943-1965

0.4 Linear feet (Box 3)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material contains portraits of Timothy Casper as a child as well as photographs of his artwork. Also found are three family photo albums of the Caspers, their family and various places they visited, along with a photo album of Casper attending Woodcraft summer camp.

Box 3, Folder 16-17	Photographs of Artwork, 1955-1965
Box 3, Folder 18	Timothy Casper Portraits, circa 1957
Box 3, Folder 19	Family Photograph Album, circa 1943-1944
Box 3, Folder 20	Family Photograph Album, circa 1944-1950 Notes: Some language in the captions of this album may be offensive to viewers. It is presented as it exists in the original documents for the benefit of research. This material in no way reflects the views of the Archives of American Art or the Smithsonian Institution.
Box 3, Folder 21	Family Photograph Album, circa 1950-1955
Box 3, Folder 22	Woodcraft Summer Camp Photograph Album, 1956

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Series 8: Artwork, circa 1945-1964

0.8 Linear feet (Box 3- 4, OV 6)

Scope and Contents: Artwork consists of seven sketchbooks, loose and matted sketches, paintings, etching and linocut prints, a woven basket and bracelets. Also found is an extensive amount of Timothy Casper's childhood artwork including drawings, paintings, a molded plaster sculpture and a ceramic monogram.

Box 3, Folder 23-26	Sketchbooks, 1963-1964
Box 3, Folder 27	Sketches, circa 1958-1964
Box 3, Folder 28-29	Matted Sketches, 1961-1964
Box 3, Folder 30	Etching and Linocut Prints, circa 1953-1962
Box 3, Folder 31-32	Matted Etchings and Linocut Prints, 1956-1957
Box 3, Folder 33	Paintings, 1961-1962
Box 4, Folder 1	Childhood Drawings and Paintings, circa 1948-1956
Oversize 6	Childhood Drawings and Paintings, circa 1948-1956
Box 4, Folder 2-3	Childhood Sculptural Art, circa 1953-1957
Box 4, Folder 4	Hillsboro Woven Straw Dish and Bracelets, circa 1945-1964

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