



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Whitney Halstead Papers,  
1920-1982, in the Archives of American Art

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May 2004

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Whitney Halstead papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.halswhit
<b>Date:</b>	1920-1982
<b>Extent:</b>	7.1 Linear Feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Halstead, Whitney
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Summary:</b>	The Whitney Halstead papers measure 7.1 linear feet and date from 1920 to 1982. They document the career of art historian, educator, critic, author, and artist Whitney Halstead. Found within the papers are scattered biographical material; a diary and travel journals; writings and notes (almost one-half of the collection); scattered correspondence; miscellaneous records and printed materials documenting Halstead's tenure at the Art Institute of Chicago; audio-cassette recordings of African and native music; artists files for Jim Nutt and Joseph E. Yoakum; exhibition files; art work by Halstead and others; and photographs of Halstead, friends and colleagues, and art projects. Also found are numerous photographs, slides, and negatives of primitive art, including American Indian art by Southwest tribes.

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The Whitney Halstead papers were donated by Theodore Halkin, the executor of Halstead's estate in 1986.

### Related Material

Additional Whitney Halstead papers are held by the Art Institute of Chicago.

### Processing Information

The papers were processed in May 2004 by Jean Fitzgerald.

### Preferred Citation

Whitney Halstead papers, 1920-1982. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research. Use requires an appointment.

## Ownership and Literary Rights

The Whitney Halstead papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

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## Biographical Note

Art historian, educator, critic, author, and artist Whitney Halstead was born in 1926. After receiving a B.F.A. and an M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Halstead worked as an assistant in the Field Museum's anthropology department. He also taught art history at several Chicago-area universities, including the Art Institute, where he developed a series of courses on primitive art. Some historians have indicated that these courses were an important influence on the work of several artists of the "Chicago School" who studied with Halstead, including Roger Brown, Phil Hanson, Gladys Nilsson, Jim Nutt, and Karl Wirsum, among others. Halstead also played a prominent role in the 1965 Art Institute's faculty strike that resulted in better working conditions for the instructors, and by 1967, he had become Chairman of the Division of Fine Arts. In 1970, he assumed the position of Graduate Advisor.

Halstead wrote critical reviews for *Artforum*, the *Chicago Daily News*, and numerous articles and essays promoting local and primitive art, including the work of Jim Nutt and naïve artist Joseph E. Yoakum. He also curated several exhibitions, including *Made In Chicago* and *Ulu/Inua: Form and Fantasy in Eskimo Art*. Halstead's own art work, exhibited primarily during the 1950s and early 1960s, was in a variety of media and reflected his interest in Dadaism and Surrealism.

Whitney Halstead died in 1979.

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## Scope and Content Note

The Whitney Halstead papers measure 7.1 linear feet and date from 1920 to 1982. They document the career of art historian, educator, critic, author, and artist Whitney Halstead. Found within the papers are scattered biographical material; a diary and travel journals; writings and notes (almost one-half of the collection); scattered correspondence; miscellaneous records and printed materials documenting Halstead's tenure at the Art Institute of Chicago; audio-cassette recordings of African and native music; artists files for Jim Nutt and Joseph E. Yoakum; exhibition files; art work by Halstead and others; and photographs of Halstead, friends and colleagues, and art projects. Also found are numerous photographs, slides, and negatives depicting primitive art, mostly native American Indian art by Southwest tribes.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 11 series by either type of material or subject file, and chronologically within each series. Oversized material from various series has been housed in OV folder 8 and is noted in the Series Description/Container Listing Section at the appropriate folder title with see also/see references.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1966-1977 (Box 1; 1 folder)
- Series 2: Personal Correspondence, circa 1933-1978 (Box 1; 6 folders)
- Series 3: Diary and Travel Journals, 1957-1975 (Box 1; 3 folders)
- Series 4: School of the Art Institute of Chicago Files, circa 1920-1982 (Box 1-2; 1.1 linear feet)
- Series 5: Notes and Writings, circa 1923-1978 (Box 2-5; 3.4 linear feet)

- Series 6: Artist Files, 1967-1977 (Box 5-6, OV 8; 36 folders)
- Series 7: Hyde Park Art Center File, circa 1960-1977 (Box 6; 4 folders)
- Series 8: Exhibition Files, 1966-1975 (Box 6, OV 8; 17 folders)
- Series 9: Art Work, circa 1932-1970 (Box 6, OV 8; 21 folders)
- Series 10: Photographs, circa 1949-1976 (Box 7; 0.9 linear feet)
- Series 11: Printed Material, 1966-1975 (Box 7; 5 folders)

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

Art critics -- Illinois -- Chicago  
Art historians -- Illinois -- Chicago  
Works of art

### Types of Materials:

Drawings  
Journals (accounts)  
Photographs  
Sketchbooks  
Sketches  
Sound recordings

### Names:

Art Institute of Chicago. School  
Hyde Park Art Center (Chicago, Ill.)  
Nutt, Jim, 1938-  
Yoakum, Joseph, 1886-1972

### Geographic Names:

Chicago (Ill.)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 1966-1977

*(Box 1; 1 folder)*

Biographical material consists of resumes and notes concerning Halstead's career.

Box 1, Folder 1          Resumes and notes, 1966-1977

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## Series 2: Personal Correspondence, 1933-1978, undated

*(Box 1; 6 folders)*

Personal correspondence consists of letters concerning Halstead's activities outside of his tenure at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Included are three letters from Jim Nutt, one of which is illustrated.

Box 1, Folder 2-7      Personal Correspondence, 1933-1978, undated

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## Series 3: Diary and Travel Journals, 1957-1975

*(Box 1; 3 folders)*

The diary contains notes concerning Halstead's daily thoughts rather than a record of daily activities. It also contains references to Jim Nutt. The travel journals contain notes concerning his travels to Europe and to Peru.

Box 1, Folder 8            Travel Journal about Europe, 1957

Box 1, Folder 9            Travel Journal about Peru, 1971

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## Series 4: School of the Art Institute of Chicago Files and Records, 1920-1982, undated

*(Box 1-2; 1.1 linear feet)*

This series contains records of Halstead's teaching activities at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, including inter-departmental correspondence, minutes of meetings, reports, a scrapbook concerning the 1965 faculty strike, clippings, school publications, exhibition catalogs, and photographs.

Box 1, Folder 10-29	Correspondence, 1951-1982, undated
Box 1, Folder 30	Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, 1981
Box 1, Folder 31	Faculty Handbook, 1982
Box 1, Folder 32	Minutes of Meetings, 1957-1960
Box 1, Folder 33-39	Miscellaneous Reports, 1957-1968
Box 1, Folder 40-42	Self-Study Reports, 1980-1982
Box 1, Folder 43	Faculty Report in Response to Self-Study Reports, 1982
Box 1, Folder 44-47	Scrapbook on the Faculty Strike, 1962-1965
Box 1, Folder 48-49	Notes on the Curriculum, 1958-1982
Box 1, Folder 50-53	Catalogs of Courses, 1920-1982
Box 2, Folder 1	Student Handbook, 1980-1982
Box 2, Folder 2	Clippings, 1958-1977, undated
Box 2, Folder 3-5	Exhibition Catalogs from the Art Institute of Chicago, 1952-1982
Box 2, Folder 6	Graduation Programs, 1959-1966
Box 2, Folder 7	Booklets on the M.F.A. Candidates, 1968-1969
Box 2, Folder 8	Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1954, undated
Box 2, Folder 9	Photographs of Protest Marches, 1965
Box 2, Folder 10	Photographs of Art Work, undated
Box 2, Folder 11	Photographs of Fellowship Exhibition, 1968

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## Series 5: Notes and Writings, 1923-1978, undated

(Box 2-5; 3.4 linear feet)

Notes include notebooks pertaining to various art history topics, including the art of primitive cultures, Impressionism, Dadaism and Surrealism, American art, collage and assemblage, ceramics, and photography. Other notebooks contain reproductions of examples of late 19th century art and illustrations of primitive art styles. An index card file contains notes for art history lectures and bibliographic entries. Also found are six audiocassettes recordings of African, Native American, and Oceanic music. Writings include typescripts on various art history topics written for publications, including *Artforum* and the *Chicago Daily News*. There are also typescripts concerning individual artists, including Roger Brown, Ed Paschke, Kerig Pope, Christina Ramberg, and Barbara Rossi.

Box 2, Folder 12-29	Notebooks on Art History, 1923-1978, undated
Box 3, Folder 1-8	Notebooks on Art History, 1923-1978, undated
Box 3, Folder 9-12	Notebook of Reproductions of Paintings and Drawings, undated
Box 3, Folder 13-25	Notebook of Illustrations of Primitive Art, 1954, undated
Box 3, Folder 26	Notes on Chicago Art, 1971-1974
Box 3, Folder 27	Miscellaneous Notes, undated
Box 4	Index Card File of Lecture Notes and Bibliographies, undated (1.0 linear feet)
Box 5, Folder 1-2	Audiocassettes of African Music, undated
Box 5, Folder 3	Audiocassettes of Native American Music, undated
Box 5, Folder 4	Audiocassette of Oceanic (Maori) Music, undated
Box 5, Folder 5-35	Miscellaneous Typescripts, 1950-1974, undated
Box 5, Folder 36-41	Typescript "Distortion and Proportion" for Delphian Charter Extension VII Program Fifteen, 1963-1964, undated
Box 5, Folder 42-56	Typescripts for <i>Artforum</i> , 1965-1969
Box 5, Folder 57-63	Typescripts for <i>Chicago Daily News</i> , 1967-1973
Box 5, Folder 64	Miscellaneous Typescript Fragments, undated

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**Series 6: Artist Files, 1967-1977***(Box 5-6, OV 8; 36 folders)*

Artist files contain biographical material, correspondence primarily discussing exhibitions and sales of art work, notes, writings, printed material, and photographs pertaining to painters Jim Nutt and Joseph E. Yoakum.

Box 5	Jim Nutt
Box 5, Folder 65	Typescripts for Museum of Contemporary Art Exhibition Catalog, 1973-1974
Box 5, Folder 66-69	Miscellaneous Typescripts about Jim Nutt, 1973-1974
Box 5, Folder 70	Clippings, 1974-1975
Box 5, Folder 71	Press Release and Exhibition Catalogs, 1974
Box 5	Joseph E. Yoakum
Box 5, Folder 72	Biographical Material, 1972-1975
Box 5, Folder 73-77	Correspondence, 1968-1977
Box 5, Folder 78-80	Miscellaneous Notes, 1972-1976
Box 5, Folder 81	Typescript for Whitney Museum Exhibition Catalog, 1972
Box 5, Folder 82-89	Drafts of a Manuscript, 1975
Box 6, Folder 1-5	Drafts of a Manuscript, 1975
Box 6, Folder 6	Typescript "Joseph E. Yoakum" by Philip H. Hanson, 1969 <a href="#">Image(s)</a>
Box 6, Folder 7	Photographs of Yoakum, 1967-1969, undated
Box 6, Folder 8	Photographs of Art Work and an Exhibition, undated
Box 6, Folder 9	Slides of Art Work, undated
Box 6, Folder 10	Clippings, 1971-1972
Box 6, Folder 11	Exhibition Announcements, 1968-1976 <i>(see also OV 8)</i>
Box OV 8	Oversize Exhibition Poster for Yoakum, 1968
Box OV 8	Oversize Exhibition Poster for Yoakum, 1976

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## Series 7: Hyde Park Art Center File, 1960-1977, undated

*(Box 6; 4 folders)*

Miscellaneous printed material documenting the exhibitions and art-related activities of the Hyde Park Art Center of Chicago.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Box 6, Folder 12    | Brochures and Announcements, 1960-1977, undated           |
| Box 6, Folder 13-14 | Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1962-1977, undated |
| Box 6, Folder 15    | Newsletters, circa 1966                                   |

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**Series 8: Exhibition Files, 1966-1975***(Box 6, OV 8; 17 folders)*

Exhibition files contain correspondence, notes, writings, photographs, and printed material pertaining to miscellaneous exhibitions. The file for the "Two Artists" exhibition contains a photograph of Pauline Simon.

Box 6, Folder 16-17	"Bauhaus," Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, undated
Box 6, Folder 18	"Object Poems," Something Else Gallery, New York City, 1966
Box 6, Folder 19	"Famous Artists," Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 1969 <i>(see also OV 8)</i>
Box 6, Folder 20	"Two Artists," Pauline Simon and Joseph E. Yoakum, Wabash Transit Gallery, Chicago, 1971
Box 6, Folder 21	"Illinois Painters II," Illinois Arts Council, Chicago, 1971-1972
Box 6, Folder 22	"Chicago Imagist Art," Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 1972 <i>(see also OV 8)</i>
Box 6, Folder 23-26	"Made in Chicago," Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 1973-1975
Box 6, Folder 27-31	"Ulu/Inua: Form and Fantasy in Eskimo Art," Casino Gallery, Chicago, 1974
Box 6, Folder 32	"Pauline Simon Retrospective," Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, 1974
Box OV 8	Oversize Exhibition Poster for "Famous Artists," Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 1969
Box OV 8	Oversize Exhibition Poster for "Chicago Imagist Art," Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 1972

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## Series 9: Art Work, 1932-1970, undated

(Box 6, OV 8; 21 folders)

Art work includes sketchbooks, loose sketches, collage books, and prints by Halstead, several antique engravings, and miscellaneous drawings and art photographs by others. Art photographs are by Jerome Aronson, Ken Josephson, Ceil London, Tom Palazzolo, Charles Reynolds, and Roger Vail.

Box 6, Folder 33-35	Sketchbooks by Halstead, 1950, undated
Box 6, Folder 36-44	Loose Sketches by Halstead, 1932-1949, undated (See Also OV 8)
Box 6, Folder 45-47	Collage Books by Halstead, 1949, undated
Box 6, Folder 48	Loose Collages by Halstead, undated
Box 6, Folder 49	Prints by Halstead?, 1947, undated (see also OV 8)
Box 6, Folder 50	Antique Engravings, undated
Box 6, Folder 51	Miscellaneous Drawings and Cut-Out Designs by Others, undated (see also OV 8)
Box 6, Folder 52-53	Art Photographs by Others, 1965-1970, undated
Box OV 8	Oversize Sketch, undated
Box OV 8	Oversize Prints, undated
Box OV 8	Oversize Cut-Out Design, undated

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## Series 10: Photographs, 1949-1976, undated

*(Box 7; 0.9 linear feet)*

Photographs are of Halstead, his friends and colleagues including Jack Burnham, Claes Oldenburg and Karl Wirsum, Arts Club exhibitions, works by Chicago artists, and artists from primitive times through the 20th century including Al Boutin, Christo, John Henry, David Reif, and Marguerite Weber. There are also several hundred slides of Halstead, art work, miscellaneous activities with friends and students, subjects for art work including plants and animals, exhibitions, and views of Chicago and New York.

Box 7, Folder 1	Photographs of Halstead and the Halstead Cemetery Plot, 1968, undated
Box 7, Folder 2	Photographs of Family and Friends, 1968-1969, undated
Box 7, Folder 3	Photographs of Miscellaneous Exhibitions at the Arts Club, undated
Box 7, Folder 4	Negatives of Native American Pottery, undated
Box 7, Folder 5	Color Transparencies of Paintings by Master Artists, undated
Box 7, Folder 6	Color Transparencies of Jewelry and Sculpture by Master Artists, undated
Box 7, Folder 7-13	Photographs of Work by Chicago Artists, undated
Box 7, Folder 14-30	Photographs of Work by Miscellaneous 20th Century Artists, undated
Box 7, Folder 31	Photographs of Karl Wirsum and his Studio, 1971
Box 7, Folder 32	Photographs of the Hancock Building, Chicago, undated
Box 7, Folder 33	Photographs of Miscellaneous Houses, 1963
Box 7, Folder 34	Miscellaneous Photographs, undated
Box 7, Folder 35	Slides of Miscellaneous Subjects, 1949-1976, undated <i>(0.5 linear feet)</i>

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## Series 11: Printed Material, 1966-1975

*(Box 7; 5 folders)*

Printed material consists of clippings and booklets written by Halstead about the Japanese prints and the culture of the American Southwest as it pertains to the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Box 7, Folder 36	Clippings, 1966-1975
Box 7, Folder 37-40	Booklets written by Halstead, undated

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