



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Otto and Vivika Heino Papers, 1895-2002, bulk 1940s-2000, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	3
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Personal and Professional Papers, 1942-2000.....	4
Series 2: Printed Material, 1933-2002.....	6
Series 3: Photographs, 1895-2000, bulk 1940s-1990s.....	7

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Otto and Vivika Heino papers
Identifier:	AAA.heinotto
Date:	1895-2000 (bulk 1940s-2000)
Creator:	Heino, Otto, 1915-2009 Heino, Vivika, 1910-1995
Extent:	2.3 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of ceramicists and educators Otto and Vivika Heino measure 2.3 linear feet and date from 1895 to 2002, with the bulk of the records dating from the 1940s to 2000. The material documents the lives and careers of Otto and Vivika Heino through a mix of personal and professional papers, printed material, a video recording of a documentary, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2003 and 2004 by Otto Heino as part of the Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America.

Processing Information

This collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Christopher DeMairo in 2021.

Preferred Citation

Otto and Vivika Heino Papers, 1895-2002. 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. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records or audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Vivika and Otto Heino were ceramicists and educators active primarily in California, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Vivika Heino (1910-1995) was born Vivika Place in Caledonia, New York. She attended Rochester Normal School and took a sculpture class, a drawing class at the Memorial Art Gallery, and a design class at the University of Rochester Extension. She then attended Colorado College of Education where she received her BA and became involved with puppeteering. By 1934 she had moved to California, where she apprenticed with a bookbinder, Mr. Bitteroff, making candlesticks, tin trays, and other small crafts. She also apprenticed with wood carver Charlie Sayers in Carmel, carving picture frames and furniture for about seven months, before learning weaving at Swedish Applied Arts in San Francisco.

While at Swedish Applied Arts, Place worked and became friends with Harry Dixon, Armark Harranian, Margaret Gravandar, and Bill Saroyan. She also found time to work as a puppeteer with Ralph Chesse and the Works Progress Administration. She also began studying pottery with Manuel Eugene Jalanivich at California University of Fine Arts, and subsequently focused primarily on pottery for the rest of her career.

Place began working with Glen Lukens at the University of Southern California in 1940. Lukens and Dr. Morley, director of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, recommended her for a scholarship at New York State College of Ceramics in Alfred, New York, from which she graduated in 1944. She subsequently took a teaching position at the League of New Hampshire Arts and Crafts where she met Otto Heino.

One of twelve siblings, Otto Heino (1915-2009) was born in East Hampton, Connecticut, to a market gardening family of Finnish descent. The family moved to New Hampshire to sell milk when Otto was 12, and around that time he began apprenticing as a wood turner for Louie Harr. Heino was then drafted into the military and became a gunner in the United States Air Force. Between flying twenty-five missions in Europe, Heino took classes in England, made jewelry, did wood working, traveled to museums, and met individual potters and silversmiths. After visiting Leach's Pottery in Cornwall, and investigating pottery in other parts of Europe, Otto was determined to study pottery on the GI Bill on his return to the United States.

Otto and Vivika met while Otto was a student at the League of New Hampshire Arts and Crafts, where Vivian was an instructor. They married in 1950 and went on to establish their reputations as artists and educators by widely exhibiting their work, leading workshops, conducting studio open houses, consulting on film productions, and teaching at various schools and institutions. They both taught at the University of Southern California, the Chouinard Art Institute, and Rhode Island School of Design; Vivika also taught at the Sheridan School of Design in Ontario, Canada, and New England College in Henniker, New Hampshire. They operated The Potter, a studio and retail store in Ojai, California, from 1973 to 1995.

The work of Otto and Vivika Heino can be found in the collections of many museums, including the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, the Long Beach Museum of Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Ariana Museum, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Scope and Contents

The papers of ceramicists and educators Otto and Vivika Heino measure 2.3 linear feet and date from 1895 to 2002, with the bulk of the records dating from the 1940s to 2000. The material documents the lives and careers of Otto and Vivika Heino through a mix of personal and professional papers, printed material, a video recording of a documentary, and photographs.

Personal and professional papers consist of correspondence, personal business records, exhibition papers, scant financial records, resumes, writings, and a video recording of a documentary titled "You Are the Miracle: Exploring the Creative Process."

Printed material includes newspaper and magazine clippings, mailings and advertisements from The Pottery, announcements, advertisements, and some catalogs from Heino exhibitions, studio events, and sales. Printed material can also be found in two scrapbooks.

Photographs depict Otto and Vivika working and teaching in their studios, exhibitions, professional events, family and friends and friendly gatherings, marionette shows, pets, and properties.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as three series.

- Series 1: Personal and Professional Papers, 1942-2000 (Box 1; 0.8 linear feet)
- Series 2: Printed Material, 1933-2000 (Box 1, 3; 0.7 linear feet)
- Series 3: Photographs, 1895-2000, bulk 1940s-1990s (Box 1-3; 0.8 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Pottery craft
Women art teachers
Women artists
Women ceramicists
Women educators
Women potters

Types of Materials:

Scrapbooks
Video recordings

Names:

Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America

Occupations:

Ceramicists -- California
Ceramicists -- New Hampshire
Ceramicists -- Rhode Island
Educators -- California
Educators -- New Hampshire
Educators -- Rhode Island -- Providence

Container Listing

Series 1: Personal and Professional Papers, 1942-2000

0.8 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series includes personal papers such as plans, correspondence, and other materials related to the Heino's house; correspondence with friends and family; and awards and certificates received by the two artists. Professional papers consist of correspondence, price lists, loan forms, invoices, shipping documents, and acquisition information. Also found are some printed material and photographs that document the Heino's exhibitions and their relationships with museums, galleries, and professional organizations; scattered writings by and about the pair, including formulas, and a video recording of a documentary about them.

Box 1, Folder 1	American Craftsmen's Council, 1957-1961
Box 1, Folder 2	Certificates, 1973, 1993
Box 1, Folder 3	Chouinard Art Institute, Teacher's Inservice Training in Glazes, 1958
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, Personal, 1955-2000
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, Professional, 1958-2000
Box 1, Folder 6	Exhibitions, 1964-1993
Box 1, Folder 7	Glazes, Original Copies, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	House on McAndrew, 1973
Box 1, Folder 9	Invoices, Sets, 1987-1994
Box 1, Folder 10	Invoices and Receipts, 1962-1994
Box 1, Folder 11	League of New Hampshire Arts and Crafts, Membership Handbook, circa 1950s
	Museums and Galleries
Box 1, Folder 12	Archives of American Art, 1973, 1995
Box 1, Folder 13	Charles A. Wustum Museum, 1993
Box 1, Folder 14	The Clay Pigeon Gallery, 1994-1995
Box 1, Folder 15	The Clay Place, 1991-1994
Box 1, Folder 16	Concord Arts and Crafts, 1995

Box 1, Folder 17	Contemporary Crafts Gallery, 1991-1993
Box 1, Folder 18	Crafts Alliance Gallery, 1993-1994
Box 1, Folder 19	The Craftsman's Gallery, 1991-1994
Box 1, Folder 20	Deboer Gallery, 1991-1994
Box 1, Folder 21	The Gallery, Indiana, 1990-1994
Box 1, Folder 22	Human Arts, 1991-1994
Box 1, Folder 23	Long Beach Museum of Art, 1961, 1994
Box 1, Folder 24	Mingei International Museum of World Folk Art, 1993-1994
Box 1, Folder 25	Pewabic Pottery, 1995
Box 1, Folder 26	Pinch Pottery, 1993
Box 1, Folder 27	Potters Wheel Gallery, 1993
Box 1, Folder 28	San Francisco Craft and Folk Art Museum, 1992-1995
Box 1, Folder 29	Ventura Museum, 1995
Box 1, Folder 30	Viewpoint Gallery, 1990-1993
Box 1, Folder 31	Otto's File, 1942-1993
Box 1, Folder 32	Quotations and Excerpts, circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 33	Resumes, 1994-1995
Box 1, Folder 34	Stationery and Business Material, 1950s-1990s
Box 1, Folder 35	Southern California Designer-Craftsmen, Ethics and By-Laws, 1963
Box 1, Folder 36	"Vivika and Otto, A Union of "Art and Heart"", undated
Box 1, Folder 37	Workshops, 1981, 1994
Box 1, Folder 38	Writings, Notes, Papers, undated
Box 1, Folder 39	"You are the Miracle: Exploring the Power of the Creative Process", 1994 1 Videocassettes (VHS)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Printed Material, 1933-2002

0.7 Linear feet (Box 1, 3)

Scope and Contents: Found here are articles and newspaper clippings on the two artists, including articles documenting Vivika's various Marionette groups; announcements from exhibitions, sales, workshops, and open houses; and several exhibition catalogs. Two scrapbooks contain clippings related to marionettes, other artists and art movements, and travel, as well as Vivika's MA commencement schedule, and some photographs and correspondence. This series also contains mailings and advertisements from The Pottery, a studio and retail store which Otto and Vivika operated in California.

Box 1, Folder 40	Articles and Newspaper Clippings, 1950s-2002
Box 1, Folder 41	Articles and Newspaper Clippings, Marionettes, Vivika; Sketches, 1933-1938
Box 1, Folder 42	Auctions and Sales, 1960s-1980s
Box 1, Folder 43	Exhibition Announcements, 1950s-1995
Box 1, Folder 44	Exhibition Announcements, Group Shows, 1955-1995
Box 1, Folder 45	Exhibition Catalogs, Group Shows, 1965-1999
Box 1, Folder 46	Newsletters and Publicity, 1959-1980
Box 1, Folder 47	Other Artists Materials, circa 1950-1974
Box 1, Folder 48	Potters Directories, circa 1960s
Box 1, Folder 49	The Pottery, Advertisements and Artist Cards, 1955-1974
Box 1, Folder 50	Studio Open House and Workshops, 1955-1994
Box 3	Scrapbook, Commencement Schedule, Travel Clippings, Marionette, 1932-1944
Box 3	Scrapbook, Other Artists, Correspondence, Photograph, 1940s-1960
Box 1, Folder 51	Scrapbook Fragments, 1940-1951
Box 1, Folder 52	Miscellaneous, 1980s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Photographs, 1895-2000, bulk 1940s-1990s

0.8 Linear feet (Box 1-3)

Scope and Contents: Images include photographs and some slides that depict the artists in their studios, with their art, at professional events and friendly gatherings, and teaching. Images of Vivika include baby portraits, pictures from marionette shows, and pictures of her family. Images of Otto include snapshots from his time in the military in Europe, and photos of his family. Also included are some images of artwork and The Pottery, and images of the couple's pets, properties, and exhibitions.

Box 1, Folder 53	Artists, Otto and Vivika Heino, circa 1950-1990s
Box 1, Folder 54	Artists, Otto Heino, 1940s-2000s
Box 1, Folder 55	Artists, Vivika Place Heino, 1910-1990s
Box 2, Folder 1	Artwork, 1940s-1990s
Box 2, Folder 2	Artwork, Photograph Album, circa 1950s
Box 2, Folder 3	Exhibitions, 1953-1986
Box 2, Folder 4	Events and Gatherings, circa 1940-1990s
Box 2, Folder 5	Family, 1895-1988
Box 3	Family, Photograph Album, circa 1895-1915
Box 2, Folder 6	Marionettes, 1940s-1960s
Box 2, Folder 7	Pets and Places, 1949-2001
Box 2, Folder 8	Mixed Slides, Artwork, Personal, Studio, 1960s-1980s

[Return to Table of Contents](#)