



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Rose Labrie Papers,  
1939-2000, in the Archives of American Art

Rihoko Ueno

2024/09/25

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Rose Labrie papers
<b>Date:</b>	1939-2000
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.labrose
<b>Creator:</b>	Labrie, Rose
<b>Extent:</b>	2.9 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of folk artist, book illustrator and author Rose Labrie measure 2.9 linear feet and date from 1939 to 2000. The papers document her career as a self-taught artist based in New Hampshire through biographical materials, correspondence, writings, photographs, and printed materials.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Rose Labrie papers were donated to the Archives of American Art in 2000 by Christie Labrie.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Rihoko Ueno in 2024.

### Preferred Citation

Rose Labrie papers, 1939-2000. 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

Rose Labrie (1916-1986) was an author, illustrator of children's books, journalist, gallery director and self-taught "primitive" artist in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Labrie moved to Vermont at the age of two. Her childhood memories of West Hartford, Vermont formed the basis for children's stories and paintings she created later. She attended the University of New Hampshire and the University of Wisconsin and studied creative writing.

Her early career was in journalism. In the 1960s she turned to painting and writing on historical monuments, especially lighthouses. She contributed to magazines such as *The Clarion* (1984), *Down East* (1956-1969), *Vermont Life* (1953-1979), and *Yankee* (1962-1976). Labrie was the author of *Dancer's Image* (1982), *King, The Leprechaun Pony* (1979), *Nubble Light* (1979) and *Randy, the Rooster* (1985). She also was founder and first director of the Strawberry Bank Children's Festival, later known as the Prescott Park Arts Festival, in Portsmouth.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of folk artist, book illustrator and author Rose Labrie measure 2.9 linear feet and date from 1939 to 2000. The papers document her career as a self-taught artist based in New Hampshire through biographical materials, correspondence, writings, photographs, and printed materials.

Among Labrie's correspondents are Robert Bishop, David O'Neil, Jay Johnson, Mattie Lou O'Kelly, Emeline Paige, Robert Miner, Henry P. (Heinz) Kupfer, Frederick Franck, Harry Goodwin, Janet Hutchinson, and daughter Christie Labrie.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 5 series.

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1970-1986 (3 folders; Box 1)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1939-2000 (1.6 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
- Series 3: Writings, circa 1950-circa 1986 (0.5 linear feet; Boxes 2-3)
- Series 4: Printed Materials, 1949-1988 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 3-5)
- Series 5: Photographs, circa 1964-1986 (0.2 linear feet; Box 4)

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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:

Illustrated books, Children's  
Women artists  
Women authors

Occupations:

Authors -- New Hampshire -- Portsmouth  
Book illustrators -- New Hampshire  
Folk artists -- New Hampshire -- Portsmouth  
Self-taught artists -- New Hampshire

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Biographical Material, 1970-1986

#### 3 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This small series consists of various award certificates and short biographical profiles on Rose Labrie. There is also a genealogy chart on the "Zahlinger Dynasty in Baden."

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, 1970-1986
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Material (Undated), circa 1970-circa 1986
Box 1, Folder 3	Zahlinger Genealogy, circa 1970-circa 1986

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1939-2000

### 1.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: This series includes personal and professional correspondence with friends, family, and galleries. Among Labrie's correspondents are Robert Bishop, David O'Neil, Jay Johnson, Mattie Lou O'Kelly, Emeline Paige, Robert Miner, Henry P. (Heinz) Kupfer, Frederick Franck, Harry Goodwin, Janet Hutchinson, and daughter Christie Labrie.

Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, 1950-1959
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1960-1965
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, 1966-1969
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1970-1974
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1975-1979
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, 1980-1981
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1982-1986
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence (Posthumous), 1986-1991
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence (Undated), circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence (Undated Letter Fragments), circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 1, Folder 14	Authors' and Publishers' Service, 1961-1963
Box 1, Folder 15	Bertha Klausner International Literary Agency, Inc., 1970-1978
Box 1, Folder 16	Bishop, Robert (Museum of American Folk Art), 1968-1986
Box 1, Folder 17	Childrens' Art Festival, 1968-2000
Box 1, Folder 18	Curtis Brown, Ltd., 1957-1958, 1981
Box 1, Folder 19	Down East Magazine, 1956-1969
Box 1, Folder 20	Early American Society, Inc., 1973-1978
Box 1, Folder 21	Fierst, A. L. (Literary Agent), 1952-1955
Box 1, Folder 22	Franck, Frederick, 1963-1988
Box 1, Folder 23	Goodwin, Harry, 1977-1986

Box 1, Folder 24	Goodwin, Harry (Undated), circa 1977-circa 1986
Box 1, Folder 25	Herald Tribune Fresh Air Fund, 1952-1965
Box 1, Folder 26	Hutchinson, Janet and Emeline Paige, 1977-1981
Box 1, Folder 27	Hutchinson, Janet and Emeline Paige, 1982-1987
Box 1, Folder 28	Hutchinson, Janet and Emeline Paige (Undated and Letter Fragments), circa 1977-circa 1987
Box 1, Folder 29	International Prizes and Awards, 1981-1985
Box 1, Folder 30	James Hunt Barker Galleries, 1976-1978
Box 1, Folder 31	Johnson, Jay (America's Folk Heritage Gallery), 1977-1980
Box 1, Folder 32	Johnson, Jay (America's Folk Heritage Gallery), 1981-1986
Box 1, Folder 33	Kaddall, Thomas H., 1957-1959
Box 1, Folder 34	Kupfer, Henry P. (Heinz), 1955-1959
Box 1, Folder 35	Kupfer, Henry P. (Heinz), 1960-1973
Box 1, Folder 36	Kupfer, Henry P. (Heinz) (Undated and Letter Fragments), circa 1955-circa 1973
Box 1, Folder 37	Labrie, Christy (Daughter), 1972-2000
Box 1, Folder 38	Manning, Don, 1974-1982
Box 1, Folder 39	National Antiques Review, 1974-1976
Box 1, Folder 40	O'Kelley, Mattie Lou (Folk Painter), 1975-1986
Box 1, Folder 41-45	O'Neil, David, 1948-1952
Box 1, Folder 46-50	O'Neil, David, 1953-1957
Box 1, Folder 51	O'Neil, David, 1958
Box 2, Folder 1-5	O'Neil, David, 1959-1963
Box 2, Folder 6-10	O'Neil, David, 1964-1968
Box 2, Folder 11-15	O'Neil, David, 1969-1977

Box 2, Folder 16-17	O'Neil, David, 1978-1980
Box 2, Folder 18	O'Neil, David (Undated), circa 1948-circa 1980
Box 2, Folder 19	O'Neil, David (Undated Letter Fragments), circa 1948-circa 1980
Box 2, Folder 20	O'Neil, David - Information, circa 1962-1981
Box 2, Folder 21	O'Neil, David - Newspaper Clippings, circa 1955-1966
Box 2, Folder 22	O'Neil, David - Photographs, 1943-1965
Box 2, Folder 23	O'Neil, Helen, 1981-1985
Box 2, Folder 24	Pemaquid and Nubble Lighthouses, 1956-1976
Box 2, Folder 25	Proposed USS Thresher Postage Stamp, 1939, 1954-1977
Box 2, Folder 26	Publishers' Letters, 1949-1954
Box 2, Folder 27	Publishers' Letters, 1955-1959
Box 2, Folder 28	Publishers' Letters, 1960-1969
Box 2, Folder 29	Publishers' Letters, 1970-1979
Box 2, Folder 30	Publishers' Letters, 1980-1985
Box 2, Folder 31	Publishers' Letters (Undated), circa 1949-circa 1985
Box 2, Folder 32	Reader's Digest, 1950-1984
Box 2, Folder 33	Shayne Gallery, 1976
Box 2, Folder 34	Sotheby Parke Bernet, Inc., 1974
Box 2, Folder 35	Strawberry Banke, Inc., 1961-1980
Box 2, Folder 36	Travel Bra Design, 1956-1969, 1976
Box 2, Folder 37	UNICEF, 1982-1985
Box 2, Folder 38	Vermont Life Magazine, 1953-1979
Box 2, Folder 39	Weir Gallery of Fine Arts, 1979-1980
Box 2, Folder 40	White House, 1956-1986



Box 2, Folder 41	Woodbury, David O., 1955-1972
Box 2, Folder 42	World Press Association, 1957-1958
Box 2, Folder 43	Yankee Magazine, 1962-1985
Box 2, Folder 44	Yates, Elizabeth, 1973
Box 2, Folder 45	Yolanda Fine Arts, 1981-1983

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## Series 3: Writings, circa 1950-circa 1986

### 0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: Writings mostly consist of typescript drafts for essays, poems, and children's books written by Rose Labrie on a wide range of topics.

Box 2, Folder 46	"Ann Clark", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 47	"Caroline, Sit Still" and "Coronation of a Queen", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 48	"David O'Neil" and "David O. Woodbury", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 49	"Diane of India", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 50	"Enchanted Village and Animal Forest", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 51	"Fable Review" and "Father Hector's Exceptional Children", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 52	"Father Sloan," "Fish Culture" and "Fix-It Ladies", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 53	"Foster's Garden Center" and "From Cellar to Garret", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 54	"From City Streets to Green Pastures", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 55	"Governor Fulfills Campaign Promise," "Greenbriar" and "Historian", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 56	"I Stubbed My Toe in Shangri-La", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 57	"The Indomitable Brenda Kuhn", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 58	"John Neill," "John Paul Jones" and "Katherine Stillings' Great Decision", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 59	"King, the Leprechaun Pony," "Little Scotland" and "Marcia's World", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 60	"Marden Walsh House," "Mary's Day" and "Mattie O'Kelley", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 61	"Monkeyshines" and "Ogunquit and the Marginal Way", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 62	"Ogunquit by the Sea", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 63	Poems and "Points of Interest", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 64	"Portsmouth Presents Granite Stone to English Church", circa 1950-circa 1986

Box 2, Folder 65	"Professor Edmund A. Cortez" and "Reluctant Godmother", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 66	"Rendevous at Perkins Cove" and "Rita Cote", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 67	"Robert Eric Moore Art Exhibit," "Sasha" and "Scottish War Bride", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 68	"Shapley House Gallery" and "Star of the Sea Jubilee", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 69	"Thanksgiving Day" and "Three Generations of the Thomson Family", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 70	"Tour 2: Boothbay Harbor to Squirrel Island" and "Uncle John's Ivory Store", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 2, Folder 71	"War Brides on the High Seas" and "Wentworth Mansion", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 3, Folder 1	"William Dennett" and "William Pitt", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 3, Folder 2	"Yankee Auction" and "Young Fisherman", circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 3, Folder 3	Miscellaneous and Untitled Writings, circa 1950-circa 1986

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## Series 4: Printed Material, 1949-1988

### 0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 3-5)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes exhibition announcements, clippings, magazines featuring Rose Labrie's articles and artwork, and books mostly relating to her work as a journalist, self-taught artist, children's book author and illustrator.

Box 3, Folder 4	Clippings - Articles by Rose Labrie, 1949-1976
Box 3, Folder 5	Clippings - Biographical, 1968-1981
Box 3, Folder 6	Clippings - Children's Art Festival, 1968-1972
Box 3, Folder 7	Clippings - Children's Art Festival, 1973-1974
Box 3, Folder 8	Clippings - Exhibitions and Shows, 1965-1984
Box 3, Folder 9	Clippings - King, the Leprechaun Pony, 1977-1981
Box 3, Folder 10	Clippings - Strawberry Banke Gallery, 1966-1984
Box 3, Folder 11	Clippings - Strawberry Banke Gallery (Undated), circa 1966-circa 1984
Box 3, Folder 12	Clippings - Miscellaneous, 1966-1988
Box 3, Folder 13	Clippings - Miscellaneous (Undated), circa 1966-circa 1988
Box 5, Folder 1-3	Clippings (Oversized), 1950-1972
Box 5, Folder 4-6	Clippings (Oversized), 1973-1989
Box 5, Folder 7	Clippings (Oversized) (Undated), circa 1950-circa 1989
Box 3, Folder 14	Exhibition Announcements, 1964-1988
Box 3, Folder 15	Magazines - Articles about Rose Labrie, 1972-1984
Box 3, Folder 16	Magazines - Article by Rose Labrie, 1951-1966
Box 3, Folder 17	Magazines - Articles Illustrated By Rose Labrie, 1973-1974
Box 3, Folder 18	Publication - Nubble Light, 1979
Box 3, Folder 19	Publication - King, the Leprechaun Pony, 1979
Box 5, Folder 8	Publication - King, the Leprechaun Pony Illustrations (Oversized), 1979

Box 4, Folder 1	Publication - Dancer's Image, 1982
Box 4, Folder 2	Publication - Randy the Rooster, 1985
Box 4, Folder 3	Reference Images for Art, circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 4, Folder 4	Subject Files - John Sedgeley Homestead, circa 1950-circa 1986
Box 4, Folder 5	Subject Files - Seacoast Writer's Conference, 1973-1981

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## Series 5: Photographs, circa 1964-1986

### 0.2 Linear feet (Box 4)

Scope and Contents: This small series includes photographs of Rose Labrie, her artwork, and the Children's Art Festival.

Box 4, Folder 6	Personal Snapshots of Rose Labrie with her Artwork and Others, circa 1970-1986
Box 4, Folder 7	Artwork by Rose Labrie, circa 1968-circa 1982
Box 4, Folder 8	Children's Art Festival, 1970
Box 4, Folder 9	Children's Art Festival, 1973
Box 4, Folder 10	Children's Art Festival, 1974
Box 4, Folder 11	Children's Art Festival (Undated), circa 1970-circa 1974
Box 4, Folder 12	Miscellaneous Photographs, circa 1964-circa 1980

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