Native American Artists Archives

The centerpiece and soul of the archival holdings of the Billie Jane Baguley Library and Archives is the Native American Artists Archives. Established in 2000, the Native American Artists Archives is comprised of original and special documentation on Indian artists. Material in this collection represents the building blocks that document the creative lives of Indian artists and include personal papers, portfolios, sketchbooks, correspondence, journals, scrapbooks, photographs, tools, and other primary source material. The Native American Artists Archives is considered an important companion to the Native American Artists Resource Collection.

Native American artists that are included represent the spectrum of creativity whether visual, literary, performing, cultural or experimental arts. In addition other artist-related resources are collected including the records of Indian arts organizations, markets and galleries; the papers of Indian art curators and educators; and the archives of art collectors. Papers that are committed to or already part of the Native American Artists Archives include the papers of Kay WalkingStick, Harry Fonseca, Nora Naranjo Morse, Ramona Sakiestewa, Joe Baker, Debra Utacia Krol, and Linda Lomahaftewa among others. Archival collections compiled by researchers on Indian artists include the Jeanne Snodgrass King Collection, Margaret Cesa Collection on Pop Chalee, Charlotte Jackson Fine Art Collection on Fritz Scholder; and the Ginger Moore Collection on Alexander Lawrence Posey. Papers from arts organizations consist of the records of Native American Art Studies Association; Atlatl, Inc. (a Native American arts service organization); Scottsdale National Arts Council; and the Arizona Indian Living Treasures Award. The Native American Artists Archives currently numbers over 40 archival collections.

The objective of the Native American Artists Archives is to document, preserve, and make available to researchers the richness of unique, primary source material on Native American artists. The Native American Artists Archives strives to serve the Native art community and work directly with artists in order to better understand their material and fulfill their wishes for their collections. In addition the Native American Artist Archives hopes to raise the awareness of colleagues at other repositories, art collectors, or artists themselves of the importance of this type of material. Ultimately, the archives serves as a resource for research, learning and understanding by making the material available to art historians, scholars, museum curators, students and families studying the great contributions of Indians to the arts.

Native artists are encouraged to contact the Heard Museum about this special program and collection.

For more information, please contact

Native American Artists Archives
Billie Jane Baguley Library and Archives
Heard Museum
2301 North Central Avenue
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The Museum staff always welcomes the opportunity to meet artists and to learn more about their art and careers. For questions, please contact Mario Nick Klimiades, Library and Archives Director at mario@heard.org or (602) 252-8840.

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