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 represent 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 archival 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. Currently the Native American Artists Archives includes the papers of Kay WalkingStick, Harry Fonseca, Nora Naranjo Morse, Ramona Sakiestewa, Pablita Velarde, Joe Baker, Tony Jojola, Margaret Wood, Kevin Pourier, Barbara Ornelas 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.; Indian Arts & Crafts Association; Scottsdale National Arts Council; Pablita Velarde Museum of Indian Women in the Arts, Southwestern Association for Indian Arts; Arizona Indian Living Treasures Award; and Native Peoples Magazine. 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 Artists Archives endeavors to raise the awareness of the importance of archival material with colleagues at other repositories, art collectors, and artists themselves. Ultimately, the archives serves as a resource for research, learning and understanding by making the material available to art historians, artists, scholars, museum curators, students and families studying the great contributions of Native Americans 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
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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.