

Miller Horns Collection

Special Collections – Akron-Summit County Public Library

Special Collections #: 2018.042**Dates:** ca. 1965-2017 (span)**Creator:** Miller Horns**Acquisition:** This collection was donated by Terry Klausman in January 2018.**Conditions Governing Access:** Access by request at Special Collections division, Main Library, only; Materials do not circulate.**Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:** Copyright restrictions may apply.**Extent:** 3 boxes**Biographical History:**

Graphic artist Miller Horns (1948 – 2012) moved with his family to Akron, Ohio in 1953. After graduating from North High School, he enlisted in the Navy and trained at the Great Lakes Training Center in Chicago, Illinois. After his tour of duty, he enrolled in college at the University of Akron then transferred to the Cleveland Art Institute where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1986.

He was awarded a six-month fellowship to the American Academy in Rome, Italy in 1990, and another fellowship at MacDowell in Peterborough, New Hampshire. He was also guest artist at the Yaddo artist retreat in Saratoga Springs, New York. Horns was best known in the artistic community for his electrostatic and thermal color transfers of drawn and photographed images onto a variety of surfaces.

Horns spent the later part of his career advocating for and designing the Matthews Hotel Monument. This monument marks the former African-American business and entertainment district on North Howard Street in downtown Akron, Ohio. Horns sought to honor the contributions of the Black community to the development of Akron and Northeast Ohio with this art installation. Other artwork represented in the collection include prints, notes and clippings regarding the Akron First Night 2000 button he designed as well as other exhibits in which Horns showed throughout Northeast, Ohio.

Sources:

"Miller Horns." Artist Archives of the Western Reserve. Our Archived Artists. 2012.

https://www.artistsarchives.org/archived_artist/miller-horns/

"Miller Horns Visual Art Mixed Media." MacDowell. Retrieved from <https://www.macdowell.org/artists/miller-horns>

"Obituary." Akron Beacon Journal. 08 November 2012:B5.

Languages: English**Repository:** Special Collections Division, Main Library, Akron-Summit County Public Library**Processed on:** November 2024

Arrangement: The collection is arranged in 4 series among the 3 boxes. Original order retained within folders as feasible:

- Series 1: Biographical
- Series 2: Matthews Hotel Monument
- Series 3: Exhibits & Artwork
- Series 4: Clippings

Scope and Content:

The Miller Horns Collection includes materials that were collected by the artist as part of his artistic portfolio. The bulk of the collection documents the research, design, and construction of the Matthews Hotel Monument located at the corner of Howard Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in downtown Akron, Ohio. Other items in the collection include artwork prints, exhibit programs, and newspaper clippings related to exhibits or other creative arts endeavors.

Series Descriptions

Series 1. Biographical ca. 1965-2009 (span)

This series contains biographical material from the artist's life such as a photograph with his recruitment class at the US Naval Training Center in Chicago, Illinois circa 1965, and an inventory and photo album of the artist's toy collection which he displayed at the Akron-Summit County Public Library North Hill Branch. Other materials in this series are related to the Fellowships awarded at The American Academy in Rome and his artist residency at MacDowell in Peterborough, New Hampshire.

Series 2. Matthews Hotel Monument

This series contains the artist's research, sketches, and notes related to the design and construction of the Matthews Hotel Monument. It includes a design binder, construction photo album, and the contents of two blank USPS envelopes with an assortment of sketches and construction notes.

Series 3. Exhibits & Artwork

This series contains various prints on foam core, exhibit catalogs, community event programs, and periodicals related to exhibits in which Miller Horns showed his art or displayed commissioned artwork. Included in this series are prints from various exhibits, a poster of his *Akron First Night 2000* button design, a framed print with artist statement of *Calvary*, and a poster for the play "Just Passing Through," a collaborative project with Firestone Theatre.

Series 4. Clippings

This series includes promotional materials, programs for local events, advertisements, and newspaper clippings related to exhibits the artist showed in as well as a folder of dedicated clippings regarding the design and development of the Matthews Hotel Monument.

Inventory

Series 1: Biographical

Box 1

Folder 1: US Naval Training Center photograph, ca. 1965

Box 2

Folder 2: Fellowships, undated

Folder 3: Toy Collection Inventory Binder, undated

Folder 4: Toy Collection Display Photo Album, undated

Folder 5: Arts Alive Outstanding Visual Artist Award, 2009

Series 2: Matthews Hotel Monument

Box 1

Folder 6: Matthews Hotel Monument, Designs & Sketches, undated

Box 2

Folder 1: Matthews Hotel Design Binder, undated

Folder 2: Matthews Hotel Monument, Construction Photo Album

Folder 3: Matthews Hotel Monument, Photos and Jazz Programs, undated

Folder 4: Matthews Hotel Monument, Envelope #1 Letter size, undated

Folder 5: Matthews Hotel Monument, Envelope#2 Legal size, undated

Series 3: Exhibits & Artwork

Box 1

Folder 1: Exhibits & Artwork – Posters

Box 2

Folder 2: Exhibits & Artwork – Correspondence and catalogs

Folder 3: Exhibits & Artwork – Artist Archives of the Western Reserve (AAWR)

Folder 4: Exhibits & Artwork – Prints

Box 3

Hotel Matthews Monument print mounted to foam core, 7x7.5"

Share the Light-Ignite the Spirit Millennium Man print mounted to foam core, 7x7"

Untitled print, trees, print mounted to foam core 7.5x11" signed M. Horns '91

First Night Akron Millennium, 2000 print 12x9.25" mounted to foam core

Calvary, 1992 glass framed print 8x10" with artist statement printout sheet

Untitled, movie theater marquee "A TO HER Y" print mounted to foam core 14x11"

Miller Horns, mounted to foam core 9.5x17"

Series 4: Clippings

Box 1

Folder 1: Clippings – Exhibits

Folder 2: Clippings – Akron First Night, 2000 Clippings and Promotional Materials

Folder 3: Clippings – Matthews Hotel Monument