Scott Heiser Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

Acquisition Information
Gift of the Estate of Scott Heiser, 2012

Extent
6 linear feet

Processed
Rachael DiEleuterio, 2014

Abstract
The Scott Heiser Papers contain correspondence, financial records, notes, photographs, magazines, tear sheets, and ephemera.

Access Restrictions
Unrestricted

Contact Information
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Scott Heiser Papers, Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, Delaware Art Museum

Related Materials
Institutional Archives – Curatorial Department – Exhibition Records – Fashion, Circus, Spectacle: Photographs by Scott Heiser, March 8 - June 1, 2014
Biography of Scott Heiser

Photographer Scott Heiser (1949-1993), a Wilmington, Delaware native, was best known for his grainy, wildly cropped glimpses of fashion runway shows, which appeared in *Interview* between 1978 and 1986. The magazine sent him around New York, Paris, and Milan to capture fashions by Claude Montana, Yves Saint Laurent, Shamask, and Issey Miyake. He provided an insider’s view of the shows and captured the movement of the clothing and the energy of the scene.

Heiser also chronicled the vibrant cultural landscape of New York City, producing portraits of Andy Warhol, Jamie Wyeth, Debbie Harry, Marianne Faithfull, Alberta Hunter, and Robert Wilson for *Interview, Soho Weekly News*, and *Paper*. In the early 1980s, Heiser expanded his field, beginning to document a wide range of public entertainments, including circuses, dance competitions, the Miss America Pageant, the Ice Capades, and the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

He brought a unique perspective to his subjects, focusing on significant details, arresting figures in motion, and capturing individuals on the fringes of large events. His extreme angles and eccentric cropping intensified the strangeness of these performances, drawing comparisons with Surrealist photographers like Man Ray and André Kertész. Heiser was also influenced by earlier photographers, such as Cecil Beaton, George Platt Lynes, Diane Arbus, and Garry Winogrand.

Organization of the Papers

Series I: Professional and Biographical
Series II: Correspondence
Series II: Exhibitions, School, Writing
Series IV: Photographs
Series V: Periodicals and Tear Sheets
Series VI: Master List of Prints
Series VII: Ephemera
Description of the Papers

Series 1: Professional and Biographical

Box 1
Folder

1  Account book
2  Business cards
3  Clippings and invitations
4  Invoices and expense reports
5  Job seeking
6  List of publications where work appeared
7  Museum and gallery contact information
8  Publishers and retail contact information
9  Resumes
10 Proofs and postcards for Scott Heiser Photography
11 Biographical information
Series II: Correspondence

Box 2
Folder
1 Advertising companies
2 The Book Trader
3 The Camera Club of New York
4 Jasper Conran
5 Designers – Hanae Mori
6 Fashion Institute of Technology
7 Galleries
8 Movies
9 Museums
10 Personal
11 Personal – insurance
12 Personal – postcards (removed from green sketch book)
13 Photo agencies
14 Portraits
15 Publishers – books
16 Publishers – Condé Nast
17 Publishers – DNP Publishing
18 Publishers – magazines – Interview
19 Publishers – magazines – Paper
20 Publishers – magazines – miscellaneous
21 Publishers – miscellaneous
22 Publishers – postcards
23 Retail stores
24 Rhode Island School of Design
25 School of Visual Arts
26 Subjects
27 Universities and art schools
### Series III: Exhibitions, School, Writing

#### Box 3
Folder

2. Exhibitions – galleries
4. Exhibitions – *Six Decades of Fashion Photography* (Hofstra University, 1975)
5. School – notes – art history
7. School – notes – German
8. School – notes – photography
9. School – notes – printmaking
10. School – school work
11. Writing – artist’s statements
13. Writing – drafts of captions – miscellaneous
14. Writing – images and captions
15. Writing – interview with Jamie Wyeth, 1975 (notes)
Series IV: Photographic Materials

Box 4
Folder
1 Photographs of Heiser (37 items)
2 Photographs of Heiser (20 items)
3 Photographic prints not by Heiser (possibly copies of prints for Hofstra show) (5 items)
4 Photographs of Heiser, possibly by Deborah Turbeville (9 items)
5 Miscellaneous photographs (2 items): Nancy Carey; Mike Tylick (?)
6 Senior self-portraits
7 Slides

Box 5
Oversize materials from Series III and IV

Series III
Drawings
Clippings removed from green sketchbook
Green sketchbooks III

Series IV
Photographs of Heiser by others
Proof sheets and photos on ringboard
Series V: Periodicals, Tear Sheets, Printed Materials
Series V includes periodicals featuring articles about Heiser and tear sheets and printed materials of Heiser’s work.

Box 6
*Interview* magazine, 1974-1984

Box 7
*Interview* magazine, 1985-1988

Box 8
*Interview* magazine – tear sheets and photocopies, various years

Box 9
*Paper* magazine

Box 10
Folder
1. Tear sheets – advertisements
2. Tear sheets – periodicals A-G
3. Tear sheets – periodicals H-M
4. Tear sheets – periodicals N-R
5. Tear sheets – periodicals S-W
6. Tear sheets – periodicals W-Z
7. Tear sheets – unidentified periodicals
8. Miscellaneous printed materials

Box 11
Miscellaneous periodicals

Box 12
Miscellaneous periodicals and tear sheets, oversize
**Series VI: Master List of Prints**
Series VI is a master list of Heiser prints catalogued by Thomas Woodruff at Heiser’s death (removed from 3-ring binder and rehoused in archival folders).

**Box 13**
Folder
1. Fashion – Group A – Image # F1-F60 – Prints 1-154
4. Circus – Image # C1-C87 – Prints 269-443
5. Events – Group A – Image # E1-E90 – Prints 444-608
8. Small Format Events – Image # SFE1.1-SFE20 – Prints 731-787
10. Portraits – Image # P1-P8 – Prints 809-818
11. Miscellaneous materials removed from front pocket of binder
Series VII: Ephemera

Box 14
Passports, press passes and badges, red binder (empty), floppy disc (contents unknown)