Collection Summary

Title: Bror Utter Papers
Date: 1944–1992, bulk dates 1950s–1960s
Creator(s): Utter, Bror (1913–1993)
Extent: 1.75 linear feet
Code: BUP
Repository: Amon Carter Museum of American Art Archives
Abstract: The Bror Utter Papers contain exhibition catalogues, photographs, newspaper and magazine clippings, and correspondence and offer a unique insight into the vibrant life of Fort Worth artists, especially those of the Fort Worth Circle.

Information for Researchers

Access Restrictions

The collection is open to qualified researchers.

Use Restrictions

The Bror Utter Papers are the physical property of the Amon Carter Museum of American Art. The Amon Carter Museum of American Art assumes no responsibility for infringement of literary property rights or copyrights or for liability to any person for defamation or invasion of privacy.

Preferred Citation

Bror Utter Papers, [item identification], Amon Carter Museum of American Art Archives.

Related Collections in the Amon Carter Museum of American Art Archives

Dickson and Flora Reeder Papers
Judy McVeigh Cordell Collection of Blanche McVeigh Papers

Contact the museum archivist at archivist@cartermuseum.org or 817.989.5077 for additional information.
Administrative Information

Acquisition and Custody Information

Gift of the Estate of Bror Utter, 1993

Processed By

Jonathan Frembling

Biographical Note

Fort Worth resident Bror Utter (1913–1993) translated modernist European and American influences into a personal idiom of enigmatic, abstract forms suggesting the human figure, plant life, and architecture. Utter’s interest in art was fostered by his Texas environment. He received training in painting and etching at the Fort Worth School of Fine Arts in the 1930s and worked in his father’s lithographic printing company until the 1950s. Utter was part of a small, dynamic group of artists now known as the “Fort Worth Circle,” which was the city’s avant–garde art community during the 1940s and 1950s. His association with these artists, several of whom had studied in New York and Paris, exposed him to contemporary art beyond the confines of Fort Worth. Utter’s response to this stimuli was an innovative pictorial language of biomorphic shapes, characterized by a playful use of texture and color. Continuing to explore new subjects and styles, he became a prominent Fort Worth artist, teacher, and supporter of the arts.

Scope and Content Note

The Bror Utter Papers contain exhibition catalogues, photographs, newspaper and magazine clippings, and correspondence dating from 1944 to 1992 (bulk dates 1950s–1960s). The papers offer a unique insight into the vibrant life of Fort Worth artists, especially those of the Fort Worth Circle, which included William Bomar and Dickson Reeder. The papers contain many examples of Utter’s artworks and give glimpses into his personal experiences through his correspondence and photographs. Of significance is the influence on his artwork of his trip to Europe as evidenced in his photographs.

The papers, which came to the museum stored in loose stacks with little apparent order, have been organized into three series: Papers, Professional, and Photographic. All three series have been arranged in chronological order where possible, unless otherwise noted.

Papers: This series contains Utter’s correspondence and other personal mementos from his travels and from his friends. Included are personal and professional correspondence as well as sundry clippings and catalogues about Utter and his associates in the Fort Worth Circle.

Professional: Information on a sizeable number of exhibitions of his personal work as well as newspaper and magazine articles about Utter are found here.
Photographic: A series of photographic reproductions of Utter’s work, photographs from his trips in Europe and the United States, and personal photographs of him and his friends and colleagues in the studio and abroad are contained in this series.

A more detailed series description appears at the start of each series in this finding aid.

Series I. Papers

Scope and Content Note: This series contains Utter’s personal and professional correspondence and mementos from his travels and from his friends. Items of particular interest include a loan agreement between Utter and Texas Christian University for a display of his artwork in the campus gallery in 1985; a transcript of a 1979 interview with Bror Utter conducted by Lisa Ferguson on behalf of the Archives of American Art; postcards from Utter’s travels; gallery invitations; and exhibition and collection catalogues for Utter’s friends and fellow Fort Worth artists.

Box 1, Folder 1: Texas Christian University Loan Agreement

Box 1, Folder 2: Archives of American Art Interview Transcript

Box 1, Folder 3: Correspondence, General and Personal Papers, 1949–1992
14. Resume attached to letter from Jo Ann Durham. n.d.
15. Western Union Mailgram from Donald. February 11, 1983.
24. Christmas card from Helene and Jack. n.d.
25. Birthday card from Jackie. n.d.
26. Birthday card from Mike, Donne, Michael, and Michelle. n.d.
27. Birthday card from Judy. n.d.
29. Birthday card from Anne and Ernest Chilton. n.d.
30. Blank postcard.
33. Bror Utter résumé. n.d.
34. The Utter Studio business card. n.d.
35. Bror Utter blank stationery. 11 sheets.

Box 1, Folder 4: Correspondence, Betsy and Sam Cantey, 1957–1989
2. Letter to Sam. Friday 26th.

Box 1, Folder 5: Correspondence, Frances Reynolds Oertling, 1956–1957

Box 1, Folder 6: Postcards and Invitations, 1977–1991

Box 1, Folder 7: Clippings, 1944–1971


Box 1, Folder 8: Clippings, 1974–1985


Box 1, Folder 9: Clippings, 1985


Box 1, Folder 10: Clippings, 1987–1990


13. [Clipped newspaper page of advertisements]. n.d.

Box 1, Folder 12: Catalogues from Travels and Associates’ Exhibitions, 1951–1963

2. *An Exhibition of Sculpture and Painting from the Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Weiner at the Art Museum of the University of Texas*. Austin, Texas: October 23–November 27, 1966.


**Series II. Professional**

**Scope and Content Note:** This series includes information on a sizeable number of exhibits of Utter’s personal work and newspaper and magazine articles about him. Items of particular interest include Utter’s business cards for his art lessons and his gallery and materials from solo exhibitions and from group exhibitions in which he participated.

Box 1, Folder 14: Business Cards

Box 1, Folder 15: Solo Exhibitions, 1953–1957


Box 1, Folder 16: Solo Exhibitions, 1961


Box 1, Folder 17: Solo Exhibitions, 1961–1968


5. *Watercolors of Texas and Other Places by Bror Utter*. Gallery in the Square, October 6, 1968. 2 copies.

Box 1, Folder 18: Solo Exhibitions, 1979

Box 1, Folder 19: Solo Exhibitions, 1983–1985

Box 1, Folder 20: Solo Exhibitions, 1987–1990

Box 1, Folder 21: Solo Exhibitions, n.d.
6. *Landmark Paintings at InterFirst Bank Fort Worth.* n.d. 10 copies.
7. Poster. n.d.

Box 1, Folder 22: Group Exhibitions, 1944–1951

Box 1, Folder 23: Group Exhibitions, 1952–1955


Box 1, Folder 24: Group Exhibitions, 1956–1972


10. Exhibition: Selections from the Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Cantey, III. The Art Department, North Texas State University. February 23–March 10, 1964.


Box 1, Folder 25 Group Exhibitions, 1974–1986


2. Landmarks, v 2, n 1. April, 1981.


5. The School of Fontainebleau, French Art of the Sixteenth Century. Fort Worth Art Center. September 15.


8. Landmarks in Trust, Investment Management for VIP’s. n.d. 2 copies.


**Series III. Photographic**

**Scope and Content Note:** This series contains both originals and reproductions. Materials include photographic reproductions of art works from around the world, original and reproduction photographs of the Fort Worth area and major events, photographs of Utter and his friends and associates on their trips in the United States and Europe, photographic reproductions of Utter’s works, Utter and his fellow artists at work in the studio and at meetings, and personal photographs.

Box 2, Folder 1: Art Reproductions, Part 1
Box 2, Folder 2: Art Reproductions, Part 2
Box 2, Folder 3: Art Reproductions, Part 3
Box 2, Folder 4: Art Reproductions, Part 4
Box 2, Folder 5: Local Interest Photographs
Box 2, Folder 6: Travel Photographs, Part 1
Box 2, Folder 7: Travel Photographs, Part 2
Box 2, Folder 8: Travel Photographs, Part 3
Box 2, Folder 9: Travel Photographs, Part 4
Box 2, Folder 10: Travel Photographs, Part 5
Box 2, Folder 11: Travel Photographs, Part 6
Box 2, Folder 12: Utter Artworks, Part 1
Box 2, Folder 13: Utter Artworks, Part 2
Box 2, Folder 14: Utter Artworks, Part 3
Box 2, Folder 15: Utter Artworks, Part 4
Box 2, Folder 16: Artist and Associates in the Studio, Part 1
Box 2, Folder 17: Artist and Associates in the Studio, Part 2
Box 2, Folder 18: Personal Photographs