



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; gift of Jacqueline Damian, 2020

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

Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives
Delaware Art Museum
2301 Kentmere Parkway
Wilmington, DE 19806
(302) 571-9590
hfslibrary@delart.org

Preferred Citation

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 III: 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

- 1 Exhibitions – French Cultural Services, 1985–1988
- 2 Exhibitions – galleries
- 3 Exhibitions – *Next from New York* (Tokyo, 1986)
- 4 Exhibitions – *Six Decades of Fashion Photography* (Hofstra University, 1975)
- 5 School – notes – art history
- 6 School – notes – book arts
- 7 School – notes – German
- 8 School – notes – photography
- 9 School – notes – printmaking
- 10 School – school work
- 11 Writing – artist's statements
- 12 Writing – drafts of captions and stories – *Paper*, 1988-1993
- 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

Gelatin silver prints by Heiser of unidentified man (3 items; gift of Jacqueline Damian, 2020)

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
- 2 Fashion – Group B – Image # F61-F97 – Prints 155-229
- 3 Fashion – Group C – Image # F98-F128 – Prints 230-268
- 4 Circus – Image # C1-C87 – Prints 269-443
- 5 Events – Group A – Image # E1-E90 – Prints 444-608
- 6 Events – Group B – Image # E91-E152 – Prints 609-689
- 7 Events – Group C – Image # E153-E184 – Prints 690-730
- 8 Small Format Events – Image # SFE1.1-SFE20 – Prints 731-787
- 9 Dog Shows – Image # DS1-DS19 – Prints 788-808
- 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)