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H18-1980. Clark, Billie Houtman Caselli (1933-2011). Papers, 1979-2012. 1.00 linear ft.

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Repository citation: Hope College, "H18-1980. Clark, Billie Houtman Caselli (1933-2011). Papers, 1979-2012. 1.00 linear ft." (2020). *Collection Registers and Abstracts*. Paper 1629. https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/collection_registers/1629
June 8, 2020.

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H18-1980. Clark, Billie Houtman Caselli (1933-2011).
Papers, 1979-2012. 1.00 linear ft.

Abstract

Noted artist and sculptor from Holland, Michigan, who spent most of her adult life in Texas, and worked in a variety of media, including bronze casting, built-up cement, cement casting, and welding. Some of her sculptures are in Holland, Michigan. She also worked in ceramics, pottery, water colors, and sign painting. The collection includes photographs and CD images of Billie Houtman Caselli Clark's work, both finished and during the process of construction, and PowerPoint presentations she gave about her own work and about public sculptures in Holland, Michigan.

Accession No	H18-1980
Provenance:	Billie Houtman Caselli Clark
Donor:	John Clark, via Donna Bogle
Processed by:	Julie Van Wyk Clough, November 2019

Biography

Billie Houtman Caselli Clark was born in Holland, Michigan, on April 11, 1933. She was raised in Holland and graduated from Holland High School in 1951. She attended Hope College in Holland, Michigan, the School of the Museum of Fine Art in Boston, Massachusetts, and the University of Texas in Austin, from which she received her bachelors in studio art.

Clark is primarily known for her work as a sculptor. She worked in sculptor bronze casting, built-up cement, cement casting, and welding. She also worked in ceramics, pottery, water colors, and sign painting. Several of her sculptures can be found in Holland, Michigan. Her life-size sculpture "Tulip Time," also known as "Geertje and Cornelis," was dedicated to the City of Holland in 2006, and is located at the Window on the Waterfront Park. Her life-size bronze sculpture "Contemplation" is on the Hope College campus. A smaller bronze sculpture, "Hospital Volunteers," is located at Holland Hospital. Three larger-than-life cement figures, "Walk to Emmaus," are at the Emmaus Catholic Church in Lakeway, Texas. Clark's sculptures are also in private homes and gardens in Texas, Michigan, California, and Hawaii.

Clark and her late husband, Pierre Caselli, spent many years in Austin, Texas. Clark was a founding member of the Texas Society of Sculptors, and since its inception in 1973 served in various positions including president, event chairman, show coordinator, secretary, and newsletter editor. She was also involved with the Austin Sculpture Association, the Elisabet Ney Sculpture Conservatory, the Austin Contemporary Visual Arts Association, El Paso Pro Musica, and El Paso Newcomers Club, in various ways, including coordinating art workshops and judging art competitions.

After returning to Holland in 1999 with her husband John Clark, Billie was involved with First United Methodist Church, the Hope Academy of Senior Professionals (HASP), and Holland Friends of Art. She continued to create and exhibit her art, judged art competitions, gave several lectures on art, and played harmonica with the Noteblenders Harmonica Band.

Billie Houtman Caselli Clark died on December 21, 2011, after a long bout with cancer.

Scope and Content

The collection includes photographs and CD images of Billie Houtman Caselli Clark's work, both finished and during the process of construction, and PowerPoint presentations she gave about her own work and about public sculptures in Holland, Michigan.

Container List

Box 1

Biographical, n.d., 2011-2012

Brochures

Exhibits, 1986

Judging, 2004

Clippings, 1996-2006

Dedication, "Contemplation," 2000

Digital Media (images, music, PowerPoint) (CDs)

2004 Gala Slide show, Art 'Round Town, Saugatuck-Douglas, 2004

Foundry Photos re "Geertje and Cornelis," 2006

From Clay to Bronze: A step-by-step presentation of the creation and casting of a bronze sculpture, PowerPoint, 2004

H.A.S.P. "Tulip Time" Talk, PowerPoint, 2006

Harmonica Music, 1994

Holland Sculptures Talk, photos and PowerPoint, 2009

Photos

Holland Sculptures Talk, 2006-2009

"Promise" Dedication, 2004

"Tulip Time" (aka "Geertje and Cornelis") Dedication, 2006

Clark's sculptures and random personal files, 2006

"Billiegirl," 2005

"Contemplation" and "LaDonna," 2008

Finished sculptures and bronze sculptures under construction, 2004

"Geertje and Cornelis" Maquettes, 2005

"Geertje and Cornelis" under construction, 2006

"Geertje and Cornelis" under construction, for MAC TV, 2005

Other sculptors' sculptures, 2006

Creation of Billie's Dutch Girl, 2000-2004

Watercolors, 2004

Harmonica Performances, 2005-2008

Lectures

Epsilon, n.d.

Freedom Village, 2007

"Tulip Time" Talk at H.A.S.P., 2006

Holland Sculptures Talk, with notes, 2009

Box 2

Miscellaneous Files

Articles about art, n.d., and 2004, 2007
Austin War Memorial, 1979
Jokes, n.d.
Price List, n.d.
Public Sculptures in Holland, n.d.
Texas Society of Sculptors, 1986

Photo Albums

Figurative Sculptures
Sculptures No. 1, 1985-2006
Sculptures No. 2, n.d.
Sculptures No. 3, n.d.

Photographs

“Advance,” n.d.
“Animals,” 1985-2000
Billie Clark, n.d.
Billie Clark with Sculptures, n.d.
“Contemplation,” 2000
“Family Waiting,” 1988, and “Leap Frog,” n.d.
“Folksong,” and “Hill Country Reverie,” n.d.
for Sculpture slide show, 2010
“Geertje and Cornelis (Tulip Time)”, 2006
Grand Haven Luncheon, 2004
“Gretchen,” 1995
Holland High School 50th Reunion, 2001
“Hospital Volunteers,” 2003
Life-Size Portraits, n.d.
“Maginot Line,” and “Rooster Crowing,” n.d.
“Playing with Sally,” n.d.
Portfolio, by medium:
 Bronze Casting
 Built-Up Cement
 Cement Casting
 Ceramics
 Welding
Pottery/Ceramics, n.d.
“Rain Drops,” 1996
Sculptures
Signage for Meadowlakes, and “Water Birds,” n.d.
Study for “Rose Parks,” 2007
“Take Straight Aim,” n.d.
“Walk to Emmaus,” 2002

Portfolio by title, 1985-2006