

Finding Aid to the Red River Watercolor Society Records

Red River Watercolor Society

Red River Watercolor Society Records, 1990-2009

2 linear ft.

MSS 299

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OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance: Donated by Red River Watercolor Society in 2004, 2006, and 2013. (Acc. 2725, 2726, 2803, and 2013-033irs).

Property rights: The Institute for Regional Studies owns the property rights to this collection.

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Citation: [Identification of item]. Red River Watercolor Society Records, MSS 299, Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

HISTORY

The Red River Watercolor Society (RRWS) was founded in 1989 by Sandy Miles and Ellen Jean Diederich, with an initial membership of thirteen. It has grown into a national organization with over 180 artists, about half of whom reside in the Red River Valley. The organization holds programs, workshops, and exhibitions that address the various components of watercolor art, including both business and artistic techniques, and to encourage community involvement. According to the Society's website, their mission is "to promote education, achievement and inspiration within the Society" (www.redriverws.org).

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records of the Red River Watercolor Society document the activities of the organization during its first fourteen years of operation. The society's main annual events are a national juried art exhibition, judged by an acclaimed artist, and artist workshops. The records have been organized into nine series: Bylaws, Newsletters, Membership, Correspondence, Workshops, Exhibitions, Meeting Minutes, Finance, and Subject Files.

The [Bylaws Series](#) consists of the society's bylaws, written in 1991, and amendments to the bylaws made in 1992.

The [Newsletters Series](#) contains the society's published newsletter. Called the *Watershed* from 1992 through 1999, the newsletter was published primarily on a quarterly basis, although at times the rate of publication varied. There is a small amount of correspondence and other information relating to the newsletter accompanying these issues. Issues are from January 1991 to 2009, with some gaps.

The [Membership Series](#) contains documentation relating to the organization's membership. Included are annual member lists and directories, new member forms, and officer lists. Records pertain to the years 1990-2004.

The [Correspondence Series](#) contains letters, publications, and memos as they relate to the society. The content of the documents covers the scope of the organization, but primarily relates to donations received. Documents date from 1991-1999.

The [Workshops Series](#) relates to the scheduling and running of artist workshops. The society usually held workshops once a year, with a nationally-recognized artist conducting them. Documents include correspondence, itineraries, advertisements, and lists of participants.

The [Exhibitions Series](#) consists of the records for all the exhibitions the society sponsored. Beginning in 1994 the society has held an annual national juried art exhibition in which a well-known artist, often the same artist as conducted that year's workshop, judge entries. In addition to these exhibitions, the society also held smaller exhibitions at hospitals, museums, and other public venues. This is the largest series in the collection.

The [Meeting Minutes Series](#) includes the minutes of both general and board meetings as well as meeting agendas. Records exist from 1990-2009, and are mostly complete.

The [Financial Series](#) contains all documentation relating to matters of finance. Among these are budgets, bank statements, donation forms, tax forms, and applications for status as a non-profit. This is the second largest series in the collection.

The [Subject Files Series](#) holds all documentation not specific to any other series. Included are newsletters of other organizations, newspaper clippings, rules for use of their library, and other items

related to the Society. This series also contains information of the street shows and advertisement used by the Red River watercolor society.

SEPARATION RECORD

The following items have been separated from the collection and housed in the Institute collection.

Audio-Visual (Institute AV Collection)

Video of 1994 National Juried Art Exhibition

Video of 1995 National Juried Art Exhibition

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder Contents

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Bylaws Series

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Newsletters Series

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Workshops Series

1/9 Organization

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1/11 Cheng-Khee Chee, 1995

1/12 Michael Schlicting, 1996
1/13 Peggy Zalucha, 1996
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- 2/1 National Juried Art Exhibition, 2011
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Meeting Minutes Series

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Financial Series

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- 2/30 2012

Subject Files Series

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