

David Suter:

An Inventory of His Art Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Suter, David
Title:	David Suter Art Collection
Dates:	1970s
Extent:	4 boxes
Abstract:	The collection consists of 30 drawings by David Suter, the majority created to accompany <i>Washington Post</i> stories on Watergate.
Call Number:	Art Collection AR-00344
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research. Please note that a minimum of 24 hours notice is required to pull Art Collection materials to the Ransom Center's Reading and Viewing Room. Some materials may be restricted from viewing. To make an appointment or to reserve Art Collection materials, please contact the Center's staff at art@hrc.utexas.edu . Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation David Suter Art Collection (Art Collection AR-00344). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

Acquisition: Purchase, 2016

Processed by: Mary Alice Harper, 2016

Repository: [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

Biographical Sketch

David Suter was born in Washington, D.C., and as a child and young adult was constantly doodling and drawing. The genesis of his career as an artist began in 1969 when a friend's father, *Washington Post* editor Ben Bradlee, asked him to draw a picture of Richard Nixon for the next day's front page. The approved drawing was published as promised on July 20, 1969. Following subsequent stints at College of Wooster in Ohio, in the Army, and as a welder, Suter returned to the *Post* to illustrate the protagonists in the Watergate trials and create portraits of other politicians of the day. In 1977 Suter moved to New York and began contributing illustrations to publications such as *The New York Times*, *Harper's*, and *The Atlantic*. His distinctive style of strong lines, optical illusions and visual play is inspired by the work of M. C. Escher (1898-1972), Giuseppe Arcimboldo (1527-1593), and the graphic simplicity and straightforwardness of diagrams in *Scientific American*. Suter has since transitioned from illustrating for news media to working as a painter and sculptor.

Sources:

Parks, John. "The Power of Ink and Line." *American Artist* 68, no. 738 (2004): 68-73.

Suter, David. *Suterisms*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1986.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of 30 drawings by David Suter, all affixed to illustration board and containing annotations regarding subjects, image size, and printer instructions. The majority of the drawings, based on photographs, were created as illustrations to accompany stories on the Watergate affair and court proceedings in the *Washington Post*.

Related Material

Other collections at the Ransom Center contain material related to Watergate and include: Watergate Papers (MS-04916); Watergate Collection (MS-04968); Benjamin C. Bradlee Papers (MS-05285); and Norman Mailer Papers (MS-2643).

Index Terms

People

Bork, R.H. (Robert Heron).
Burns, Arthur F. (Arthur Frank), 1904-1987.
Connally, John Bowden, 1917-1993.
Cox, Archibald, 1912-2004.
Dean, John W. (John Wesley), 1938-.
Ehrlichman, John.
Haig, Alexander Meigs, 1924-2010.
Haldeman, H. R. (Harry R.), 1926-1993.
Hardin, Clifford M. (Clifford Morris), 1915-2010.
Jaworski, Leon.
Kissinger, Henry, 1923-.
Kleindienst, Richard G., 1923-2000.
Krogh, Egil, 1939- .
Magruder, Jeb Stuart, 1934-2014.
Mitchell, John N. (John Newton), 1913-1988.
Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994.
Reinecke, Ed, 1924-2016.
Ruckelshaus, William Doyle, 1932- .
Schorr, Daniel, 1916-2010.
St. Clair, James D., 1920-2001.
Suter, David.
Washington, Walter E., 1915-2003.

Subjects

Politics & government--United States--1970-1980.
Politics & government--Washington (D.C.)--1950-2000.
Suter, David.
Watergate Affair, 1972-1974--Portraits.

Places

Washington (D.C.).

Document Types

Pen and ink drawings.

Corporate Names

The Washington Post.

Accession Number: 2016.2.1 Dean “A” [three-quarter profile portrait of John Dean], 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 29.5 x 21.3 cm (tracing vellum); 39.5 x 24.8 cm (mount).

Location
Suter,
D., Box
1

Accession Number: 2016.2.2 Ehrlichman and Egil Krogh, [John Ehrlichman and Egil Krogh], 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 28.2 x 30.5 cm (tracing vellum); 33.5 x 36.2 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.3 Daniel Schorr, 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 21.8 x 15.5 cm (tracing vellum); 27.8 x 19.8 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.4 John Mitchell, 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 27 x 21.2 cm (tracing vellum); 32.4 x 33.3 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.5 John Ehrlichman, 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 24.4 x 20.6 cm (tracing vellum); 33 x 24.1 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.6 Donald Segretti, 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 28.5 x 22.8 cm (tracing vellum); 30.3 x 23.5 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.7 Gordon Strachan, 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 28.1 x 15.2 cm (tracing vellum); 33.3 x 20.7 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.8 President Nixon with Alexander M. Haig, Jr., 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 31.5 x 32.3 cm (tracing vellum); 32 x 32.3 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.9 John Mitchell [portrait of John Mitchell holding a pair of glasses], 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 34.2 x 28.5 cm (tracing vellum); 38.3 x 32.5 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.10 John Connally, 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 27.8 x 18.5 cm (tracing vellum); 32.7 x 23.5 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.11 Richard G. Kleindienst, 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 25.9 x 19.5 cm (tracing vellum); 34.8 x 23 cm (mount).

Location
Suter,
D., Box
2

Accession Number: 2016.2.12 Haig [split portrait of Alexander Haig and William Ruckelshaus speaking on the telephone], 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 26.3 x 37.5 cm (tracing vellum); 35.1 x 44.5 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.13 E. Howard Hunt Jr., 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 31 x 25.5 cm (tracing vellum); 37.8 x 32 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.14 John N. Mitchell [portrait of John Mitchell smoking a pipe and holding a telephone receiver], 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 21.6 x 21.3 cm (tracing vellum); 27.1 x 26.3 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.15 John W. Dean III [profile portrait of John Dean], 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 21.4 x 16.3 cm (tracing vellum); 27 x 23 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.16 Dictabelt [portrait of Richard Nixon seated at his desk], 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 27.5 x 24.3 cm (tracing vellum); 34.4 x 30.3 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.17 Archibald Cox, 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 27 x 21.5 cm (tracing vellum); 31.5 x 24.6 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.18 President Nixon with H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 33.2 x 49 cm (tracing vellum); 38.5 x 53.7 cm (mount).

Location
Suter,
D., Box
4

Accession Number: 2016.2.19 John D. Ehrlichman [portrait of John Ehrlichman with his hand curled over his mouth], 1974. Marker on tracing vellum, 21.4 x 18.5 cm (tracing vellum); 27.9 x 23.3 cm (mount).

Location
Suter,
D., Box
2

Accession Number: 2016.2.20 Arthur F. Burns, 1974 Marker on tracing vellum, 23 x 13.9 cm (tracing vellum); 17.7 x 18.3 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.21 William Simon, 1975. Marker on tracing vellum, 30 x 20.1 cm (tracing vellum); 35.2 x 27.7 cm (mount).

Location
Suter,
D., Box
3

Accession Number: 2016.2.22 Bork [portrait of Robert Bork], 1974? Marker on tracing vellum, 21.2 x 22.1 cm (tracing vellum); 28.1 x 30.3 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.23 Clifford Hardin, 1974? Marker on tracing vellum, 26.8 x 18.5 cm (tracing vellum); 35.7 x 26.7 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.24 Ed Reinecke, 1974? Marker on tracing vellum, 22.5 x 25.9 cm (tracing vellum); 28 x 24 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.25 Jaworski [portrait of Leon Jaworski], 1974? Marker on tracing vellum, 25.8 x 23.6 cm (tracing vellum); 31.3 x 26.5 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.26 Kissinger [portrait of Henry Kissinger], 1970s. Marker on tracing vellum, 25.2 x 18 cm (tracing vellum); 27 x 20.4 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.27 Magruder [portrait of Jeb Magruder], 1974? Marker on tracing vellum, 31.5 x 18.3 cm (tracing vellum); 37.7 x 19.9 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.28 Richard Nixon [head of Richard Nixon, surrounded by a halo-like circle], 1970s. Marker on paper, 29.8 x 23.2 cm

Accession Number: 2016.2.29 St. Clair [portrait of James St. Clair], 1974? Marker on tracing vellum, 27 x 18.4 cm (tracing vellum); 37.3 x 27.2 cm (mount).

Accession Number: 2016.2.30 Walter Washington, 1970s. Marker on tracing vellum, 35.1 x 21.2 cm (tracing vellum); 42.8 x 28.4 cm (mount).