

Charles Henri Ford:

An Inventory of His Art Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

- Creator:** Ford, Charles Henri, 1913-2002
- Title:** Charles Henri Ford Art Collection
- Dates:** 1964-1986
- Extent:** 1 box, 2 Flat Files (34 items)
- Abstract:** The collection consists of 15 offset lithographs by Charles Henri Ford (American, 1913-2002) from his series, *Poem Posters*, 18 collages of juxtaposed images and poetry, and one screen print.
- Call Number:** Art Collection AR-00336
- Language:** English and French
- 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 Charles Henri Ford Art Collection (AR-00336). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

Acquisition: Purchase, 1968, and gift, 2018

Processed by: Jill Morena, 2018

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

Biographical Sketch

For a biographical sketch of Ford, please see the finding aid for Charles Henri Ford Papers (MS-01435).

Sources

Pawlik, Joanna. "Re-membering Surrealism in Charles Henri Ford's Poem Posters (1964-1965)." *Art History* 41, no. 1 (2018): 154-191.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8365.12302>. Accessed 10 May 2018.

Rood, Karen L. "Charles Henri Ford (10 February 1913-)." *American Poets, 1880-1945: Second Series*, edited by Peter Quartermain, 48, Gale, (1986): 191-210. *Dictionary of Literary Biography* 48 (1986). *Dictionary of Literary Biography Complete Online*, <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/FEYRDK912515051/DLBC?u=txshracd2598&sid=DLBC>. Accessed 10 May 2018.

Smith, Roberta. "ART IN REVIEW; Charles Henri Ford -- 'Printed Matter 1929-1969'." *The New York Times*, 25 June 1999.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of 33 artworks by Charles Henri Ford (American, 1913-2002) that were created in collaboration with other known artists and individuals, and one screen print.

It is divided into three series: I. Poem Posters, II. Collages, and III. Other Works. Series I consists of 15 offset lithographs that exist in unique or limited edition poster format in combinations of layered, interchangeable text and images of celebrities, poets, and other literary and artistic figures of the 1960s. Ford produced these works in close collaboration with his printer in Athens, Vassily Papachrysanthou. *Poem Posters* was first exhibited in the United States at Cordier and Ekstrom Gallery in New York in May 1965. Ford created a film of the exhibition opening party which he also entitled *Poem Posters* (1967). The titles for this series are taken from checklists for exhibitions of the posters at Ubu Gallery, New York City (Charles Henri Ford: Printed Matter 1929-1969, May 15-July 2, 1999) and Guillaume Galozzi (Gallery), New York City (Charles Henri Ford: Poster Poems [1965], October 7-30, 1993), as well as titles from Joanna Pawlik's article, "Re-membering Surrealism in Charles Henri Ford's Poem Posters (1964-1965)" (see Sources below for bibliographic information).

Series II. Collages is divided into Subseries A and B. Subseries A contains collages of clippings by Reepak Shakya, paired with haiku by Ford. Subseries B is comprised of black and white photographs by Indra Tamang with haiku by Ford. Ford spent much of his time in Nepal after his first visit in 1972. Some photographs in this series may have been taken in Ford's home, named The Hermitage, in Kathmandu.

Series III. Other Works consists of one screen print of collaged images of well-known artists and persons, including Andy Warhol, members of Warhol's circle, and Ford himself. This image was used for the front and back covers of Ford's publication of collage poems, *Silver Flower Coo* (1968). The source of the print title is a juxtaposition of a curator and cataloger supplied title (in brackets) and a lot listing from the collection of Bob Colacello, sold through Paddle8 auction house on June 5, 2014.

Related Material

Manuscripts and correspondence by, to, and from Ford can be found in the Daisy Aldan Papers (MS-00056), Paul Bowles Collection (MS-00479), Charles Henri Ford Papers (MS-01435), Dame Edith Sitwell Collection (MS-03855), Pavel Tchelitchew Collection (MS-04175), and Parker Tyler Collection (MS-04300). Photographs of Ford can be found in the Charles Henri Ford Literary File Photography Collection, Pavel Tchelitchew Literary File Photography Collection (PH-02809), and Parker Tyler Literary File Photography Collection (PH-02656). One drawing of Ford by Tchelitchew is present in the Pavel Tchelitchew Art Collection (AR-00270).

Index Terms

People

Auden, W. H. (Wystan Hugh), 1907-1973.

Ford, Charles Henri.

Joans, Ted.

Malanga, Gerard.

Mansfield, Jayne, 1933-1967.

Rosenthal, Irving, 1930- .

Shakya, Reepak.

Tamang, Indra.

Warhol, Andy, 1928-1987.

Subjects

Buddhism--Nepal.

Concrete poetry.

Gay artists--United States.

Haiku.

Mythology, Greek.

Portraits--1960-1970.

Portraits--1980-1990.

Places

Nepal.

Document Types

Collages (visual works).

Offset lithography.

Posters.

Series I. Poem Posters, 1964-1965

Accession Number: 68.116.1 Charles Henri Ford as Narcissus [Pink] , 1964-1965. Offset lithograph, 100 x 69.5 cm (approximate); 104 x 77 cm (dimensions with affixed wooden dowels).

Location
Flat File

Accession Number: 68.116.2 Charles Henri Ford as Narcissus / The Ace of Spades is Me--Ted Joans , 1964-1965. Offset lithograph, 100 x 69.8 cm (approximate); 104 x 77 cm (dimensions with affixed wooden dowels).

Accession Number: 68.116.3 The Ace of Spades is Me--Ted Joans, 1964-1965. Offset lithograph, 99.1 x 70 cm (approximate); 100 x 77 cm (dimensions with affixed wooden dowels).

Accession Number: 68.116.4 Gerard Malanga as Orpheus / Irving Rosenthal as L'Epoux Abandonné, 1964-1965. Offset lithograph, 100.1 x 70 cm (approximate); 103.5 x 77 cm (dimensions with affixed wooden dowels).

Accession Number: 68.116.5 Irving Rosenthal as L'Epoux Abandonné, 1964-1965. Offset lithograph, 101 x 70 cm (approximate); 104 x 77 cm (dimensions with affixed wooden dowels).

Accession Number: 68.116.6 El Cordobes as Endymion [Purple/Orange], 1964-1965. Offset lithograph, 100 x 70 cm (approximate); 103.5 x 77 cm (dimensions with affixed wooden dowels).

Accession Number: 68.116.7 El Cordobes as Endymion / Charles Henri Ford as Narcissus, 1964-1965. Offset lithograph, 101 x 70 cm (approximate); 104.5 x 77 cm (dimensions with affixed wooden dowels).

Accession Number: 68.116.8 [Fallen Woman]?, 1964-1965. Offset lithograph, 100.1 x 69.5 cm (approximate); 102 x 77 cm (dimensions with affixed wooden dowels).

Accession Number: 68.116.9 Jayne as Jayne [Pink], 1964-1965. Offset lithograph, 100 x 70 cm (approximate); 104 x 77 cm (dimensions with affixed wooden dowels).

Accession Number: 68.116.10 Jayne as Jayne [Violet], 1964-1965. Offset lithograph, 99 x 70 cm (approximate); 103.5 x 77 cm (dimensions with affixed wooden dowels).

Accession Number: 68.116.11 Jayne as Jayne [Blue], 1964-1965. Offset lithograph, 98.5 x 70 cm (approximate); 103 x 77 cm (dimensions with affixed wooden dowels).

Accession Number: 68.116.12 Jayne as Jayne / One of the World's Giant Queens, 1964-1965. Offset lithograph, 100 x 69.5 cm (approximate); 103.5 x 77 cm (dimensions with affixed wooden dowels).

Accession Number: 68.116.13 Wylan [W. H. Auden] as Dracula [Pink], 1964-1965. Offset lithograph, 70.2 x 99.9 cm (approximate); 103 x 77 cm (dimensions with affixed wooden dowels).

Accession Number: 68.116.14 Wylan [W. H. Auden] as Dracula [Green], 1964-1965. Offset lithograph, 70 x 99 cm (approximate); 103 x 77 cm (dimensions with affixed wooden dowels).

Accession Number: 68.116.15 Wylan [W. H. Auden] as Dracula [Red], 1964-1965. Offset lithograph, 70 x 101 cm (approximate); 78.5 x 104.5 cm (dimensions with affixed wooden dowels).

Series II. Collages, 1986

Subseries A: Charles Henri Ford (American, 1913-2002) and Reepak Shakya

Accession Number: 2018.1.1 Live your life as / Given to you or else miss the / Point of being here, 1986. Felt-tip pens, halftone and electrophotographic prints affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Location
Ford,
C.H.,
Box 1

Accession Number: 2018.1.2 Looking back just submit / To the spell as with a drug / And there it is, 1986. Felt-tip pens, halftone and electrophotographic prints affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Accession Number: 2018.1.3 Give it form no / Matter how we try we never / Stand fully revealed, 1986. Felt-tip pens, halftone and electrophotographic prints affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm

Accession Number: 2018.1.4 Barren hills suitable / For trees barren torsoes [sic] / Suit their ebony, 1986. Gelatin silver print, felt-tip pens, and electrophotographic print affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Accession Number: 2018.1.5 With a counterfeit / Emotion you may see things / You weren't meant to see, 1986. Felt-tip pens, halftone and electrophotographic prints affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Accession Number: 2018.1.6 Our phases mani-/ Festations of the same / Being we never change, 1986. Felt-tip pens, halftone and electrophotographic prints affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Accession Number: 2018.1.7 A wave of treacherous/ History the winner glows / The loser thinks, 1986. Felt-tip pens, halftone and electrophotographic prints affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Accession Number: 2018.1.8 It is importantly / Persuasive what we see is / What we live by, 1986. Felt-tip pens, halftone and electrophotographic prints affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Accession Number: 2018.1.9 Forget about patience / Anything's the answer / Impatience impels, 1986. Felt-tip pens, halftone and electrophotographic prints affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Subseries B: Charles Henri Ford (American, 1913-2002) and Indra Tamang

Accession Number: 2018.1.10 Ford, Charles Henri, 1913-2002, and Tamang, Indra. Ephemerality / Of our own activities / Seldom seem that way, 1986. Gelatin silver print, felt-tip pens, and electrophotographic print affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Location
Ford,
C.H.,
Box 1

Accession Number: 2018.1.11 Ford, Charles Henri, 1913-2002, and Tamang, Indra. A realisation / Of fantasy yes this / Little Piece of Child, 1986. Gelatin silver print, felt-tip pens, and electrophotographic print affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Accession Number: 2018.1.12 Ford, Charles Henri, 1913-2002, and Tamang, Indra. I'll tell you the secret / Of the Mongolian look / Mask is unlined, 1986. Gelatin silver print, felt-tip pens, and electrophotographic print affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Accession Number: 2018.1.13 Ford, Charles Henri, 1913-2002, and Tamang, Indra. A man's genius / A woman's looks need / Reassurance from others, 1986. Gelatin silver print, felt-tip pens, and electrophotographic print affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Accession Number: 2018.1.14 Ford, Charles Henri, 1913-2002, and Tamang, Indra. If you understand / All that I say you'll smile then / Hide yourself away, 1986. Gelatin silver print, felt-tip pens, and electrophotographic print affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Accession Number: 2018.1.15 Ford, Charles Henri, 1913-2002, and Tamang, Indra. The mask of old age / Is the only mask left all / Others discarded, 1986. Gelatin silver print, felt-tip pens, and electrophotographic print affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Accession Number: 2018.1.16 Ford, Charles Henri, 1913-2002, and Tamang, Indra. They got married / Then divorced Mr. Need and / Miss Satisfaction, 1986. Gelatin silver print, felt-tip pens, and electrophotographic print affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Accession Number: 2018.1.17 Ford, Charles Henri, 1913-2002, and Tamang, Indra. Do I like my face / Would I not like it better / Were it really mine, 1986. Gelatin silver print, felt-tip pens, and electrophotographic print affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Accession Number: 2018.1.18 Ford, Charles Henri, 1913-2002, and Tamang, Indra. Face of the Orient / Constantly mobile / Inscrutability, 1986. Gelatin silver print, felt-tip pens, and electrophotographic print affixed to graph paper, 38 x 26.5 cm.

Series III. Other Works, 1968

Accession Number: 68.116.16 Factory Faces [cover design for Silver Flower Co], 1968. Screen print, 64.5 x 100 cm. **Location**
Flat File