Artwork related to W. D. Snodgrass
circa 1986-1998

Abstract: This collection of artwork by American painter and poet DeLoss McGraw comprises ten pieces of original artwork reflecting the artist’s collaboration with, creative responses to, and inspiration drawn from the works of American poet W. D. (William De Witt) Snodgrass.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: GRA 120
Title: Artwork related to W. D. Snodgrass
Extent: 10 items
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: GRA 120, Mcgraw, DeLoss, Artwork related to W. D. Snodgrass, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

Shelving Summary: items 1-10: Shelved in SPEC MSS oversize mapcases

Location: Special Collections, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/


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Biographical Notes

DeLoss McGraw

Painter and poet DeLoss McGraw (born 1945) is known for incorporating literary texts into his artwork, which has resulted in collaborations between the artist and various authors, most notably American poet W. D. Snodgrass. McGraw's works draws upon influences from folk art.

W. D. Snodgrass

Pulitzer Prize-winning American poet W. D. (William De Witt) Snodgrass (1926-2009) published over 30 volumes of poetry, criticism, and translations. Snodgrass was one of the early practitioners of the confessional style in American poetry with his first volume Heart’s Needle (1959), which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1960. Snodgrass held faculty positions at several universities, including the University of Delaware, where he was Distinguished Professor of creative writing and contemporary literature from 1980 to 1994.

Sources:

Scope and Content Note

This collection of artwork by American painter and poet DeLoss McGraw comprises ten pieces of original artwork reflecting the artist's collaboration with, creative responses to, and inspiration drawn from the works of American poet W. D. (William De Witt) Snodgrass.

McGraw first encountered Snodgrass's poetry in 1976; McGraw began a correspondence with Snodgrass when he sent the poet examples of his work inspired by Snodgrass's poetry. Their collaborative relationship flourished, and McGraw continued to draw inspiration from Snodgrass's verse. McGraw's paintings have been reproduced alongside Snodgrass's poems in volumes such as *The Kinder Capers: Poems* (1986), *W. D.'s Midnight Carnival* (1988), and *The Death of Cock Robin* (1989).

Included are three framed collages, six framed gouache paintings, and one unframed gouache painting. The unframed painting "Mr. Evil" is an oversize gouache painting on paper embellished with decorative papers cut in the form of a wolf-like creature with outstretched arms.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names


Topical Terms


Artistic collaboration--United States--History--20th century.

Artists--United States--Pictorial works--History--20th century.

Artists--United States--History--20th century.

Form/Genre Terms

Collages (visual works)

Gouaches (paintings)

Occupation

Artists (visual artists)

Personal Contributors


Related Materials in this Repository

W. D. Snodgrass papers
Detailed Description of the Collection

"W. D. Reads Too Much Dostoyevsky and Nears the Edge", undated [Item 1]
Art original: gouache on paper; 32 x 25 in.

"W. D. Creates a Device for Inverting Mr. Evil", circa 1989 [Item 2]
Art original: gouache on paper; 37 x 29 in.
Reproduced in *The Death of Cock Robin* (1989) with the poem of the same title.

"The Locked House", circa 1986 [Item 3]
Art original: gouache on paper; 35 x 27 in.
Response to Snodgrass's poem "The Locked House."

"The Poet Wounded and Vengeful", undated [Item 4]
Art original: gouache on paper; 35 x 27 in.

Collages
These three collages were created from Snodgrass's letters to McGraw and photographs of the poet and artist.

Collage (1), undated [Item 5]
Art original: collage on paper; 10.5 x 12 in.

Collage (2), undated [Item 6]
Art original: collage on paper; 10.5 x 12 in.

Collage (3), undated [Item 7]
Art original: collage on paper; 32 x 11.5 in.

"W. D. in a Graveyard", undated [Item 8]
Art original: gouache on paper; 31 x 33 in.

"W. D. Chasing Fireflies", circa 1998 [Item 9]
Art original: gouache on paper; 34 x 26.5 in.

"Mr. Evil", circa 1988 [Item 10]
Art original: gouache on paper; 100 x 18 in.
This painting was given to Snodgrass by McGraw prior to the publication of *Midnight Carnival* (1988).