Finding Aid for the Bob Thompson Collection

**Title:** Bob Thompson Collection

**Date Span:** 1948–1999

**Extent:** 0.5 linear feet; 1 box

**Language(s):** English

**Description:** Bob Thompson was a Louisville born, University of Louisville art student and figurative painter who worked primarily in New York in the 1960s. This collection includes biographies and family data, pictures of photographs of Thompson and his family, letters to his mother, articles about him, exhibition catalogs and reviews, obituary notices, announcements of memorial services held, and two tapes of the memorial services in New York.

**Box 1**

- **Folder 1 – Obituaries**

- **Folder 2 – Photographs of paintings**
  - Diana and the Huntress (1956)
  - The Accusation (1965)
Finding Aid for the Robert “Bob” Thompson Collection

- Expulsion and Nativity
- Five un-identified photographs

**Folder 3**
- List of collections

**Folder 4 – Gift report**
- Gift Report from the University of Louisville dated 22 November 1967.
- List of gifts

**Folder 5**
- L.S. Ayers advertisement from Harper’s Bazaar, October 1964 (His painting is hanging in the background of the photograph.)

**Folder 6**
- Funeral Program dated 18 June 1966.
- Magnetic recorded tape of the funeral services (2 copies)
- Audiocassette of the funeral services

**Box 2**

**Folder 1 – Exhibition catalogs**
Finding Aid for the Robert “Bob” Thompson Collection

- City Gallery. *Bob Thompson and Peter Passuntino, Exhibition of Paintings.* [n.d.]
- Press Release from Zabriskie Gallery about the Jay Milder and Bob Thompson show from 1960.
- Letter from Konrad Kuchel, American Federation of Arts, to Margaret Bridwell dated 29 December 1965.
- Copy of catalog and sales list from The Figure in Contemporary American Painting, 1965.
- Clippings about various exhibitions Mr. Thompson took part in.

• Folder 2 – Exhibition catalogs
Finding Aid for the Robert “Bob” Thompson Collection

- Bond, Fred F. *A Bob Thompson Memorial Exhibit.* J.B. Speed Museum. [n.d.]

- Folder 3 – images of works
  - 16 color slides of his paintings
  - 1 CD-ROM of 16 color slides of his paintings

- Folder 4 – Newspaper clippings
  - “Academic Strait Jacket; Disdainful Thompson.” *Gazette of the arts in Louisville,* February 1959, p. 18. (2 copies)
  - “2 Young Artists Impressive.” [unknown newspaper], [n.d.]. (2 copies)
  - “Art Show...” *The Louisville Defender,* 2, February 1961, p.7. (2 copies)
  - Seldis, Henry J. “Negro in Art – Talent is Color Blind.” *Los Angeles Times,* 25 September 1966, p.34. (2 copies)
  - Glueck, Grace. “Exhibition it Geneva to include late Louisvillian’s work.” *The Louisville Courier-Journal & Times,* 18 April 1971. (2 copies)
Finding Aid for the Robert “Bob” Thompson Collection


- **Folder 5 – Family data**
  - Pennant flat from the RMS Queen Elizabeth
  - Newspaper clipping from the *Louisville Defender* of the 1959 Central High School football team.
  - Vacation Bible School certificate for Bob Thompson from First Baptist Church, dated 2 July 1948.
  - Biography for Bob Thompson from the Martha Jackson Gallery, New York, NY. For his Memorial show.
  - Forward. vol.5, no. 7 1964.
  - Erickson, Jean O’Brien. “Shunpike to Cape Cod: Fun for the Children, And for the Adults, Too.” *The Boston Globe*, 26 July 1959, p.44.
  - Advertisement for the Seong Moy School of Painting and Graphic Arts, Provincetown, MA.
  - Souvenir program One Hundredth Anniversary Services and Homecoming Celebration of the First Baptist Church. Elizabethtown, KY. 1966.
  - Central High School, Louisville, KY graduation invitation for class of 1955
  - Homecoming – Thanksgiving Day Program, 25 November 1954

**Box 3**

- **Folder 1 – Photographs**
  - Clipping of a lecture about Elizabethan Theater
  - Thompson’s first trip to New York City, 1951 or 1952
  - Thompson photo dated 1960
  - Prom picture 1955
Finding Aid for the Robert “Bob” Thompson Collection

- Thompson and his grandmothers at his sister’s wedding, undated
- Thompson family dated 1948
- Picture of Thompson’s father dated 1950
- Picture of Thompson’s sister’s wedding, undated
- 1 “King Size Album” of four snapshots
- Photograph of Thompson and Carol Plenda, wedding day, 16 December 1960
- Photograph of wedding Thompson and Plenda 16 December 1960 (2 copies)
- Six undated, un-marked photographs
- Two sets of negatives
- **Folder 2 – correspondence with family**
  - Postcard from Thompson to his family dated 30 April 1959
  - Undated birthday card to a sister
  - Christmas card to mother dated 20 December 1964
  - Postcard from Cecile (sister) to their Mother dated 9 February 1961
  - Five postcards not sent via postal services
  - Letter to Mother dated 1964
  - Letter to Mother dated 1959
  - Letter to Mother dated 1960
  - Letter to Mother undated written by his sister Cecile
- **Folder 3 – Correspondence with Carol Thompson**
  - Letter to Art Library from Carol Thompson dated 6 December 1967
  - Letter to C. Thompson from M. Bridwell dated 12 December 1967
  - Letter to Margaret Bridwell from C. Thompson dated 18 December 1967
  - Letter to C. Thompson from M. Bridwell dated 5 January 1968
  - Letter to C. Thompson from M. Bridwell dated 5 February 1968
- **Folder 4 – Correspondence, misc.**
  - Letter from Margaret Bridwell to Bob Thompson dated 15 February 1960
  - Letter from Charles Jones to B.S. Thompson (mother) dated 18 May 1961
- **Folder 5**
  - Statements as an artist
- **Folder 6**
  - Sketch by Thompson of his mother dated 1961
  - Sketch by Thompson, undated
  - Sketch of Thompson by Bill Barrell
- **Folder 7 – Letters of condolence**
Finding Aid for the Robert “Bob” Thompson Collection

- Acknowledgement of a memorial gift in Thompson’s name from Mrs. Willis S. Evans Jr., dated 18 July 1966
- Condolence letter from Ulfert Wilke dated 28 June 1966
- Condolence card from Dorothy Wilke dated 10 June 1966
- Condolence letter from Jay and Sheila Milder dated 5 June 1966
- Condolence letter from Mary S. Nay dated 4 August 1966
- Condolence letter from Martha Jackson dated 13 July 1966

- Homecoming Program

Box 4

- Folder 1 – collected materials not in original gift
  - Exhibit announcement to Seeking Bob Thompson: Dialogue/Object.

- Folder 2 – materials from Ekstrom files

- Folder 3


- Loose items
  - 1999 calendar featuring Bob Thompson’s work.
  - Steve Lacy album cover featuring Bob Thompson’s work.