FINE ARTS PRINT COLLECTION

Andrew Nigon, Acting Curator
Website: http://oregondigital.org/sets/fairbanks

The School of Arts and Communication’s Fine Art Print Collection contains nearly 600 prints representing numerous countries and spanning several centuries. The collection’s holdings includes work of various styles, including Japanese Ukiyo-e, modern Japanese woodblock, 20th century Latin American, German Expressionism, and 20th century American prints. Artists include Max Beckmann, Francisco Goya, Hideo Hagiwara, Hiroshige Utagawa, William Hogarth, Kathe Kollwitz, Kunisada, Mauricio Lasansky, Otto Mueller, Max Pechstein, Robert Rauschenberg, Jun’Ichiro Sekino, Edward Weston, Yeizan and others.

Prints in the collection have been largely donated over the last seventy years from various sources, including patrons, faculty members, international donors, professional artists, and former students. The collection began in earnest under the direction of Gordon Gilkey. Formerly the chair of OSU’s former Department of Art, Gilkey became the dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and later became the curator of the Vivian and Gordon Gilkey Center for Graphic Arts at the Portland Art Museum. While chairman of the Department of Art at OSU, he hired numerous faculty who were talented printmakers. Berk Chappell, John Rock, Paul Gunn, Shepard Levine, Nelson Sandgren, and Demetrios Jameson not only made prints, but helped collect and find donations to add to the collection.

A World Print Competition portfolio of twenty prints was added in 1973. Portfolios of Latin American artists were organized as Actualidad Gráfica Panorama Artístico, and OSU was a recipient in 1975 and 1976. Photographs are included in this collection. In 1974, photography students petitioned the OSU Foundation to fund the purchase of an edition of The Edward Weston Fiftieth Anniversary Portfolio.

A six-year rejuvenation project of preservation, cataloging, and digital photography has culminated in a new collection website. The collection now serves as an educational resource for the students and faculty at OSU, and the prints are now also accessible via the Web for the general public and other educational institutions. The website also acts as a research center for art students, who can research prints and submit research papers to be Web published. The collection is housed in Valley Library, which offers important temperature and climate controls.