

UCO Archives and Special Collections
presents

UCO Collections Exhibition



Special Thanks

The *UCO Collections Exhibition* recognizes nine significant collections from the UCO Archives and Special Collections, History Department, Biology Department, and College of Education and Professional Studies. Also, the students' research posters from the Global Art and Visual Culture program are shown in the 2nd floor alcove. This newly organized exhibition, as well as collaborations among those diverse disciplines allows an interdisciplinary and multicultural engagement in academic studies that foster transformative learning experience for UCO and surrounding communities. We are grateful to be able to share this exhibit. We would like to thank those who had a hand in making this exhibit possible.

Don Betz, President

Habib Tabatabai, Executive Director, Max Chamber Library

Nicole Willard, Asst. Executive Director, Max Chambers Library

Lynda Loucks, Biology Department and Natural History Museum

Mary Huffman, Coordinator of Grants & Contracts, College of Education & Professional Studies

Heidi Vaughn, Director, Laboratory of History Museum, Department of History & Geography

Teresa Pac, Associate Professor, Global Art and Visual Culture, Department of Art

Shikoh Shiraiwa, Library Technician III, Archives & Special Collections

Suzanne Silvester, Director, Melton Art Reference Library

Bob and Kathy Thomas, Donor

Equlla Brothers, Library Specialist, Archives & Special Collections

Josiah Cogan, Library Specialist, Archives & Special Collections

Diane Rice, Library Technician, Archives & Special Collections

Amena Butler, Museum Studies Graduate Student, Archives Intern

Michael May, Studio Art (Ceramic), Archives/STLR Intern

Olivia Reyes, Global Art and Visual Cultures, Archives/STLR Intern

Lyazzat Galilolla, Global Art and Visual Culture, Archives/STLR Intern

Table of Contents

Special Thanks	1
Introduction	4
UCO Collections:	
African Art Collection	6
Melton Legacy Collection	7
Oklahoma Art Collections	8
Bob & Kathy Thomas Collection	9
Central and South American Art Collections	10
Oceanic Art Collections	10
Laboratory of History Museum	12
Natural History Museum	14
Oklahoma Fashion Museum	16

Introduction

UCO houses many significant collections from ancient to contemporary, which are diverse in culture. Max Chambers Library has taken the initiative to collaborate with various academic departments to showcase a sampling of the extraordinary collections the University holds. This new exhibition is a product of a collaboration with the UCO Natural History Collection from the Department of Biology, Fashion Collection from the College of Education and Professional Studies, and History Collection from the Department of History. Adding to those major collections, the UCO Archives and Special Collections showcases Melton Legacy Collection, Oklahoma Art Collection, Central and South American Art Collection, African Art Collection, Oceanic Art Collection, and Bob & Kathy Thomas Collection. Student research posters are also displayed in the alcove by the Global Art and Visual Culture program of the Art Department.

All nine collections are displayed in glass cases, which may slightly hinder viewing but keeps the items safe and secure. The Library acknowledges the limitation of our resources and the problematic nature of displaying cultural objects. The UCO Archives is committed to researching and seeking out best practices to care for these irreplaceable assets. We want to see these collections utilized and integrated into academic and community educational programs. The exhibition also provides an opportunity for the audience to see diverse collections all together in the same space. The exhibition undertakes to represent the equality of all cultures and cultural objects, such as African Art, Central and South American Art, Oceanic Art, Oklahoma Art, and Melton Legacy Collection, aiming to evoke conversation on the established values of all the objects, including monetary value and aesthetics. The UCO Library is not a museum or gallery, but we engage in the issues of representation of diverse cultures, joining the current movement in the museum field to understand the problematic nature of the long-institutionalized practice of cultural representations in museums.

UCO Archives and Special Collections has been active in training students in the fields of archives and museum studies, often engaging in contemporary social issues through material culture. The UCO *Collections Exhibition* is a vital visual resource for our society to openly discuss and tackle the current complex issue of making our society more inclusive and equal.

Archives and Special Collections
Max Chambers Library
University of Central Oklahoma
October 8, 2018
Edmond

Archives and Special Collections
Max Chambers Library

African Art Collection

The University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) holds more than 1,200 African art objects mainly from the Sub-Saharan region. Around 200 African artworks are displayed on the second and third floors of the UCO Max Chambers Library. More than 100 cultures are represented, and these artworks illustrate the complex visual language of social, cultural, religious, and political systems of their respective societies.

It is imperative for all of us to remember the majority of the African artworks are not created to be displayed in a museum and gallery settings. Most of the African objects here at UCO have been taken out of context. For instance, masks are only fragments of entire costumes. Typically, mask, costume, music, and dance are all together to create one dynamic and complex art form. Those objects that are displayed in the museum setting have already lost the souls and spirits for what those objects were created. In many African societies, masks and other regalia are not simply objects, but a medium to transform humans into spiritual beings, ancestors and God messengers, and even God. Masqueraders become spiritual beings, who connects the world of human and the world of the spirit.

Chambers Library would like to acknowledge this tremendous paradox of “displaying” African regalia in a museum setting. Also, in general, the Library acknowledges the complex sociopolitical relationship often creating issues between Western narratives (as they are often understood as a universal standard) towards Non-Western objects, such as African and Native American objects. We are determined to continue researching and pursuing the best practice to care for these collections and we are constantly reevaluate proper display methods.

The UCO African Art Collection is rich in diversity and demonstrate the complexity of African societies and their relationship with the realm of spirits and Gods. Misconceptions have often been produced by western or colonizer narratives only for them to understand the ‘unknown’ reinforcing the biased views as the universal standard, which often secures the sociocultural, sociopolitical, and socioeconomic dominance over Non-Western cultures.

UCO African Art Collection may fail to showcase the balance of gender roles in African secret societies. Most African communities have both men and women’s only exclusive societies. As women represent the mother earth, women are as respected as men, if not more. As the men’s secret societies hold power in their communities, it is not exclusive as the women’s secret societies hold just as much power. African Art also teaches us the fluidity of the culture including gender and gender roles.

The UCO African Art Collection permits comparative studies of African art within the framework of changing historical conditions and traditions, including migrations, colonization, wars, and shifting of borders. Exposure to comparative models provides students with knowledge of the complexity and fluidity of visual language among Sub-Saharan societies and their dynamic multicultural environments.

While many of the objects are owned by UCO, some of the pieces are on loan from private collections. Much of the UCO African art was collected by late UCO Professor of Art, Dr. William Hommel, specialist of African art.



*Chiwara Headdress
Bamana, Mali*

Melton Legacy Collection



Lot and His Daughters
Sir Peter Paul Rubens

Melton Legacy Collection at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) is global in content as it permits the comparative study of artistic traditions from all continents. The Melton Legacy Collection consists of 62 European and American paintings and drawings from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries. Among these artworks are significant masterpieces by artists from the Studio of El Greco (Greek/Spanish, 1541-1614), Sir Peter Paul Rubens (Flemish, 1577-1640), Thomas Moran (American, 1837-1926), Grant Wood (American, 1891-1942), Juan Gris (Spanish, 1887-1927), Georges Rouault (French, 1871-1958), Edvard Munch (Norwegian, 1863-1944), among others. The Collection represents various artistic traditions, including Renaissance, Flemish/Dutch, Barbizon School, French Impressionism, French Expressionism, American Impressionism, as well as different genera such as landscapes, seascapes, portraiture, and still life. The Melton Legacy Collection

reflects the significant cross-cultural exchanges not only from Europe to America but from the West to rest of the world.

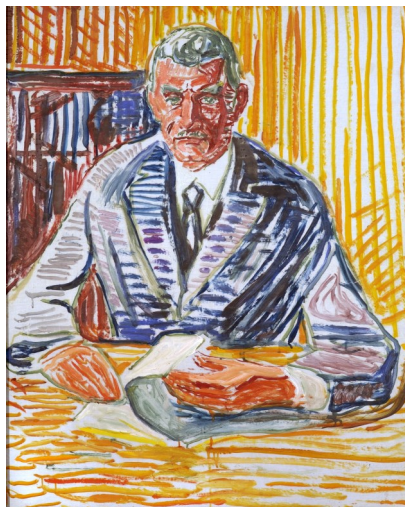
This diversity of the Melton Legacy Collection allows the UCO community to be critically involved in research and to raise global competency including the understandings of the societies in the frameworks of socio-cultural- socioeconomic, political, and religious phenomena through visual culture.



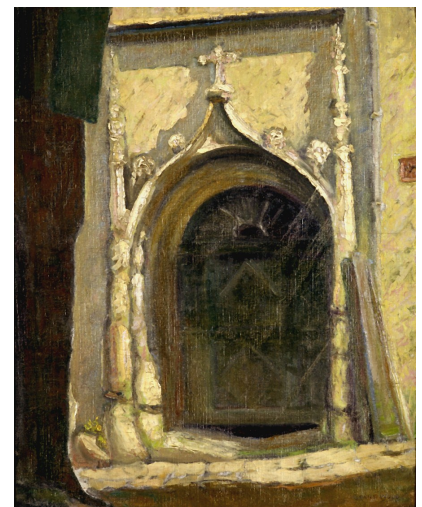
Venice at Sunset
Thomas Moran



Rocks Along Costilla Creek
Rod Goebel



Portrait of Nikolai Rygh
Edvard Munch



Monastery Portal
Grant Wood

Oklahoma Art Collection



Returning Home
Anton Harjo

The Oklahoma Art Collection is part of a gift by the Melton Art Reference Library in 2017. The Melton Art Reference Library (MARL), founded by Howard and Merle (Buttram) Melton, originated out of the Melton's desire to educate themselves and build a private art collection. As their collection grew, they soon recognized the need in the community for such a resource. Thus, the MARL was established in 1989 as a non-profit organization. Their daughter, Suzanne (Melton) Sylvester, continued to operate the MARL after her parents passed away.

Suzanne's goal was always to educate people about art and elevate Oklahoma's art culture. Keeping this goal in mind as she neared retirement, Suzanne reached out to UCO and offered the stewardship of the collection to the university. On November 17, 2017, UCO President Don Betz and the members of the Melton Art Reference Library Board of Trustees signed an agreement that officially gifted the collection to the University of Central Oklahoma.

The Melton Collection highlights various styles of Oklahoma, American, and European art. The collection features examples of the Bacone style, Southern Plains style, Contemporary Native Pop, realism, American impressionism, and expressionism. There are more than 340 artworks in the collection. It includes the paintings of 19th century American and European artists such as Homer Dodge Martin, Alexander Wyant, Gabriel Eugene Isabey, Plains Ledger artist Wiyaluaofra Zan (Shows the Feather), Potawatomi artist Woody Crumbo, Acee Blue Eagle, African American expressionist Suzanne Thomas-Justice, and contemporary mixed media artist Skip Hill.



Landscape
Lenard Good



Portrait of Maria Callas
Sohail Shehada

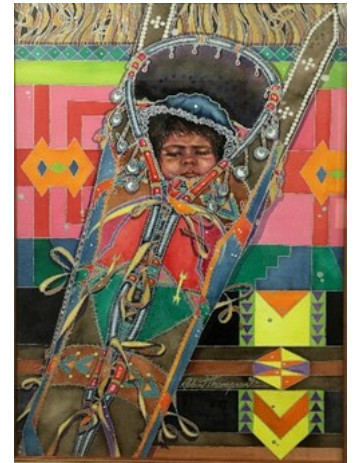
To date, the Melton Collection is the largest single gift in the university's history. In all, the donation consists of more than 340 original artworks, thousands of prints, a 5000+ volume library, which includes catalog raisonnés, exhibition catalogues, and sales catalogues, and 130 cubic feet of subject files regarding both well-known and lesser-known artists.

This new acquisition enriches UCO's academic curricula by providing valuable resources for research and art exhibitions. The collection fosters the study of various topics, ranging from Oklahoma regional art to global art history, by providing perspective on the very active and evolving communication of visual culture.

Bob and Kathy Thomas Collection

In February 2017, twenty beautiful art pieces (2-dimensional and 3-dimensional) were generously donated by Edmond residents, Bob and Kathy Thomas. Their home is full of wonderful art as they have been avid collectors for year. The gift came in perfect timing for the Grand Re-Opening of Old North. Their donation adorned the walls on the 3rd floor for this momentous occasion. Most of the artworks were produced by Oklahoma artists and are representative of the Native American and American West genres.

This new collection enriches the UCO's academic curricula providing valuable resources for research and art exhibition. These works foster the comparative study of Oklahoma regions to global perspectives in the framework of artists social engagement through visual culture.



Papoose
Robin Thompson

“We are often asked, “when did you start collecting” and the answer is “we never did START collecting” rather we just discovered, one day, we had a collection. In 1978, we visited Ruidoso, New Mexico and immediately fell in love with the town, the mountains and THE ART! We saw beautiful paintings by various artist that followed contemporary South-west and Native American theme. We bought paintings we enjoyed, Bob likes landscapes and I like faces so together we have a varied collection.

When we heard that Old North was ready to reopen and they planned galleries in various parts of this historic structure, we decided it was the perfect place to house some of our pieces especially those by Oklahoma artist or with an Oklahoma connection.

The Thomas family is proud to be part of the Broncho family. Over forty family members have graduated or attended this place of higher education starting with the Normal School, Central State, C.S.U. and The University of Central Oklahoma. It is this family's honor to be a part of the revitalization of Old North.”

Bob and Kathy Thomas, February 2017



Rodkey Mill & RR
Frances Bryan



Isis Temple
Kenny McKenna

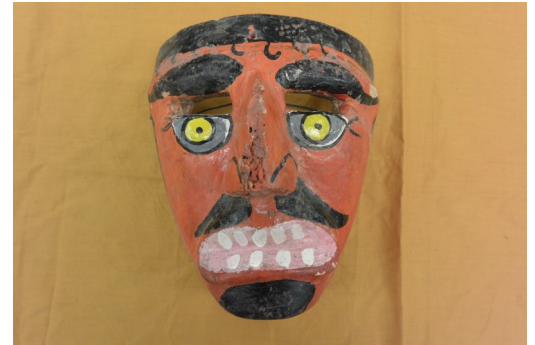
Central and South American Art Collection



Serpent Head
Teotihuacan, Mexico

The University of Central Oklahoma's Central and South American Art Collection contains 22 art pieces representing the Huetar and Chira cultures of Costa Rica, the Inca/Sican culture, the Maya civilization, the Teotihuacan culture, modern Mexican festival art, and more. The objects range in date from the 8th century to the 21st century, exemplifying the artwork of indigenous cultures as well as the cultures of the Post-Columbian exchange.

The collection represents the diversity of American cultures, fostering global competency and inclusiveness and providing students with opportunities to learn and research.



Festival Mask:
Mexico/Guatemala/Peru

Oceanic Art Collection



Suspension Hook
Iatmul mid-Sepik
River area Yentchamangua,
New Guinea

The University of Central Oklahoma's Oceanic Art Collection contains 27 art pieces from New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. More than 10 different regions and societies are represented. The collection further diversifies UCO's ever-growing art collections, providing students with the opportunity to study and develop cultural competency.

Many of the objects originated from the Sepik Region of New Guinea, which is within Melanesia: a small chain of islands located northeast of Australia.

The cultures of New Guinea are estimated to be 45,000 years old. New Guinea is home to hundreds of tribes, some of which are completely isolated from the others within their region. In many cases, New Guinea societies are small and lack formal leadership. Each tribe possesses its own language, which is

often unknown by any neighboring tribes. There are approximately 1300 different languages spoken across the chain of islands in New Guinea.



Necklace
Assoro: Samogoni Village
New Guinea

**Laboratory of History Museum
Department of History and Geography**

Laboratory of History Museum Collection



Lucy Jeston. Hampton. History Prof. and founder of the Central State Normal Historical Society

In 1915, history professor Lucy J. Hampton, founded the Central State Normal Historical Society. The purpose of the society was to “...collect, arrange, and preserve historical materials...illustrative of and relating to the history of Oklahoma...” The society called their museum the Laboratory of Original Evidence. The museum was primarily used for teaching history to the Normal School students, but local school classes often came to tour the museum. In 1974 the museum became the Laboratory of History Museum under the direction of History professor, Royce Peterson. It was moved to it’s current location in the mezzanine of Evan Hall in 1990. The first full-time director, Heidi Vaughn, was hired in 2008. The collection contains photographs and artifacts including historical furniture, books, weapons, documents, coins, Civil War items, pioneer objects, Native American objects and material relating to early campus life.

Collected documents, photographs, and objects, were used to teach history through the use of "original evidence". The collection has grown to document more than a century of UCO history.

Permanent exhibits in Evans Hall feature a chronology of UCO history beginning with its designation by the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature in 1890 as the Territorial Normal School of Oklahoma.



The Laboratory of Original Evidence in 1937



Photographs and artifacts document the university's history

Museum Director, Heidi Vaughn and students in the Museum Studies program recently completed work on a new permanent exhibit detailing the early history of the University of Central Oklahoma and the birth and growth of Edmond from a small stop on the railroad to a bustling community preparing for statehood.

The Normal School's first classes were held on Nov. 9, 1891, in the First Methodist Episcopal Church. Construction on the Normal School Building began the next year, making it the oldest building dedicated to higher education in what was once Oklahoma Territory. Today, that building is known as Old North.

Text, photographs, and artifacts document the university's history while also presenting the relation of national and international events to the lives of the students and changes on campus.

Natural History Collection
Department of Biology

Natural History Museum Collection



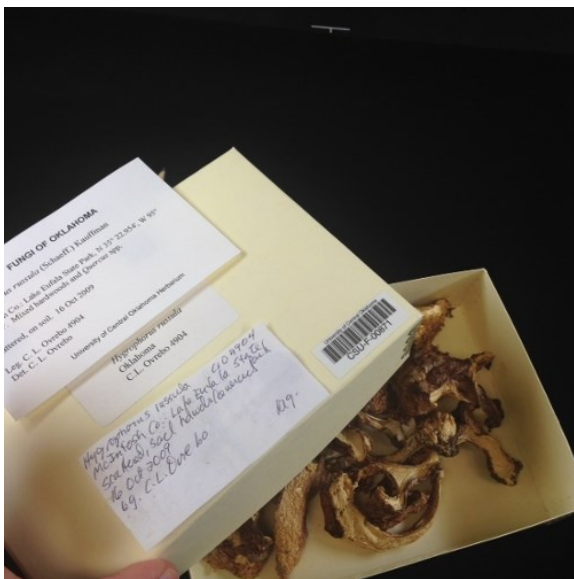
Taxidermy Collection in the Atrium of Howell Hall

The UCONHM is dedicated to academic and community education. Studying specimens is crucial to understanding how to conserve existing animal populations, natural habitats, and eco systems as a whole. Dozens of publications involving the collections have drawn several visiting researchers and many data requests from other universities and researchers. An internship program for students was established In 2008.

The UCO Natural History Museum (UCONHM) features the third largest vertebrate collection in the state, the largest mycological and lichen collection in the State, and the largest fluid-preserved Caribbean collection in the State. It holds several one-of-a-kind specimens including the only recorded bonneted bat in the State. UCONHM has been accredited by the American Society of Mammologists and the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, and is an important part of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society and the Oklahoma Vascular Plants database. Both the fungi (MycoPortal) and mammal collections (consortium of small vertebrate collections) are part of Symbiota, a consortium of universities and museums working to improve collection digitization, data sharing, and collaborative efforts.



Oklahoma Science Museum grand entrance display including UCONHM specimens.



UCONHM has the largest collection of Fungi and Lichen in the State.

To date, more than

50 different undergraduate or graduate students have worked in the UCONHM. Museum outreach and education is an important part of UCONHM, as well as collaboration with other state and federal agencies and universities. Primary and secondary school groups have visited campus to view the collections, and numerous presentations have been given off-campus at local libraries and primary and secondary school locations in Oklahoma. Specimens from the UCONHM are on display at the Oklahoma Science Museum and have been utilized in other exhibitions at the museum. Two collections have been involved in international digitization projects as well as collaborative projects with many other universities and museum collection groups.

Fashion Collection
College of Education & Professional Studies

Oklahoma Fashion Museum Collection

The University of Central Oklahoma has a wonderful designer collection of women's garments and accessories from the late 1800s through the early 1980s. The collection was donated in 1989 to UCO by the Fashion Group, Inc. of Oklahoma City, and is currently stored in the Human Environmental Sciences building on campus.

The collection consists of over 800 items of clothing, 300+ hats, 150+ pairs of shoes, 50+ purses, some jewelry gloves, and miscellaneous items. Some of the designers represented in the collection are:

- ◆ Pauline Trigere
- ◆ Norman Norell
- ◆ Geoffrey Beene
- ◆ Irene
- ◆ Oscar de la Renta
- ◆ Adele Simpson
- ◆ Bill Blass
- ◆ Christian Dior

*Mary Huffman left and Kay Sears
right examining pieces from
the Fashion Collections*



All of the items were donated by prominent women in society in the Oklahoma City and surrounding areas. The original mission of the collection was to have quality designer garments or outfits representative of each decade, with vintage pieces for contrasts to current fashion.



Evening Dress by Paris Leonard



*Mexican Wedding Dress,
Designer Unknown*



Long Skirt and Top by Hani Mori

The exhibit and Catalog were produced by the Max Chambers Library, Archives & Special Collections to commemorate the exhibition opening of the *UCO Collections Exhibition*, opening on the 2nd floor Max Chambers Library on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma, October 11, 2018, Edmond, Oklahoma.



UNIVERSITY OF
Central Oklahoma