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Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Joseph Konopka scenic art journals for Late Night with Conan O'Brien

1993-2009

*T-Vim 2004-010

Compiled by Philip Heslip, December 2012

Summary

Creator: Konopka, Joseph, 1932-

Title: Joseph Konopka scenic art journals for Late Night with Conan O'Brien, 1993-2009

Size: 3.57 linear feet (9 boxes)

Source: Donated by Joseph Konopka in 2004 and 2009.

Abstract: Joseph Konopka was a scenic artist for the NBC-TV show Late Night with Conan O'Brien between 1993 and 2009. These notebooks document his design contributions to the show, and contain sketches, diagrams, photographs, notes, construction directions, and samples of materials used in fabricating sets and props.

Access: Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying and photography will apply. Advance notice may be required.

Copyright information: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Preferred citation: Joseph Konopka scenic art journals for Late Night with Conan O'Brien, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: These journals were placed in archival folders and ordered chronologically.

Creator history

Painter and scenic artist Joseph Stanley Konopka was born in Philadelphia in 1932. He began his career in scenic art at NBC-TV in 1952 and has painted and designed sets and props for many television programs, including Late Night with David Letterman, and Late Night with Conan O'Brien. Konopka was the vice president of the Associated Artists of New Jersey from 1976 to 1985, and is also a landscape and portrait painter.

Source:

Accessed December 11, 2012.

<http://www.avampatoart.com/profiles/joseph-konopka.pdf>

Scope and content note

This collection comprises 23 notebooks that Joseph Konopka created while working as a scenic art designer for Late Night with Conan O'Brien between October 18, 1993, a month after the premier of the show, and the final show on February 20, 2009. The journals document the development of many of the program's visual gags, as well as the crew's work on special scenery and claymations, and the daily upkeep of the set.

The notebooks contain project lists detailing Konopka's daily production and painting responsibilities. Entries often include set and prop sketches and diagrams; design and construction notes; paint color and wallpaper samples; photographs of sets, props, crewmembers, cast, and guests; and other ephemera from the show.

Arrangement

Volumes are arranged in chronological order.

Key terms

Subjects

Set designers

Television -- Art direction

Television -- Stage-setting and scenery

Names

Konopka, Joseph, 1932-

Late night with Conan O'Brien (Television program)

Special formats

Construction drawings

Diagrams

Notebooks

Photographs

Scenography

Container list

- b.1 f.1-5 Journals 1-5, 1993 October 18-1996 September 6
- b.2 f.1-3 Journals 6-8, 1996 September 10-1997 June 11
- b.3 f.1-2 Journals 9-10, 1998 February 2-1999 February 16
- b.4 f.1-2 Journals 11-12, 1999 February 18-2000 August 9
- b.5 f.1-2 Journals 13-14, 2000 August 10-2002 April 26
- b.6 f.1-2 Journals 15-16, 2002 April 29-2003 December 30
- b.7 f.1-4 Journals 17-20, 2003 December 30-2006 January 30
- b.8 f.1-2 Journals 21-22, 2006 January 31-2008 January 14
 - b.9 f.1 Journal 23, 2008 January 15-2009 February 20