

STORM KING ART CENTER

ARCHIVES

Ralph E. Ogden
Bolton Landing Polaroids

Collection 2017-003
Storm King Art Center
New Windsor, NY

Storm King Art Center Archives

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Thank you!

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Collection 2017-003

Storm King Art Center

New Windsor, NY

Ralph E. Ogden Bolton Landing Polaroids

Dates of record-keeping activity: 1966-1967

Extent: 1 folder, including 10 unmounted Polaroid photographs and 10 handwritten corresponding note cards

Creator: Ogden, Ralph E., 1895-1974

Abstract:

Polaroid photographs and note cards taken by Ralph E. Ogden during his visits to David Smith's studio in Bolton Landing, NY between 1966 and 1967. Ogden's purchase of thirteen Smith sculptures on March 13, 1967 launched Storm King Art Center's focus as an outdoor sculpture center.

Administrative/Biographical History:

Ralph E. Ogden, known as Ted, was born in 1895 in Brooklyn, NY. After graduating from Yale University in 1916 with a degree in engineering, Ogden entered the family business, the Star Expansion Company, which manufactured fasteners for construction. Following the stock market crash in 1929, Ogden moved his family to Mountainville, NY, where he commuted to the factory headquarters in New Jersey and raised dairy cattle on his property. In 1947, Ogden founded the Ralph E. Ogden Foundation, Inc. for philanthropic projects. Upon the death of New York City attorney Vermont Hatch (1893-1959), Ogden purchased the Hatch mansion and twenty-three acres of adjoining land in Mountainville. In 1960, Ogden and H. Peter Stern, his son-in-law and business partner, opened Storm King Art Center. In 1967, Ogden purchased thirteen of David Smith's (1906-1965) sculptures after visiting the artist's studio in Bolton Landing, NY. The acquisition of Smith's works was instrumental in shifting Storm King's primary mission, leading Ogden to focus his collecting efforts specifically on outdoor sculpture. Ogden passed away at 79 years old in 1974, his legacy at Storm King Art Center firmly established.

Scope and Content:

This collection spans the period between Ogden's first visit to Bolton Landing on October 24, 1966 and his final visit on March 13, 1967. In addition to the photographs there are five sets of notes. The photographs and notes document the thirteen David Smith sculptures that Ogden purchased.

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Languages and Scripts of the Material:

English

Existence and Location of Copies:

The Estate of David Smith

Related Archival Materials:

Dorothy Dehner, Photographs of Bolton Landing and David Smith (Collection 2017-001, Storm King Art Center)

Photographs:

1. David Smith, *Volton XX*, Bolton Landing (recto and verso)
Photographer: Ralph E. Ogden
Date: c.1966
Polaroid, color
4 1/4 x 3 1/2 in. (10.8 x 8.9 cm)
2. David Smith, *Personage of May*, Bolton Landing (recto and verso)
Photographer: Ralph E. Ogden
Date: c.1966
Polaroid, color
4 1/4 x 3 1/2 in. (10.8 x 8.9 cm)
3. David Smith, *Becca*, Bolton Landing (recto and verso)
Photographer: Ralph E. Ogden
Date: c.1966
Polaroid, color
4 1/4 x 3 1/2 in. (10.8 x 8.9 cm)
4. David Smith, *Zig II, XI Books III Apples, Three Ovals Soar*, Bolton Landing (recto and verso)
Photographer: Ralph E. Ogden
Date: c. 1966
Polaroid, color
3 1/2 x 4 1/4 in. (8.9 x 10.8 cm)
5. David Smith, *Five Units Equal*, Bolton Landing (recto and verso)
Photographer: Ralph E. Ogden
Date: c.1967
Polaroid, color
4 1/4 x 3 1/2 in. (10.8 x 8.9 cm)
6. David Smith, *Albany I*, Bolton Landing
Photographer: Ralph E. Ogden
Date: c.1967
Polaroid, color
3 1/2 x 4 1/4 in. (8.9 x 10.8 cm)
7. David Smith, *Raven V*, Bolton Landing
Photographer: Ralph E. Ogden
Date: c.1967
Polaroid, color
3 1/2 x 4 1/4 in. (8.9 x 10.8 cm)
8. David Smith, *Portrait of a Lady Painter*, Bolton Landing
Photographer: Ralph E. Ogden
Date: c.1967

Polaroid, color
3 1/2 x 4 1/4 in. (8.9 x 10.8 cm)

9. David Smith, *The Sitting Printer*, Bolton Landing
Photographer: Ralph E. Ogden
Date: c.1967
Polaroid, color
4 1/4 x 3 1/2 in. (10.8 x 8.9 cm)
10. David Smith, *The Iron Woman*, Bolton Landing
Photographer: Ralph E. Ogden
Date: c.1967
Polaroid, color
4 1/4 x 3 1/2 in. (10.8 x 8.9 cm)