

David Levine:

An Inventory of His Art Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

- Creator:** Levine, David, 1926-2009
- Title:** David Levine Art Collection
- Dates:** 1960s-2000s (1990-1999)
- Extent:** 1 box (34 items)
- Abstract:** The collection consists of 33 original, signed pen and ink caricature drawings and one print by David Levine (American, 1926-2009).
- Call Number:** Art Collection AR-00352
- Language:** English
- Access:** Open for research. Please note that a minimum of 24 hours notice is required to pull art materials to the Ransom Center's Reading and Viewing Room. Some materials may be restricted from viewing. To make an appointment or to reserve Art Collection materials, please contact the Center's staff at art@hrc.utexas.edu. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
- Use Policies:** Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.
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Administrative Information

Acquisition: Gifts, 1995-2012 (G 10442, 12-05-006)

Repository: [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

Biographical Sketch

David Levine was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1926, the son of a nurse and a garment shop worker. His parent's left political leanings and working-class upbringing would inform Levine's approach to depicting his subjects, who often were persons in positions of great power, wealth, or cultural and political influence, in caricature. His distinctive, incisive, and critical--but not altogether unsympathetic--caricatures would become his hallmark when he began working for *Esquire* in the 1960s and *The New York Review of Books* from its inception in 1963. For nearly fifty years, Levine contributed caricatures of artists, authors, politicians, athletes, and other public figures largely to *The New York Review of Books*, but also to other publications such as *Time*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The Washington Post*. Levine was also a painter--he studied under Hans Hoffman--and his watercolor and oil subjects are noted for their marked difference in tone and subject. His method and approach is described as more gentle, full of fondness, and centering on the daily lives of ordinary citizens, in contrast to the biting edge of his caricatures of public figures. After a lifetime of creative output of drawings and paintings numbering in the thousands, Levine died in Manhattan on December 29, 2009, at the age of 83.

Sources:

Carlson, Michael. David Levine obituary. *The Guardian*, 31 December 2009. <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2009/dec/31/david-levine-obituary> (accessed 19 June 2017).

Weber, Bruce. "David Levine, Biting Caricaturist, Dies at 83." *The New York Times*, 29 December 2009. <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/30/arts/design/30levine.html?hp> (accessed 19 June 2017).

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of 33 original, signed pen and ink drawings by David Levine (American, 1926-2009) that are representative of the artist's distinctive caricatures for *The New York Review of Books*. A caricature of J. M. Coetzee was given by the author. An article in *The New York Review of Books* provides the published context for a caricature of author Vladimir Nabakov that accompanies the original drawing. Also included is one inkjet print of a caricature of J. M. Coetzee.

Related Material

Separated Material

Subjects

Authors.

Celebrities.

Dramatists.

Poets.

Politicians.

Portraits.

Document Types

Caricatures.

Drawings.

Inkjet prints.

Location

Accession Number: 68.33 Tennessee Williams, 1966. Pen and ink on paper, 34.9 x 27 cm.

Levine,
D., Box
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Accession Number: 68.68 Vladimir Nabakov, 1968. Pen and ink on paper, 34.3 x 28 cm.

Accession Number: 68.76 Samuel Beckett, 1964. Pen and ink on paper, 27.6 x 15.2 cm (image); 45.7 x 35.5 cm (matted).

Accession Number: 68.85 William Golding, 1967. Pen and ink on paper, 34.9 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 68.87.1 Allen Ginsberg, circa 1950s-1960s. Pen and ink on paper, 10.2 x 31.8 cm.

Accession Number: 68.87.2 Allen Ginsberg, circa 1950s-1960s. Pen and ink on paper, 9.8 x 16.5 cm.

Accession Number: 68.87.3 Allen Ginsberg, circa 1950s-1960s. Pen and ink on paper, 9.8 x 16.5 cm.

Accession Number: 95.8 J. M. Coetzee, circa 1982. Inkjet print, 43.2 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.1 Georges Saunders, 2000. Pen and ink on paper, 34 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.2 Herbert Simon, 1979. Pen and ink on paper, 34.7 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.3 Jonathan D. Spence, 1990. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.4 Frank Snepp, 1999. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.5 Dr. Spock, 1998. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.6 Adrienne Rich, 1991. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.7 Laura Riding, 1993. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.8 Mrs. Humphrey Ward, 1991. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.9 Ingo Schulze, 1998. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.10 Ronald Reagan interviewed for his book, "Dutch," by Edmund Morris, 1999. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.11 Gay Talese, 1980. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.12 Dorothy Thompson, 1990. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.13 Antonia Fraser, 1997. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.14 William Cohen, 1999. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.15 Richard P. Wilbur, 2000. Pen and ink on paper, 34.3 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.16 Roland Barthes, 1976. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.17 Markus Wolfe -- Stasi Director, 1997. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.18 Jonathan Franzen, 2001. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.19 W. G. Sebald, 1998. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.20 Frank McCourt, 1997. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.21 George Polk, 1991. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.22 Pope John Paul II, 1994. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.23 James Dickey, 1999. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.24 D. J. Enright, 2000. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.25 Ambassador Madeleine Albright, 1999. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

Accession Number: 2012.6.26 Pankaj Mishra, 2000. Pen and ink on paper, 35.5 x 27.9 cm.

