

CAROLINE HOOKE ARTWORK

OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTS

Repository:	Folklife Center Crandall Public Library Glens Falls, NY
Creator:	Hooke, Caroline (1921—2015)
Title:	Caroline Hooke Artwork
Dates:	1999—2015
Quantity:	3 cubic feet
Identification:	Folk Art & Artifacts
Accession #:	
Abstract:	Sculptures, assemblages, and paintings by Caroline Hooke.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Caroline Hooke's sculptured figures are reminiscent of the dolls she created out of wood, shells, bark and leaves as a young girl with her sister growing up. As an adult, all of her artwork continues to be an outgrowth of her love of nature and joy in working with natural materials. Many of her figures carry names such as "tree spirit" or "bird dancer" and are decorated with bird nests, turquoise beads or the feathers of birds. They are wrapped most often will wood fibres. The faces vary from painted pieces of drift wood to shells or stones. They are all one of a kind constructions varying in size and shape. As her art form became locally recognized, she tells how local hunters and friends have taken to providing her with feathers, scraps of wool, interesting pieces of wood, so that her figures and assemblages really become a collage of natural materials or found objects from the local environment.

Caroline Hooke was a longtime resident and active member of the art community in Washington County (Shushan and Cambridge), New York. She was born in California, raised in Kansas City, Missouri. She studied at the Parson's School of Design in New York, met her husband Walter Hooke, and settled in California to raise their 4 children before moving to upstate New York. Caroline Hooke participated in The Folklife Center exhibition, *If Only They Could Talk: Dolls, Stories & the Spirit of Doll Making*, curated by Nancy Scheemaker in 2000, a number of traveling children's workshops, and subsequent Folklife Gallery exhibitions, *Celebrating Women's Creative Hands & Spirits* in 2014, and *Battenkill Inspired* in 2015. In 2015, The Folklife Center acquired this small collection of her work through a donation by longtime friend, Ruth

Sauer. Additions to the collection in 2023 came from the estate sale of Molly and Bob Oakley.

Artist statement: "These images are a personal interpretation of diverse aboriginal peoples of many ancient cultures, mostly inspired by our own Native Americans. The use of found objects -wood, shells, stones, feathers, old material, and wonderful yarns, donated by many sources- are my working materials."

INDEX TERMS

Topics: Dolls
Dollmaking
Assemblage (Art)

Places: Cambridge—Washington—New York

Important People: Hooke, Caroline
Oakley, Molly

Form/Genre: Realia

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Caroline Hooke Artwork
Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY

Accession Information: Purchased in 1999 or donated by Ruth Sauer in 2015.
Additions purchased in 2023 from the estate sale of Molly and Bob Oakley.

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea, July 2019. Edited with additions by Amanda Franzoni, October 2023

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS

Ancient Echoes—RBS #4, assemblage with shells, bone, stone, fabric, bottle; box in 3 sections, covered with plexiglass, 7" x 12" x 3".

Pink Lady (or Portrait of Mother)—Pastel, 1988, framed 10" x 13".

Figure—RBS #6, thread wrapped, cloth face, pink cloth with triangles of copper, frog on head.

Figure—RBS #7, wrapped with fabric and threads, feathered, wooden face, large

Small figure—Orange wire, thread, fabric face, colored turquoise fiber, shell hat; 6" long.

Small figure—wire, purple ribbon, thread, fiber, sticks, shell head; 5" long.

Small dancer—orange wire, shell necklace, black hat; 4.5" long

Treasures—Assemblage of rocks, feathers, shells, small figures in 3 section box covered with plexiglass, with a small painting attached to the top. 2000.

Box: 4.75" x 9.25" x 2.75"; Whole with painting: 4.75" x 11" x 2.75"

Tree spirit: Slate face, iris seed pod with turquoise, yarn, wire, wood body; 9.5" long.

Whale with calf—Painted wood; 24" long.

Legstick—Feather arms and skirt, stick wrapped with thread, black and yellow eyes; 18" long.

Bird Girl—Sticks, feathers, fiber, thread; 12" long.

Corn maiden chant—Pastel, framed; 17.5" x 20"

Figi Garden 1—Pastel and acrylic on handmade paper, framed 14" x 28"

Figi Garden 3—Pastel and acrylic on handmade paper.

Buffalo Dream—Collage with silk; framed 9" x 11", 2000-2003.

Bundles—10" long.

Bundles 2—10" long.

Dancing with the moon—Crystal chest, bark back, sticks, fabric, thread, painted face and arms; 27" long.

Black dancer hag #3—Painted mussel shell face, red leather skirt, sticks, thread; 19" long.

Moon river—RBS #5 pastel on wood.

Nest—Assemblage of abalone shell with nest and stone in box frame covered with plexiglass. 10" x 12.25" x 4".

Night Garden—RBS #3; assemblage of stones, insects, feather, bone in box covered with plexiglass.

2023 additions:

2 small dolls made with school children in Hooke's school art program. Composed of twigs, fabric scraps, yarn, tape. Unfinished.