

Sculptures, Assemblages, Paintings: Artwork of Caroline Hooke

OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTS

Repository:	Crandall Public Library. Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY.
Creator:	Caroline Hooke (1921 - 2015) Cambridge, Washington, NY
Title:	Sculptures, Assemblages, Paintings: Artwork of Caroline Hooke
Dates:	1999 – 2015
Quantity:	3
Identification:	Folk Art & Artifacts

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 with 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.

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
Doll makers
Folk Art
Folk Artists
Use of natural materials

Places: Cambridge, Washington, NY

Important People: Hooke, Caroline (1921 - 2015)

Form/Genre: Realia

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Sculptures, Assemblages, Paintings: Artwork of Caroline Hooke
Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Purchased 1999, or donated by Ruth Sauer in 2015.

Processing Information: Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea, July 2019

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS

1. Ancient Echoes
RBS#4, assemblage with shells, bone, stone, fabric, bottle; box in 3 sections, covered with plexiglass, 7 inches x 12 inches x 3 inches deep.
2. Pink Lady (or Portrait of Mother)
Pastel, 1988, framed 10 inches x 13 inches.
3. Figure
RBS#6 thread wrapped, cloth face, pink cloth with triangles of copper, frog on head.

4. Figure
RBS #7 wrapped with fabric and threads, feathered, wooden face, large
5. Small figure
Orange wire, thread, fabric face, colored turquoise fiber, shell hat; 6 inches long.
6. Small figure
wire, purple ribbon, thread, fiber, sticks, shell head; 5 inches long
7. Small dancer
orange wire, shell necklace, black hat; 4.5 inches long.
8. 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 3/4 inches x 9 1/4 inches x 2 3/4 inches deep; Whole with painting: 4 3/4 inches x 11 inches x 2 3/4 inches deep
9. Tree spirit
Slate face, iris seed pod with turquoise, yarn, wire, wood body; 9.5 inches long.
10. Whale with calf
Painted wood; 24 inches long
11. Legstick
Feather arms and skirt, stick wrapped with thread, black and yellow eyes; 18 inches long
12. Bird Girl
Sticks, feathers, fiber, thread; 12 inches long.
13. Corn maiden chant

- Pastel, framed; 17 1/2 inches x 20 inches
14. Figi garden 1
Pastel and acrylic on handmade paper; framed 14 inches x 28 inches
 15. Figi Garden #3
Pastel and acrylic on handmade paper,
 16. Buffalo Dream
Collage with silk; framed 9 inches x 11 inches, 2000-2003.
 17. Bundles
10 inches long
 18. Bundles 2
10 inches long
 19. Dancing with the moon
Crystal chest, bark back, sticks, fabric, thread, painted face and arms;
27 inches long.
 20. Black dancer hag #3
Painted mussel shell face, red leather skirt, sticks, thread; 19 inches long
 21. Moon river
RBS#5 pastel on wood
 22. Nest
Assemblage of abalone shell with nest and stone in box frame covered with plexiglass.
10 inches x 12 1/4 inches x 4 inches deep
 23. Night Garden
RBS#3; assemblage of stones, insects, feather, bone in box covered with plexiglass

