

**Finding Aid for the
Lynton Richards Kistler Collection, 1944-1957
Los Angeles Public Library Special Collections**

OVERVIEW

Identifier/Call No.: LA SPEC 0001

Creators: Lynton Richards Kistler

Title: Lynton Richards Kistler Collection

Dates: 1944-1957

Language: Materials in English

Scope and Content: The Lynton Richards Kistler Collection consists of 53 watercolor paintings, spanning an approximately twenty-year period of the 1940s and 1950s. The materials include original watercolor paintings of Los Angeles, California locations, many of which no longer exist.

Quantity: 1.67 cubic feet (2 oversize document boxes)

Location: Rare Books, South Stacks. Los Angeles Public Library Special Collections, 630 W. 5th Street, Los Angeles, California 90071.

ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

Lynton R. Kistler was a pioneering lithographer who printed the work of 20th-century artists from Jean Charlot to Mollard Sheets and Wayne Thiebaud. Kistler was born in Los Angeles, California, on August 30, 1897. He died at the age of 96 on November 16, 1993.

A Los Angeles native, Kistler attended Hollywood and Manual Arts high schools and served in the Army in World War I. Kistler's studio was born from his father's lithotype studio of 30 years, where he began exploring lithography as an art medium. His studio was on Patricia Avenue in Cheviot Hills, where the printing renaissance was started. An early exhibit of his prints was shown at Stendahl Gallery, on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, in 1936. His prints chronicled the art in early Los Angeles and his watercolors documented early historical landscapes.

Kistler taught lithography at UCLA Extension and in 1950, published the book titled "How to Make a Lithograph." The artist was a very important figure in the Los Angeles art community having printed the works of Lorser Feitelson, Helen Lundeborg, Beatrice Wood, Hans Burkhardt, Eugene Berman, Clinton Adams, Palmer Schoppe, and others.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Use Restrictions

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Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research by appointment only in the Rare Books reading room. Information about setting appointments can be found on the Library's website at lapl.org/branches/rarebooks. Appointments can also be arranged by sending an email inquiry to [specialcollections \[at\] lapl.org](mailto:specialcollections@lapl.org).

Provenance/ Source of Acquisition

The collection was donated by Dean Hansell on November 30, 2023.

Preferred Citation

[Item], Lynton Richards Kistler Collection. Los Angeles Public Library Special Collections.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

Archival processing was completed at the Los Angeles Public Library by Rosemarie Knopka, Librarian Archivist, in June 2024. Juan Avalos, an Administrative Clerk in the Digitization and Special Collections Department, assisted in processing the archive.

ARRANGEMENT

The materials are organized in the following series:

Series 1: Downton Los Angeles

Series 2: Griffith Park

Series 3: Echo Park and Elysian Park

Series 4: Exposition Park and MacArthur Park

Series 5: Hollywood and West Hollywood

Series 6: Santa Monica and Malibu

Series 7: Miscellaneous Cityscapes

INDEXING TERMS

The Los Angeles Public Library used both Library of Congress Subject Headings and the Library of Congress Thesaurus for Graphic Materials (TGM) as sources for subject headings for cataloging. In addition, TGM was used for genre and format terms.

Topics:

Art, American--California--20th Century.

Art--California--Los Angeles.

Bunker Hill (Los Angeles, Calif.)--Pictorial works.

Echo Park (Los Angeles, Calif.)

Griffith Park (Los Angeles, Calif.)--Pictorial works.

Plein air painting.

Plein air painting--California.

Persons:

Kistler, Lynton R., 1897-1993

GENRE / FORMAT

Illustrations

Landscape paintings

Sketches

Watercolors

CONTAINER LIST

Box : Folder Description

1 : 1 Photograph of Lynton Richards Kistler, undated (1 item)

Black and white portrait of Lynton Richards Kistler.

1 : 2 Downtown Los Angeles, 1948-52 (6 items)

File contains the following watercolor paintings:

"Angels Flight April 48" on verso. 1948. 15 $\frac{3}{8}$ w x 20 h inches (8 $\frac{5}{8}$ w x 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ h opening). A view from the bottom of the funicular on Olive Street. Mounted.

"Angels Flight No. 2 49." 1949. 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ w x 17h. View looking downhill shows the Angels Flight funicular near the lower station, with buildings on the right and two trees on the left.

"Bunker Hill 48" on verso. 1948. 17 $\frac{7}{8}$ w x 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ h (opening 12 $\frac{7}{8}$ w x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ h). Shows houses on top of Bunker Hill. Mounted.

"City Hall at Main 52." 1952. 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ w x 17 $\frac{7}{8}$ h. Street scene with Los Angeles City Hall in the background.

"City Hall at Plaza." Undated. 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ w x 17h. Painted from Chinatown. Street scene with stores and City Hall in the background.

"City Hall from Plaza" on verso. Undated. 15w x 20 $\frac{1}{8}$ h (opening 9 $\frac{7}{8}$ w x 14h). Street scene in Chinatown with Los Angeles City Hall in the background. Mounted.

1 : 3 Downtown Los Angeles, 1948-52 (5 items)

File contains the following watercolor paintings:

"The Plaza 48" on verso. 1948. 14 $\frac{5}{8}$ w x 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ h (opening 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ w x 12 $\frac{7}{8}$ h). View of a plaza in Chinatown with a man seated on a bench and statue shown facing away. Mounted.

"Macy & Main 52." 1952. 13w x 17 $\frac{7}{8}$ h. Writing on the bottom right may be framing instructions. Street scene with signs and a view of two church domes in the background.

"Olive at First 52." 1952. 13w x 18h. Matting instructions at bottom. Depicts a Bunker Hill, Los Angeles street scene with stores in the foreground.

"Olive at Second 52" writing at bottom not fully legible. 1952. 17 $\frac{7}{8}$ w x 13h. Three buildings and a streetlight in the Bunker Hill neighborhood of Los Angeles.

"N. Olive 52." 1952. 17 $\frac{7}{8}$ w x 13h. A view of a large Victorian house.

1 : 4 Griffith Park, 1949-51 (6 items)

File contains the following watercolor paintings:

"Griffith Park Fantasy 49" on verso. 1949. 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ w x 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ h (opening 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ w x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ h). Shows the Griffith Observatory, the Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round, and other park highlights. Mounted.

"The Trail – Griffith Park 50." 1950. 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ w x 12 $\frac{5}{8}$ h. A view of green hills in Griffith Park.

"Planetarium 1950." 1950. 18w x 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ h. Features Griffith Park Observatory on the hill.

"Mount Hollywood 51." 1951. 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ w x 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ h inches. Series of hills with Mount Hollywood in the background.

"Observatory at Commonwealth 51." 1951. 18w x 13h. A view of the Griffith Park Observatory in the distance with a road through the park in the foreground.

"Observatory at Commonwealth 51." 1951. 16 $\frac{5}{8}$ w x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ h (painting size 15w x 11h. A view of the Griffith Park Observatory in the distance with a road through the park in the foreground. Mounted.

1 : 5 Griffith Park, 1957 (9 items)

File contains the following watercolor paintings:

"Griffith Park Series 57 No. 1." 1957. 17 $\frac{7}{8}$ w x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ h. View of trees and hills.

"Griffith Park Series 57 No. 2." 1957. 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ w x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ h. Depicts a stone fireplace with two picnic tables and trees in the background.

"Griffith Park Series 1957 No. 3." 1957. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ w x 13h. Depicts trees in foreground and numerous mountains in the back.

"Griffith Park Series 57 No. 6." 1957. 13 $\frac{7}{8}$ w x 18h. Painting depicts a tree-lined road going up a hill.

"Griffith Park Series 57 No. 7." 1957. 17 $\frac{7}{8}$ w x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ h inches. Focus is a large tree on a hillside.

"Planetarium & Mount Hollywood from Elysian Park V. 2." Undated. 18w x 13h inches. A view across the hills with the Griffith Park Planetarium and the Hollywood Sign in the distance.

"Griffith Park Series" "September." Undated. 17 $\frac{7}{8}$ w x 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ h. Watercolor shows the top of a tree in Griffith Park with a hill in the background.

Untitled. Undated. 12 $\frac{1}{8}$ w x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ h inches. Watercolor depicts the Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round.

"Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round." Undated. 19 w x 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ h (opening 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ w x 12 h). Mounted.

2 : 1 Echo Park and Elysian Park, 1945-52 (4 items)

File contains the following watercolor paintings:

"Forest Lawn from Elysian Park." Undated. 18w x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ h. View looking north with train yards, the Los Angeles River, then Forest Lawn Cemetery with mountains in the background.

"Echo Park June 45" on verso. 1945. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 10 $\frac{3}{4}$. Depicts Echo Park Lake with a picturesque walking bridge.

"(Elysian Park) Landscape 52." 1952. 13 $\frac{1}{8}$ w x 17 $\frac{3}{4}$. Painting depicts dwelling on steep hillsides.

"Echo Park L.A. The Boat House 52." 1952. 13 $\frac{1}{8}$ w x 18 h. Watercolor depicts the side of the Echo Park Lake boathouse with a lighthouse at the side and boats docked nearby.

2 : 2 Exposition Park and MacArthur Park, 1944 (2 items)

File contains the following watercolor paintings:

"MacArthur Park Lake." Undated. 17 $\frac{7}{8}$ w x 15 $\frac{1}{8}$ h (opening 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ w x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ h). Shows the lake with boats and boathouse in the background, with buildings along Wilshire Boulevard facing east. Mounted.

"Exposition Park 1944" on verso. 1944. 15 $\frac{1}{8}$ w x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ h (opening 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ w x 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ h). Shows two people sitting on a park bench in the foreground. Mounted.

2 : 3 Hollywood and West Hollywood, undated (4 items)

File contains the following watercolor paintings:

"Cedars of Lebanon." Undated. 18w x 13h. Shows the former Cedars Hospital in Hollywood.

"Hollywood Hospital." Undated. 18w x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ h. A high-angle view of a building complex with a hill and skyline in the background.

"New Hampshire Street Hollywood" on verso. Undated. 15 $\frac{1}{8}$ w x 20 $\frac{3}{8}$ h (opening 11x15). A high-angle street scene shows a garage and other buildings with the Griffith Park Observatory in the background. Mounted.

"Open Window" on verso. Undated. 15 $\frac{3}{8}$ w x 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ h (opening 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ w x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ h). View of Chateau Marmont in West Hollywood. Mounted.

2 : 4 Santa Monica and Malibu, 1952 (3 items)

File contains the following watercolor paintings:

"Santa Monica Pier." Undated. 15w x 11h. Watercolor depicts the beach and end of the pier with several sailboats nearby.

"Zuma Beach." Undated. 14 $\frac{7}{8}$ w x 11h. Watercolor shows a lifeguard tower, beach umbrella and two female bathers in the sand with hills and seascape in the background.

"B Rock 52." 1952. 13w x 17 $\frac{7}{8}$ h. Shows two hills with trees in the foreground. "B Rock" stands for "Big Rock," an area in Malibu facing the Pacific Ocean.

2 : 5 Miscellaneous Cityscapes, 1947-57 (8 items)

File contains the following watercolor paintings:

"Old Mission Church May 47" on verso. 1947. 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ w x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ h inches. Street view of a church.

"Street Scene July 47." 1947. 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ w x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ h (10 $\frac{7}{8}$ w x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ h opening). Street view of a hamburger stand on a corner. Mounted.

"Mexican Quarter May 49." 1949. 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ w x 17h. Depicts three residential buildings on a hillside.

"Court 52 Grand Court 52." 1952. 18w x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ h. Watercolor depicts a building partially covered by two palm trees with an exterior staircase in the middle.

"Hills-52." 1952. 18w x 13h. A view of dwellings among hills and trees.

"View from Foothill Drive 52." 1952. 18w x 13h. View of houses perched on a hill.

"Street Scene 57." 1957. 16 $\frac{7}{8}$ w x 13h. Features a Red Car on the street. Sign on the right "MEET 10 AM" suggests a church. Double-sided image; the reverse side is untitled and depicts three palm trees and a bridge.

"Standard Station 57." 1957. 18w x 13 $\frac{3}{8}$ h. Features a Standard Oil gas station.

2 : 6 Miscellaneous Cityscapes, 1951-57 (5 items)

File contains the following watercolor paintings:

"Belmont Street." Undated. 17 $\frac{7}{8}$ w x 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ h (opening 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 10 $\frac{1}{4}$). Street-level view of street car tracks, buildings, and a church. Mounted.

"St. Agnes" on verso. Undated. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ w x 16h (opening 9w x 11h). Shows a church in the background with a Texaco billboard, and a cafe and drugstore in the foreground. Mounted.

"St. Joseph" on verso. Undated. 14w x 17 ¼ h (opening 9 1/4 w x 12 1/2 h). Shows a large church, and a restaurant in the foreground. Mounted.

"Carrefour - 51 No. 2." 1951. 13w x 18h. Street scene showing two streets coming together at an angle. Building in the foreground looks similar to the Flatiron Building in New York. The scene is not in Los Angeles.

"Carrefour 57 No. 1." 1957. 13w x 17 ¾ h. Street scene with tall buildings depicting two streets coming together at an angle. Building in the foreground looks similar to the Flatiron Building in New York. Camel cigarette billboard on the left side. The scene is not of Los Angeles.

Special Collections Reading Room (1 item)

"L.A. City Hall 52." 1952. 19 w x 25 h (10 3/4 w x 17h opening). Framed.