

AMON CARTER MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART ARCHIVES COLLECTION GUIDE

Collection Summary

- Title:** John and Susan Harvith Collection of Karl Struss Papers
- Date:** 1913–1986, bulk 1975–1986
- Creator(s):** Struss, Karl (1886–1981)
- Extent:** .2 Linear Feet
- Code:** JHC
- Repository:** Amon Carter Museum of American Art Archives
- Abstract:** The John and Susan Harvith Collection of Karl Struss Papers contains gallery announcements, newspaper clippings, and a few periodicals from late in the career of photographer and cinematographer Karl Struss.

Information for Researchers

Access Restrictions

The collection is open to qualified researchers.

Use Restrictions

The John and Susan Harvith Collection of Karl Struss Papers is the physical property of the Amon Carter Museum of American Art. The Amon Carter Museum of American Art assumes no responsibility for infringement of literary property rights or copyrights or for liability to any person for defamation or invasion of privacy.

Preferred Citation

John and Susan Harvith Collection of Karl Struss Papers, [item identification], Amon Carter Museum of American Art Archives.

Related Collections in the Amon Carter Museum of American Art Archives

Craig Rhea Collection of Karl Struss Papers
Stephen White Collection of Karl Struss Papers

Related Collections in the Amon Carter Museum

More than 200 prints, 55 Lumière autochromes, and over 5,000 negatives by Struss in the Photography Collection.

Contact the museum archivist at archivist@cartermuseum.org or 817.989.5077 for additional information.

Administrative Information

Acquisition and Custody Information

Gift of John and Susan Harvith, 1995

Processed By

Jonathan Frembling

Biographical Note

Karl Struss (1886–1981) was one of the leading pictorial photographers of the pre–World War I era. His reputation was established when Alfred Stieglitz selected Struss’ work for the 1910 International Exhibition of Pictorial Photography and then published a portfolio in *Camera Work* in 1912. In 1909 Struss invented the Struss Pictorial Lens, a soft–focus lens that proved immensely popular with other photographers of the period, including Laura Gilpin. After studying with Clarence White, Struss took over White’s studio in 1914 and specialized in portraiture, advertising, and magazine illustration. Five years later he moved to Hollywood and became Cecil B. DeMille’s still–cameraman. Struss soon turned from still photography to cinematography, filming such works as *Ben Hur* (1925) and *Sunrise* (1927), for which he received the first Academy Award for cinematography. Struss’ Hollywood career spanned more than two decades of black–and–white and color cinema and incorporated silent and talking films, musicals, and 3–D features. In the 1950s and 1960s, as Struss’ motion picture work decreased, he began filming television series, industrial films, and commercials. In the 1970s Struss, in his late eighties and retired, was rediscovered after his *Man with a Camera* photographic exhibition and film festival tour.

Scope and Content Note

The John and Susan Harvith Collection of Karl Struss Papers affords the researcher a broad glimpse into the late career of the groundbreaking photographer and cinematographer. The collection contains a mixture of gallery announcements, newspaper clippings, and a few periodicals. The materials date from 1913 to 1986, with the bulk being from 1975 to 1986. The material has been organized into two series: *Platinum Print* and Articles and Exhibitions.

A more detailed series description appears at the start of each series in this finding aid.

Inventory

Series I. *Platinum Print*

Scope and Content Note: Two copies of *Platinum Print*, the official publication of the Pictorial Photographers of America.

Box 1, Folder 1: ***Platinum Print, 1913–1914***

1. *Platinum Print*. December 1913.
2. *Platinum Print*. May 1914.

Series II. Articles and Exhibitions

Scope and Content Note: A collection of gallery exhibition announcements, gallery invitations, and newspaper clippings focusing on Struss' life and work.

Box 1, Folder 2: Articles and Exhibitions, 1975–1976, n.d.

1. Calendar of Events, fall through winter 1915, Cranbrook Academy of Arts/Museum.
2. News Release. Cranbrook News: Cranbrook Educational Community. January 8, 1975.
3. "U Museum to Get Grant." *AZ News*. October, 20, 1975.
4. News Release. Cranbrook News: Cranbrook Educational Community. December 24, 1975.
5. "New York, New York." Unknown. n.d.
6. *Karl Struss: Man with a Camera*. Cranbrook Academy of Art/Museum. January 13–February 15, 1976.
7. "Struss Photographs to be Exhibited" *The Ann Arbor News*. February 19, 1976.
8. *UM News*. February 23, 1976.
9. *University Record*. February 23, 1976.
10. "Struss Exhibit Recalls a Photographic Genius." *Michigan Daily*. February 24, 1976.
11. *Two Exhibitions: The University of Michigan Museum of Art*. February 25–March 28, 1976.
12. "Struss' Photography, Newly 'Discovered' Earns Praise." *The Detroit News*. February 26, 1976.
13. "Photography Exhibitions Just Seem to Click." *The Ann Arbor News*. February 29, 1976.
14. "Man with Camera wins P.S. Heart." *Birmingham Observer–Eccentric*. March 11, 1976.

15. "Karl Struss: Man with a Camera." unknown. n.d.
16. "Struss Receives Award." *Michigan Daily*. March 26, 1976.
17. "Exhibitions of 3 Masters of the Camera Opens." *New York Times*. September 24, 1976.
18. *ARTnews*. November 1976.
19. Press Release. *University of Michigan News*. December 14, 1976.
20. "Artist, Craftsman, Technician." *Morgan Camera News*. Summer 1976.
21. *The Cranbrook Quarterly*. Winter 1976, Volume 1, Number 3.

Box 1, Folder 3: Articles and Exhibitions, 1977–1986, n.d.

1. *Karl Struss: Man with a Camera*. January 5–February 23.
2. "Movies: Rediscovering Struss' Way with a Camera." *Los Angeles Times*. January 9, 1977.
3. "Photography Finds Its Jekyll and Hyde." Unknown. January 16, 1977.
4. "The Pictorialist Game of Lights and Darks." *San Francisco Chronicle*. January 23, 1977.
5. "Rediscovering a Pioneer in Photography." *University Record*. January 31, 1977.
6. Press Release. The Phillips Collection. May 20, 1977.
7. *American Cinematographer*. March 1977.
8. "Best Bets." *The Washingtonian*. July 1977.
9. "American Film Institute Theater Program Note." July 9, 1977.
10. "Karl Struss." Unknown. July 9, 1977.
11. "A Full Life Among Images." *The Washington Post*. July 11, 1977.
12. Untitled. *The Washington Star*. July 11, 1977.
13. "Focusing on Karl Struss." *The Ann Arbor News*. July 17, 1977.
14. *Photo-Secessionist: Karl Struss & Earle C. Kenton*. October 2–November 2.
15. "Karl Struss: Man with a Camera." *Michigan Art Journal*. Winter 1977.

16. Press Release. Arcade Gallery. n.d.
17. *Karl Struss: A Portfolio*. January 4–February 4.
18. “Karl Struss — Man with a Camera.” *NRTA Journal*. March–April 1978.
19. *Daighilev Costumes*. Allen Memorial Art Museum. February 19–March 31.
20. *Karl Struss: Photographs of New York, Europe and Hollywood, 1909/30*. October 19–November 16, 1986.
21. Press Release. Firelands Association for the Visual Arts. October 1, 1986.
22. “Struss ‘Jekyll and Hyde’ FAVA film.” *Chronicle Telegram*. October 17, 1986.
23. “His Photos are in FAVA Exhibition.” *Chronicle Telegram*. October 17, 1986.