

Center for Creative Photography Acquires the Jack Welpott Archive

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Digital images available at <http://ccp.library.arizona.edu/jack-welpott>. To access the hi-res PNG's you will need a username and password. Please email the CCP at oncenter@ccp.library.arizona.edu to gain access.

Tucson, AZ – February 1, 2012 - The Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona Libraries is pleased to announce that it has acquired the photographic archive of internationally renowned artist Jack Welpott.

“We are thrilled that the Jack Welpott Legacy Trust has chosen the Center for Creative Photography as the permanent home for the Welpott archive,” comments Katharine Martinez, the Center’s director. “Welpott was an accomplished photographer and a key member of the rich community of artists in the San Francisco Bay Area during the second half of the 20th century. His archive will allow researchers, curators and photographers to better understand his career, as well as his pivotal role as a teacher and mentor.”

Born in Kansas City, Kan., Jack Welpott (1923-2007) grew up in Bloomington, Ind. He learned about photography as a boy by watching his uncle in the darkroom, and began taking pictures by the time he was 12. Following service in the U.S. Army Air Forces, Welpott earned a bachelor’s degree in economics the University of Indiana, Bloomington on the GI Bill. He then studied photography under Henry Holmes Smith and painting under Leon Golub and Harry Engle, receiving a master’s degree in visual communication in 1955. Welpott completed a Master of Fine Arts in photography and painting in 1959, getting to know classmates Jerry Uelsmann and Van Deren Coke in the process.

Upon graduation, Welpott was hired by John Gutmann to teach photography in the Art Department at San Francisco State College, now San Francisco State University, where he made significant contributions to the field of photographic education over the next 33 years. In the early 1960s, when few photography courses were offered, Welpott established a graduate program, and taught one of the first history of photography courses at the college level. A number of his students have had successful photographic careers including Michael Bishop, Judy Dater, Harvey Himelfarb, Leland Rice, Catherine Wagner, and John Spence Weir.

Welpott’s photographs are found in some of the most important photographic collections in the world including the Getty Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris.

The Jack Welpott Archive is comprised of the photographer’s negatives, proof prints, contact sheets, correspondence, and documentation which chronicle Welpott’s more than 50-year career in photography. Additionally, the Jack Welpott photographic collection has been established with an initial purchase and gift of prints from the Jack Welpott Legacy Trust, bringing the Center’s current holding of his fine prints to fifty. Additional gifts and purchases over the coming years will enrich the Welpott holdings, ultimately numbering nearly 200 prints.

Norton Family Curator, Rebecca Senf, worked closely with the Welpott Trust to bring the archive and collection to the Center. Senf commented, “Our collection of prints, along with the rich

archival holdings, will allow a deeper understanding of Welpott’s significant contributions to the medium. Variants, vintage prints, and lesser known subjects will offer scholars, curators and photographers a unique chance to appreciate the diversity and high level of accomplishment that marked Welpott’s long career.”

Welpott’s biography and fine prints in the Center’s collection can be seen at: <http://ccp.uair.arizona.edu/item/32136>. Additional information about Jack Welpott is available at the Jack Welpott Legacy Trust website, www.jackwelpott.com.

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About the Center for Creative Photography

The Center for Creative Photography, part of the University Libraries at the University of Arizona, holds more archives and individual works by 20th-century North American photographers than any other archive in the world. The archives of over 60 major American photographers—including Ansel Adams, Harry Callahan, W. Eugene Smith, Edward Weston, and Garry Winogrand—form the core of a collection numbering over 90,000 works. The Center for Creative Photography has an integrated program of preservation, access, and education that celebrates the history of photography and its contemporary practice.

For More Information: 520-621-7968 or <http://www.creativephotography.org>

Gallery Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 am to 5 pm; weekends, 1 pm to 4 pm

Admission: Center for Creative Photography exhibitions, print room viewings, and education events are always FREE and open to the public.

Location: The CCP is located on the University of Arizona campus, Fine Arts Complex, 1030 N. Olive Rd., Tucson, AZ.

Parking: Parking is available at the Park Avenue Garage at the NE corner of Park and Speedway Blvd. The pedestrian underpass gives you direct access to the CCP. Parking directly behind the CCP (off 2nd Street) is free after 5 pm on weekdays and all day Saturday and Sunday.