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3-27-2018

## Helen J. Van Zante Endowment Collection

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# Helen J. Van Zante Endowment Collection

Finding Aid

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections  
Briggs Library (SBL) Room 241 Box 2114  
1300 North Campus Drive  
Brookings, SD 57007  
Phone: 605-688-5094  
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## Collection Summary

### *Identifier*

UA 50.8

### *Title*

Helen J. Van Zante Endowment Collection

### *Creator*

Department of Visual Arts and College of Family & Consumer Sciences,  
South Dakota State University

### *Dates*

1997-2005

### *Extent*

0.42 linear feet -- 1 document case, moving image materials

### *Language*

English

### *Repository*

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton  
M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

### *Access note*

This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.

### *Preferred Citation*

*Name of item.* Helen J. Van Zante Endowment Collection. UA 50.8. South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

### *Abstract*

The Helen J. Van Zante Endowment supported visiting professors on such subjects as housing, home furnishings, and household technology. This collection consists of material related to design forums and visiting artist professorships held at South Dakota State University in relation to the Van Zante Endowment in connection with the College of Family & Consumer Sciences and the Department of Visual Arts.

## **Historical Note**

Dr. Helen Johnson Van Zante (1906-1990), a distinguished scientist and pioneering developer of the home microwave oven, grew up on a farm in Brookings County, SD. She attended South Dakota State College [SDSC] where she graduated with a degree in mathematics. Later, she pursued advanced graduate work in physics at Iowa State University, which was very unusual study for a woman in the 1930s, where she completed a doctor's degree. While at SDSC, she studied traditional studio arts with Professor Ada B. Caldwell, which led to a lifelong avocation as a painter of still life, landscape, and genre subjects. Dr. Van Zante bequeathed a collection of her paintings to the Department of Visual Arts following a retrospective exhibition in the Ritz Gallery in 1987.

Dr. Van Zante received an honorary doctorate from South Dakota State University in 1987. In 1989, Van Zante received recognition from the South Dakota Board of Regents as a Centennial Alumni. She also established the substantial Van Zante Endowment to support visiting professors on such subjects as housing, home furnishings, and household technology, which the Interior Design program in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences developed along with the Department of Visual Arts. This endowment supports the Van Zante Visiting Professorships in the Visual Arts and Design

Forums in Interior Design at South Dakota State University. The visiting professorship brings artists to the university campus for annual design forums, allowing students the opportunity to learn first-hand from working artists.

## **Contents Note**

This collection is composed of material related to design forums and visiting artist professorships held at South Dakota State University in relation to the Van Zante Endowment in connection with the College of Family and Consumer Sciences and the Department of Visual Arts.

This series includes information about design forums, a video featuring three interior designers who were guests at the 1997 Design Forum, biographies and student essays on some of the visiting artists, and a report of the 1998 Van Zante Visiting Professorships in the Visual Arts. Included in the Visiting Professorships in the Visual Arts material is correspondence between the Visual Arts department head and the artists who participated. Also included are five videos featuring visiting artists. One video is the work of Ron Stucki and features footage of winter sports and a torch relay runner for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.

## **Key Words**

Artists as teachers -- South Dakota

South Dakota State University. College of Family and Consumer Sciences.

South Dakota State University. Department of Visual Arts.

Van Zante, Helen Johnson

## **Administrative Information**

### *Conditions Governing Access*

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*Arranged and Described by*

Crystal J. Gamradt, 1998 September 4, additions made 2008 November 10.

## Container List

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1	1	Artists: Casady, Chris	2001
1	2	Artists: David Joshua	2001
1	3	Artists: Hepper, Carol	1998, 2000
1	4	Artists: Holm, Dennis	undated
1	5	Artists: Huck, Thomas	1998
1	6	Artists: McKelvey, Roy	1998
1	7	Artists: Stucki, Ron	2001
1	8	Artists: Welch, Steve	1998
1	9	Design Forum	1997
1	10	Posters	1998-2005
1	11	Report	1998
1	12	Student essays	1998
1	13	Videos	1997
1	14	Visual Wave: Daktronics Alumni and Employees	2004
1	15	Visiting Professorships in the Visual Arts	1998