



YORK UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**Inventory of the
Helen Lucas fonds**

Inventory #F0100

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F0100 - Helen Lucas fonds

Fonds/Collection Number: F0100

Title: Helen Lucas fonds

Dates: [1971]-1981

Extent: 13 containers of graphic material and textual records

**Biographical Sketch/
Administrative History:** Helen Lucas (Canadian Artist) was born in 1931 in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, studied at the Ontario College of Art (Toronto) from 1950-1954, and was Drawing and Painting Master at Sheridan College (Oakville, Ont.) from 1973-1979. She has exhibited her art works widely in Canadian cities, published drawings and text in several publications, and has been active participant in Canadian Women studies projects. In 1991 York University awarded her an honorary Doctor of Letters.

Scope and Content: The fonds consists of Helen Lucas' correspondence, scrapbooks, photographs, The Diary Series (1971-1978), and Relationship Drawings (1978-1981) (both of which include 246 charcoal drawings, 40 sketches, 34 drawings, 5 etchings, 47 lithographs, 3 framed serigraphs, 1 sketchbook, and 1 pastel on paper); preliminary drawings for Angelica (Toronto: Kakabeka Publishing Co., 1973) and Genesis; twelve original collage drawings for the book co-authored by Helen Lucas and Margaret Laurence entitled The Christmas Birthday Story (1981) complemented with letters from Laurence while they were collaborating on the book; original prints (1970s); a sketchbook (1971); and Drawing Dedicated to my Daughter. Lucas provides an accompanying narrative to many of the drawings, giving a context for the works and an account of their evolution between 1971 and 1979. The initial sketchbook pages are also included, portraying intimate personal images which she likens to 'finding the achievement of my own voice'.

**Restrictions on
Access and Use:** No restrictions on access, including display rights and consultation rights. Copyright is retained by the artist.

Finding Aid: Contents list available.

URL of Finding Aid: <http://archivesfa.library.yorku.ca/submissions/fonds/ON00370-f0000100.htm>

Accruals: The fonds comprises the following accession: 1994-040. Further accruals are expected.

**Immediate source of
acquisition:** Accession 1994-040 donated by the artist in 1994.

Provenance Access Points: Lucas, Helen, 1931-

Date of creation: 2002/04/05

Date of last revision: 2003/04/08

CALL NUMBERCONTENTS LIST

THE DIARY SERIES: The Diary drawings are numbered on the back within a circle, certain ones with notes on back also. All 20" x 25" on Johannot rag paper, in charcoal unless otherwise specified; all drawings well sprayed to fix charcoal.

1994-040/011

- (01) Dedication page for Diary Series
- (02) Press clippings re Diary works
- (03) Related material
- (04) "The Fine Art of Survival", book outline suggested by
Pagurian Press
- (05) Diary Series: Photographs of some of the sold drawings
- (06) Diary Series: 40 Photographs of the Diary drawings

1994-040/010

- (01) - (03) History of work before Diary Series, with six photographs +
one mother and child lithograph, 1969
- (04) Childhood recollections, with twelve photographs
- (05) How do I explain these drawings?
- (06) How series began
- (07) Twelve lithographs, each 11" x 17", 1973
- (08) Sketchbook of first images, twenty-four pages 20" x 15", 1971

1994-040/001

Preceded by a two page (20" x 25") explanation of the Diary series.

Numbered:

- (1) 2/6/71
 - (2) 4/6/71
 - (3) 5/5/71
 - (4) 10/5/71
 - (5) 6/10/71
 - (6) 6/15/71
 - (7) 17/6/71
 - (8) 23/6/71
 - (9) 12/7/71
 - (10) 28/9/71
 - (11) 28/8/71
 - (12) 7/10/71
 - (12a) 24/4/72 (oil on paper)
 - (13) 7/2/73
 - (14) 15/3/73
- Five etchings, not numbered, each approx. 20" x 26"

CALL NUMBER

CONTENTS LIST

1994-040/002 THE DIARY SERIES (continued)

One page preface (20" x 25"), entitled "Sexuality, 1973" with Angelica lithograph.

(15)	22/3/73
(16)	23/3/73
(17)	23/3/73
(18)	23/3/73
(19)	24/3/73
(20)	24/3/73
(21)	24/3/73
(22)	24/3/73
(23)	24/3/73
(24)	24/3/73
(25)	24/3/73
(26)	24/3/73
(27)	23/3/73

One page explanatory preface (20" x 25"), entitled "Marriage:; part of the Diary Series but assigned Roman numerals:

(I)	26/8/72
(II)	28/8/72
(III)	30/9/72
(IV)	2/10/72
(V)	4/10/72
(VI)	5/10/72
(VII)	7/10/72
(VIII)	7/11/72
(IX)	8/11/72
(X)	22/11/72
(XI)	24/12/72
(XII)	25/12/72
(XIII)	1/1/73
(XIV)	1/1/73

(28)	16/4/73
(29)	28/4/73

(29a) Photograph of destroyed work with explanatory note: "How To Hire a Secretary, 1973."

(30)	28/4/73
(31)	17/5/73
(32)	10/1/74

CALL NUMBERCONTENTS LIST**1994-040/003**

One page preface explaining next drawings, with sixteen charcoal sketches each 9 3/4" x 12 1/2"

(33)	15/1/74
(34)	20/1/74
(35)	26/1/74
(36)	2/2/74
(37)	3/2/74
(38)	14/2/74
(39)	20/2/74
(40)	23/3/74
(41)	24/4/74
(42)	21/3/75
(43)	22/3/75 (sketch)
(44)	24/3/75
(45)	12/4/75
(46)	20/4/75
(47)	26/4/75
(48)	17/5/75
(49)	19/5/75
(50)	24/5/75
(51)	24/5/75 (sketch)
(52)	25/4/75
(53)	3/6/75
(54)	3/6/75 (sketch)
(55)	17/6/75
(56)	20/6/75
(57)	21/6/75
(58)	28/6/75
(59)	7/7/75
(60)	7/7/75
(61)	20/11/75

Four small works, each approx. 9 3/4" x 12 1/2"; important one:
"The Wailing Wall"

CALL NUMBER
1994-040/004**CONTENTS LIST**

(62)	6/12/75
(63)	16/1/76
(64)	23/2/76
(65)	28/2/76
(66)	10/3/76
(67)	13/3/76
(68)	16/3/76
(69)	17/3/76
(70)	18/3/76
(71)	22/3/76
(72)	23/3/76
(73)	23/3/76
(74)	24/3/76
(75)	3/4/76
(76)	13/4/76
(76a)	1/5/76 (pastel colour)
(77)	15/5/76
(78)	21/5/76
(79)	29/5/76
(80)	7/6/76
(81)	11/6/76 (sketch)
(82)	13/6/76
(83)	26/6/76
(84)	27/6/76
	One page explanation entitled "The Screams", with two sketches
(85)	5/7/76
(86)	5/7/76
(87)	5/7/76
(88)	6/7/76
(89)	6/7/76

CALL NUMBERCONTENTS LIST**1994-040/005**

(90)	6/7/76
(91)	6/7/76
(92)	6/7/76
(93)	7/7/76
(94)	7/7/76
(95)	7/7/76
(96)	7/7/76
(97)	7/7/76
(98)	7/7/76
(99)	7/7/76
(100)	7/7/76
(101)	7/7/76
(102)	7/7/76
(103)	7/7/76
(104)	16/7/76
(105)	4/9/76
(106)	9/10/76
(107)	10/10/76
(108)	10/10/76
(109)	10/10/76
(110)	16/10/76
(111)	28/12/76
(112)	20/2/77
(113)	20/2/77
(114)	26/2/77
(115)	5/3/77
(116)	5/3/77
(117)	16/4/77
(118)	16/4/77
(119)	16/4/77
(120)	16/4/77
(121)	16/4/77
(122)	16/4/77
(123)	29/5/77
(124)	dated 1977 only
(125)	25/5/77

CALL NUMBER
1994-040/006**CONTENTS LIST**

(126)	11/6/77
(127)	24/6/77
(128)	28/6/77
(129)	30/6/77
(130)	30/6/77
(130a)	9/7/77 (sketch, full size)
(131)	30/6/77
(132)	1/7/77
(133)	1/7/77
(134)	2/10/77
(135)	10/7/77
(136)	10/7/77
(137)	24/8/77
(138)	16/9/77
(139)	1/10/77
(140)	16/10/77
(141)	29/5/77
(142)	6/1/78 (colour begins here)
(143)	6/1/78
(144)	14/1/78
(145)	14/1/78
(146)	3/ 2/78
(147)	1/3/78
(148)	4/3/78
(149)	4/3/78
(150)	18/3/78
(151)	11/3/78
(152)	20/3/78
(153)	18/3/78
(154)	19/3/78
(155)	21/3/78
(156)	4/2/78
(157)	25/3/78 black/white sketch
(158)	25/3/78 black/white sketch One page explanation entitled "Tears", how they became floral One page explanation of work after Diary drawings; photos

CALL NUMBER

CONTENTS LIST

RELATIONSHIP DRAWINGS SERIES, 1978-1981

1994-040/022 Deluxe Edition of **This is my Beloved - Sometimes** (Willowdale, Ont.: Proclaim Publishing Inc., 1981); Edition limited to 300, of which 285 are numbered; this is copy AP7. also contains coloured lithograph "Genesis"; Included is a photocopy of a letter from Helen Lucas to Eleanor Sniderman of Proclaim Publications contracting to publish *This is my Beloved — Sometimes* , related correspondence and copies of press reviews.

1994-040/007

- (01) Forty preliminary sketches
- (02) Six preliminary works for lithograph "Genesis"

The drawings, thirty-seven in all, each 20" x 26", charcoal on Johannot paper. Not in chronological order, rather in relationship sequences; different drawings can be used to make up different sequences. A number of the book's drawings are sold.

Numbered:

- (1) 26/9/78)
- (2) 30/9/78) reach for the heart
- (3) 2/10/78)

- (4) 2/8/78)
- (5) 25/8/78)
- (6) 25/8/78) mating dance
- (7) 29/8/78)
- (8) 30/9/78)
- (9) 23/9/78)

- (10) 9/10/78) communicate intellectually, won't come
- (11) 24/9/78) close physically, stand their ground

- (12) 18/7/79)
- (13) 20/7/79) closeness, then pregnancy!

- (14) 6/1/81) male possessiveness

- (15) 3/1/79) female possessiveness (16 is my
- (16) 31/1/79) favourite drawing in the series)

- (17) 15/12/80) male who 'comes on strong',
- (18) 29/12/80) conquest, then woman abandoned

CALL NUMBER
1994-040/007

CONTENTS LIST

(19)	6/7/78)	
(20)	10/7/78)	
(21)	11/7/78)	the temptress
(22)	11/4/79)	
(23)	14/7/78)	
(24)	14/1/81)	power of the martyr, gets the upper hand in the end by being 'poor subservient me'
(25)	18/8/78)	
(26)	25/10/80)	relationship based only on male
(27)	29/10/80)	sexual performance, bound to fail
(28)	25/10/80)	another version of the above, needed to (29)
	29/10/80)	show blackness of a failed relationship
(30)	9/1/79)	
(31)	29/1/79)	knight, can't penetrate that protective
(32)	15/10/78)	armour and get to the real man
(33)	13/9/79)	
(34)	18/10/78)	eventually he exposes himself, disillusionment
(35)	19/10/78)	back he goes to hide in his armour, sad, because even in bed can't get past his armour (photo)
(36)	5/11/78)	the 'nice' girl, the virgin, her 'goodness'
(37)	16/1/79)	keeps him at a distance, his genitals pushed as far away as possible into the corner

CALL NUMBER
1994-040/008

CONTENTS LIST
ANGELICA SERIES, 1973

- (1) Poster promoting the book
- (2) Three sheets of explanations, with 8" x 10" photos
- (3) French and English editions of the book
- (4) The thirty-four original drawings
- (5) Eighteen original lithographs
- (6) Twelve hand-coloured lithographs
- (7) Reviews
- (8) Correspondence, business letters
- (9) Booklets explaining A.B. Dick offset duplicators, and how original prints are done by drawing with a lithography pen on a special paper plate

CALL NUMBER
1994-040/009

CONTENTS LIST
THE CHRISTMAS BIRTHDAY STORY SERIES
with Margaret Laurence; 1981

- (1) The fourteen original drawings/collages for the book
- (2) Explanation sheet
- (3) Letters from Margaret Laurence
- (4) Proof sheets from Knopf, N.Y.
- (5) Correspondence with Knopf, N.Y.
- (6) Reviews
- (7) Two copies of book: hard cover, with a dedication to me by Margaret Laurence; and soft cover
- (8) Photographs with Margaret Laurence, taken by Canadian Press, David Laurence, and Derek Fuller

- (9) Royalty statements, Knopf/McClelland & Stewart, 1981 to 1989
- (10) Business papers
- (11) All my other, personal letters from Margaret Laurence

CALL NUMBER

CONTENTS LIST

1994-040/012 One framed drawing in colour, 30" x 22" pastel, dedicated on back to my daughter, with some thoughts about it to her, 1976 [*Room 305H*]

1994-040/013 One framed Angelica poster, 1973 [*Room 305E*]

1994-040/014 Framed serigraph in colour, 30" x 22", 1975 [*Madonnas ave genitals*] [*Room 305H*]

1994-040/015 One framed panel introducing collection in archives with two photographs 30 years apart [*Room 305:ASC reading room*].

1994-040/016 Two framed serigraphs in colour, each 30" x 22", 1975. [*Room 305E and ASC Reading Room*] and /017

1994-040/018

to

1994-040/021 FOUR PORTFOLIOS 20" x 28", each containing twenty-four sleeves (double-sided) with documentation beginning with early years (born 1931), through to 1994, concentrating on the professional life of the artist from first showing in 1953. Includes resume, photographs, correspondence, press clippings, gallery invitations, reviews of work, notices of awards, business papers, my writing, and thoughts as a professional artist.

CALL NUMBER
1998-034**FILE LIST**

CALL NUMBER	FILE LIST
	The Drawings /001 to /006: charcoal on gessoed Masonite; charcoal well fixed under glass, framed; size 3'X 2' each
/001	Self Portrait, no. I, 1970
/002	Self Portrait, no. II, May, 1970
/003 will talk) May, 1969	Childhood Recollections (The Gossips), (Careful, people
/004	Childhood Recollections (Beware the evil eye), April, 1969
/005 will talk), May 1969	Childhood Recollections (The Relatives) (Careful, people
/006	Childhood Recollections (Father Leonidas), 1969
/007	Madonna Alone & the Fraternal Order (The Holy Fathers), Diptych (01) Madonna, 4' X 2'8", 23/4/77, Oil on masonite; (02) Holy Fathers 4'X 2'8", 24/4/77, Oil on masonite
/008	The Three Crucifixes - Triptych (01) No.1 4'X2'8", 29/4/77, Oil on masonite (02) No.2 4'X2'8", 1/5/77, Oil on masonite (03) No.3 4'X2'8",1/5/77, Oil on masonite
/009	Crocus - Self Portrait, 3'4"X2'6",4/4/80, Oil on canvas
/010 masonite	The Doubts and the Occasional Light, 4'X3", 25/3/64, Oil on
/011	Two Figures (Lovers), 4X4', 18/1/73, Oil on masonite
/012	White Against the Sky,4'X5', 3/10/80, Oil on canvas
/013	Bloom II, 4'X5', 1970, Oil on masonite
/014	Bloom I, 4'X4', 1969,Oil on masonite
/015	Icon for Spring II, 4'X4', 24/2/80, Oil on canvas
/016	Icon for Spring (Iris), 4'X4', 28/11/79, Oil on canvas

CALL NUMBER**1998-034****FILE LIST**

/017	Dancing Madonna, 5'X4', 8/1/77, Oil on canvas
/018	Icon for Spring (Dandelioness), 4'X5', 13/1/80, Oil on canvas
/019	A Corner of Kew, 4'X4', 18/6/96, Acrylic on canvas
/020	Indian Summer, 4'X4', 24/11/83, Acrylic on canvas
/021	Totem, 8'X4', 12/10/74, Fixed charcoal on gessoed masonite
/022	Shelagh's Gift, 4'X5', 5/6/97, Acrylic on canvas
/023	Celebrating Solstice, 3'X6', 21/6/98, Acrylic on canvas