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Carl Büchner Papers



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Carl Büchner (1921-2003)

Carl Büchner was born on 24 August 1921 in Somerset East. He matriculated in Johannesburg and attended the Witwatersrand University and the Witwatersrand Technical College School of Arts and Crafts, gaining a National Art Teacher's Certificate in 1944. He studied under Maurice van Essche, Eric Byrd, Le Roux Smith le Roux and Walter Battiss. Büchner taught at several Transvaal schools and the Pretoria Art Centre. He was appointed art inspector of the Cape Province in 1954 and later became principal of the PL Olivier Art Centre in Stellenbosch. Between 1959 and 1970 he lectured in drawing and painting at the Michaelis School of Fine Art at the University of Cape Town. Büchner retired in 1971 to devote his life to painting.

Büchner held his first solo exhibition in 1954. During 1957-1958 and again in 1964, he visited Europe on study tours. He was an art critic for ***Die Burger*** and the ***Cape Times*** newspapers and a member of the selection board for the Venice and Sao Paulo Biennial as well as the Santam Children's Art Competition. In 1963 he won the fifth annual *Artists of Fame and Promise* award.

On 14 April 2003, Carl Büchner died at the age of 81. ABSA Bank organised a special exhibition in 2005 as a tribute to the artist's contribution to the South African art world of the twentieth century, not only as an artist, but also as an art instructor, art administrator and art critic. His paintings are to be found in the South African National Gallery in Cape Town, the Pretoria Art Museum, the Rembrandt Art Foundation in Stellenbosch, Unisa, SASOL, Walter Battiss Art Museum in Somerset East, University of Johannesburg, Hester Rupert Museum and many other art galleries and private collections.

Carl Büchner Papers (0,7 linear meters)

The Carl Büchner Papers were donated to the Unisa Library Archives during May 2008 by Pieter Willem van Heerden, Director of the Pretoria Arts Association. Prof Marinus Wiechers was the mediator in the transaction. The Papers comprise of personal papers, correspondence, art catalogues, opening speeches at art exhibitions, journal articles, press cuttings, photographs of Büchner himself, his paintings, family and friends. The archival materials are of great research value to scholars interested in Carl Büchner's oeuvre, as well as the development and history of twentieth-century South African art.

Carl Büchner Papers (1921-2003) (0,7 linear meters)

Box 1

- 1 Personal papers
 - 1.1 Identity document
 - 1.2 Passports¹ 1944-1973
 - 1.3 Certificates² and testimonials 1939-1953; 2003
 - 1.4 Civic dinner menu; Parliamentary Women's Club programme 1962; 1964
 - 1.5 Union Castle Line mementoes 1957
- 2 Correspondence 1951-2003
- 3 Exhibitions
 - 3.1 Opening speeches held at Büchner exhibitions and speeches by Büchner at art exhibitions 1948-2005

Box 2

- 3.2 Catalogues of exhibitions 1944-2005

Box 3

- 4 Articles on Carl Büchner
 - 4.1 *Lantern*, no 4 1953
 - 4.2 *Charme*, Spring 1963
 - 4.3 *Lantern*, 40:4 1991
 - 4.4 Amédée Büchner: *Die Büchner verhaal* 1995
 - 4.5 *Cape Librarian* Sept./Oct. 1998
- 5 *Register of South African and South-West African artists* 1900-1969

Box 4

- 6 Press cuttings and press releases 1950-2005

Box 5

- 7 Photographs of Carl Büchner paintings

Box 6

- 8 Photographs of Carl Büchner, his parents, family and friends, including Nadia Nerina and Maurice van Essche ca 1930-2003
- 9 Death and funeral of Carl Büchner
 - 9.1 Memorial service 19 April 2003
 - 9.2 Correspondence about Carl Büchner's will³ 2003

Box 7

- 10 Photograph album with honeymoon photographs of Mrs Juliette V Bradley, a resident of Sea Point for many years. ca 1930

¹ Includes passport of Johannes Valentyn Büchner.

² Death certificate, 2003.

³ Includes copy of will of Büchner's father JV Büchner.