

Marshall Arisman Collection

Collection, MG.33

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Related To

Marshall Arisman

Date

1973 – 2006

Abstract

Marshall Arisman (1938-2022) was a painter, sculptor, and illustrator who began working at SVA in 1964, becoming the chair of the Design-Illustration department in 1969, co-chair of the BFA Media Arts program in 1971, and founder and chair of the MFA Illustration as Visual Essay program in 1984. As an editorial illustrator, Arisman regularly contributed to *The Nation*, *The New York Times*, *Playboy*, *Time* magazine, and *U.S. News & World Report*. The printed materials, mainly covers and article illustrations for various periodicals and a few books, and original artworks, including nine panels from the *Angels and Demons* series.

Biographical / Historical Note

Marshall Arisman (1938-2022) was a painter, sculptor, and illustrator who began working at SVA in 1964, becoming the chair of the Illustration department in 1967. In 1970, he became co-chair, along with Richard Wilde, of the newly created BFA Media Arts program, which combined the Illustration department with Advertising and Graphic Design. His self-published 1973 book, *Frozen Images*, made him, in his words, “the go-to guy whenever there was a murder” among art directors. In 1984, he founded the school’s MFA Illustration as Visual Essay department, then called MFA Illustration as Visual Journalism, and served as its first chair.

Born in Jamestown, NY, Arisman grew up in rural New York. His grandmother, a psychic medium who lived in the Spiritualist community in Lily Dale, was also an artist, and as a teenager, Arisman would often visit her house to make art. Arisman studied graphic design at Pratt Institute from 1956 to 1960, after which he worked for a short time for General Motors, but soon quit, moved to Paris, got drafted into the Army in 1962, and was discharged six months later.

Arisman’s early style was typical mid-century illustration, when an encounter with the paintings of Francis Bacon seems to have precipitated his unmistakable style, not only visually but also insofar as his work became more visceral and incorporated elements of his own experiences. These experiences, Arisman related to Jerelle Kraus, in his book about Times Op-Ed artists, were cows from the dairy farm he grew up on, deer his family hunted, guns his brother owned, and psychic phenomena from Lily Dale.

As an editorial illustrator, Arisman regularly contributed to *The Nation*, *The New York Times*, *Playboy*, *Time* magazine, and *U.S. News & World Report*. In addition to *Frozen Images*, Arisman is also the author of the graphic novels *Divine Elvis*, *The Cat Who Invented Bebop*, and *Heaven Departed*; he illustrated the books *The Wolf Who Loved Music* and the fairy tale *Fitcher’s Bird*; and he co-directed a documentary with Francesco Potinari about his grandmother, called *A Postcard from Lilydale*.

Scope And Contents

The Marshall Arisman Collection consists of printed materials, mainly covers and article illustrations for various periodicals (many from *The Nation* and *The New York Times*) and a few books (one book cover and one book of drawings), and original artworks, including nine panels from the *Angels and Demons* series, plus various drawings and paintings.

Arrangement

1 document box and 12 flat boxes

General Physical Description

Most periodical covers and tearsheets are laminated, some are mounted on pasteboard. *Angels and Demons* paintings are oil on wood; the

rest of the original art is on paper.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

Marshall Arisman Collection, [series. item]. Milton Glaser Design Study Center and Archives, Visual Arts Foundation, New York.

Acquisition Information

The Marshall Arisman Collection was acquired as a gift from Marshall Arisman.

Collection Contents

Marshall Arisman Collection

Series 1. Printed Materials

(83 records)

American Illustration. 1982/83 (eagle) cover, Box 1 Folder 2

"American Psycho" by Brett Easton Ellis, Box 1 Folder 1

"Brief Encounters with Some Very Fine Artists" newspaper, Box 3 Folder 8

Elektra Musician. "Inner Fires: The Genius of Bud Powell" (Jazz Masters Edition) LP album cover, Box 3 Folder 8

Grafica, no. 9 (dog on highwire) cover, Box 2 Folder 1

Graphis, no. 243. (dog with pencil in its mouth) cover, Box 1 Folder 2

Harper's. January 1976 ("Caged Revolution") cover, Box 1 Folder 2

Hopkins Medical News. Fall 1985 vol. 9 no. 3 ("Able Mind, Shackled Body") cover, Box 1 Folder 2

The Nation. February 20, 2006 ("All the King's Horses," complete issue) article illustration, Box 1 Folder 4

The Nation (elephant on a tightrope) poster, Box 4 Folder 2

The Nation. January 16, 1982 ("Nuclear Samizdat," Uncle Sam riding a bear holding Soviet warheads and walking on a tight rope) cover, Box 1 Folder 3

The Nation. January 24, 1981 ("A Letter for America," elephant with warhead on tight rope) cover, Box 1 Folder 4

The Nation. January 24, 1981 ("A Letter for America," elephant standing on warheads) article illustration, Box 1 Folder 3

The Nation. January 24, 1981 ("A Letter for America," elephant with warheads on Newton's cradle) article illustration, Box 1 Folder 3

The Nation. June 9, 1979 ("Intervention," eagle head) cover, Box 1 Folder 3

The Nation. June 9, 1979 ("Intervention," eagle eating a warhead) article illustration, Box 1 Folder 3

The Nation. November 7, 1981 (Reagan brand vacuum-cleaner elephant) article illustration, Box 1 Folder 3

The New York Times Book Review. June 13, 1999 cover (photocopy) , Box 2 Folder 1

The New York Times. April 12, 1976 ("Peking's Nuclear Restraint") article illustration, Box 1 Folder 5

The New York Times. August 21, 1975 ("Détente and the Soviet Managerial Class") article illustration, Box 1 Folder 5

The New York Times. August 26, 1977 ("J. Edgar") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 4

The New York Times. August 6, 1975 ("Getting on Top of the Problem") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 3

The New York Times. December 10, 1975 ("Kennedy and Castro: 'No Smoking Gun but...'.") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 3

The New York Times. December 18, 1977 ("When a Newsman Consults the C.I.A.") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 4

The New York Times. December 31, 1975 ("Behind the Soviet Union's Grain Purchases") article illustration, Box 1 Folder 5

The New York Times. February 19, 1980 ("Lots of Helping Hands") article illustration, Box 1 Folder 5

The New York Times. February 21, 1973 ("You Have Become Someone Else") article illustration, Box 1 Folder 5

The New York Times. January 11, 1975 ("Consensus for Genocide?") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 2

The New York Times. January 3, 1973 ("The Japanese Press: Tension, Tension") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 2

The New York Times. July 12, 1977 ("A New Weapon to Think (and Worry) About") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 4

The New York Times. July 26, 1975 ("Computer and Spirit: The Chasm") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 2

The New York Times. July 27, 1977 ("Not Always a Matter of Justice") article illustration, Box 1 Folder 5

The New York Times. June 11, 1979 ("Torture's Teachers") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 1

The New York Times. June 12, 1977 ("Castro and the United States") article illustration, Box 1 Folder 5

The New York Times. June 2, 1977 ("Against Unionizing the Military") article illustration, Box 1 Folder 5

The New York Times. May 14, 1975 ("Taiwan's Future") article illustration, Box 1 Folder 5

The New York Times. May 14, 1977 ("First, 2 pieces of bubble gum. Last, some tennis equipment") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 3

The New York Times. May 14, 1978 ("A Race to the Death") article illustration, Box 1 Folder 5

The New York Times. May 27, 1973 ("There Was a Time") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 2

The New York Times. May 3, 1977 ("Gen. Svetlichny: 'We will let him rot in the insane asylum!'") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 3

The New York Times. November 12, 1976 ("In Defense of Mrs. Gandhi") article illustration, Box 1 Folder 5

The New York Times. September 12, 1977 ("In Uganda, Dead, Dead, Dead, Dead" by a Ugandan) article illustration, Box 1 Folder 5

Omni. April 1981 ("Transformations") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 5

Omni. July 1983 ("Roboclone") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 5

Omni. June 1994 ("Bloodletting") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 6

Omni. September 1981 ("Mr. Mouse") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 5

"Orangutan (Pongo pygmaeus)" poster, Box 3 Folder 6

Penthouse. ("AIDS Is Not a Death Sentence") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 8

Penthouse. ("Our Father Who Art in Hell") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 7

Penthouse. ("Serial Killers.") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 8

Penthouse. ("The Park is Mine") article illustration, Box 2 Folder 7

Penthouse. December 1995 ("A Different Kind of Child Abuse") article illustration, Box 3 Folder 1

Penthouse. May 1995 ("A Special Hell") article illustration, Box 3 Folder 1

Playboy. (Playboy's Annual Awards for "The Executioner's Song" illustration), Box 3 Folder 9

Playboy. July 1993 ("Sins of the Fathers") article illustration, Box 3 Folder 2

Playboy. September 1992 ("La Cosa Nostra Takes the Big Hit") article illustration, Box 3 Folder 2

The Progressive. July 2004 ("Abu Ghraib, USA," cover illustration), Box 1 Folder 6

The Progressive. May 1992 ("Colombia's Dirty War, Washington's Dirty Hands") cover, Box 1 Folder 6

Rolling Stone. February 9, 1989 ("Prisoners of Crack") article illustration, Box 3 Folder 3

Rolling Stone. July 12, 1979 ("Trial and Error") article illustration, Box 3 Folder 4

Rolling Stone. October 25, 2001 ("The Real War") article illustration, Box 3 Folder 3

The Salt Journal, vol. 2 no. 3. March/April 2000 ("The Culture of Violence") cover, Box 1 Folder 7

Screw, no. 260 cover, Box 3 Folder 4

Sports Illustrated. March 20, 1989 "The Longest Ride" article illustration, Box 3 Folder 5

Sports Illustrated. March 24, 1980 "Louisville Says It's in the Cards" article illustration, Box 3 Folder 5

Technical Analysis of Stocks and Commodities. August 1999 (shark) illustration, Box 1 Folder 7

Time. August 24, 1998 ("Criminal Cops") cover, Box 1 Folder 7

Time. June 2, 1986 ("Nuclear Power: How Safe is Safe?") cover, Box 1 Folder 7

Time. March 23, 1981 ("The Curse of Violent Crime") cover, Box 1 Folder 7

Time. May 19, 1980 ("The Empire Strikes Back!" Darth Vader, cover illustration), Box 1 Folder 7

Tokyo Designer School. "Heaven Departed" by Marshall Arisman, Box 1 Folder 11

U.S. News and World Report. August 28-September 4, 1989 ("Hitler's War Against the World") cover, Box 1 Folder 7

Unidentified (figure on red ground) poster, Box 3 Folder 6

Unidentified periodical. ("Intimations of Mortality") article illustration, Box 4 Folder 1

Unidentified periodical. ("The Deadly Legacy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki") article illustration, Box 4 Folder 1

Unidentified publication ("Gun Control") illustration, Box 1 Folder 8

Unidentified publication (animal swimming) illustration, Box 1 Folder 8

Unidentified publication (monkey holding plugged in banana) illustration, Box 1 Folder 8

Unidentified spread (black and white figures) #1, Box 3 Folder 7

Unidentified spread (black and white figures) #2, Box 3 Folder 7

Unidentified spread (two animals, one used as cover for George Crumb/William Schuman on New World Records) #3, Box 3 Folder 7

Veterinary Medicine. October 1991 cover, Box 1 Folder 7

Visual Arts Press. "Frozen Images: Drawings by Marshall Arisman", Box 1 Folder 10

Series 2. Original Art

Subseries 1. Angels and Demons Series

(9 records)

Untitled (from "Angels and Demons," 1 of 9), Box 5

Untitled (from "Angels and Demons," 2 of 9), Box 6

Untitled (from "Angels and Demons," 3 of 9), Box 7

Untitled (from "Angels and Demons," 4 of 9), Box 8

Untitled (from "Angels and Demons," 5 of 9), Box 9

Untitled (from "Angels and Demons," 6 of 9), Box 10

Untitled (from "Angels and Demons," 7 of 9), Box 11

Untitled (from "Angels and Demons," 8 of 9), Box 12

Untitled (from "Angels and Demons," 9 of 9), Box 13

Subseries 2. Miscellaneous Artworks

(11 records)

Turtle cookbook painting (1 of 3), Box 4 Folder 5

Turtle cookbook painting (2 of 3), Box 4 Folder 5

Turtle cookbook painting (3 of 3), Box 4 Folder 5

Two cats, Box 4 Folder 3

Untitled (Cat #1), Box 4 Folder 3

Untitled (Cat #2), Box 4 Folder 3

Untitled (Cat #3), Box 4 Folder 3

Untitled (Cat #4), Box 4 Folder 3

Untitled (Half man, half primate), Box 4 Folder 4

Untitled (Man holding explosive), Box 4 Folder 4

Untitled (Police officer in handcuffs), Box 4 Folder 4

Series 3. About Marshall Arisman

(6 records)

"Arisman: Facing the Audience" flyer, Box 1 Folder 9

"Frozen Images: Drawings by Marshall Arisman" poster, Box 4 Folder 2

Arisman: Recent Works (Philippe Guimiot Gallery) poster, Box 3 Folder 9

Graphis no. 265. January/February 1990 (article on Arisman and Arisman on cover), Box 1 Folder 10

Photograph of Marshall Arisman with "Tribal Portrait" in progress, Box 1 Folder 9

Time (Japanese). "Marshall Arisman" spread, Box 3 Folder 9