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Guide to the John Willis Collection of Lakota Art

WA MSS S-4447

Matthew Daniel Mason

June 2021

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
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CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-4447

CREATOR: Willis, John, 1957- , collector

TITLE: John Willis Collection of Lakota Art

DATES: 2008-2019

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 13.7 linear feet (8 boxes, 1 broadside)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Drawings and inkjet prints of drawings created by Lakota artists, 2008-2017, as well as art produced by others related to protests against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota, 2016-2019. Artists represented in the collection include Gilbert Kills Pretty Enemy, III, Quinton Maldonado, Joe Pulliam, and Dwayne Wilcox. It includes 25 original drawings as well as 20 inkjet prints of drawings. More than half of the works created by the artists integrate ledger paper. Six works related to protests of the Dakota Access Pipeline chiefly consists of screen-prints on cloth, which includes an example designed by Dignidad Rebelde, a collaborative graphic arts project of Jesus Barraza and Melanie Cervantes.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.willislakotaart

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.willislakotaart.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from John Willis on the Walter McClintock Memorial Fund, 2020.

Conditions Governing Access

The John Willis Collection of Lakota Art is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

John Willis Collection of Lakota Art. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit. These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

Associated Materials

Dwayne Wilcox, Ledger Drawings (WA MSS S-4448). Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

John Willis (born 1957)

John Willis is a documentary photographer and emeritus professor of photography at Marlboro College in Marlboro, Vermont. His monographs include *Recycled Realities*, co-authored with Tom Young (Center for American Places, 2002), *Views from the Reservation* (Center for American Places, 2010), and *Mni Wiconi - Water Is Life Honoring the Water Protectors at Standing Rock and Everywhere in the Ongoing Struggle for Indigenous Sovereignty* (Staunton, Virginia: George F. Thompson Publishing, 2019). Willis has photographs in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, among others. He is also a co-founder with Bill Ledger of the In-Sight Photography Project, a photography outreach project to youth in Brattleboro, Vermont.

Gilbert Kills Pretty Enemy, III (born 1979)

Gilbert Andrew Kills Pretty Enemy, Ill, is a Hunkpapa Lakota artist from the Standing Rock Reservation. His artwork includes drawing, graphic art, silk screening, tattooing, tribal art, wood burning and painting. He earned two associate degrees from United Tribes Technical College including art marketing in 2001 and small business management in 2005. He is the founder of Chameleon Horse Art & Design at McLaughlin, South Dakota.

Quinton Maldonado (born 1982)

Quinton Jack Whiting Maldonado is an Oglala and Sicangu artist. As a child, he lived on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation with his maternal grandparents Margaret Chips Jack Maldonado (1914-1987) and Manuel Vasquez Maldonado (1922-1989). He has created art since childhood, and after viewing the work of Donald F. Montileaux (born 1948) while in high school, Maldonado has studied and created ledger drawings.

Joe Pulliam (born 1968)

Patrick Joel Pulliam, also known as Akicita Tokahe (First Soldier/ Warrior), is an Oglala Lakota artist born at Pine Ridge, South Dakota, and raised in the Oglala Lakota Nation at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. After service in the United States Army, in 2003 Pulliam began in-depth studies of his Lakota heritage and focused on ledger drawing after an introduction by artist Daniel Long Soldier (born 1949).

Dwayne Wilcox (born 1957)

Dwayne "Chuck" Wilcox is an Oglala Lakota artist born at Kadoka, South Dakota, and raised at Wanblee on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. He served in the United States military. A self-taught artist, Wilcox created his first commissioned artwork in 1974 and transitioned to a fulltime art career in 1987 with an emphasis on ledger drawings. Example of his work are collected in *Visual/Language: The Ledger Drawings of Dwayne Wilcox* (Staunton, Virginia: George F. Thompson Publishing, 2021), edited by Karen Miller Nearburg.

Ledger Drawings

Ledger drawings are traditionally representational drawings of scenes from the lives of nineteenth century Plains Indians, with an emphasis on martial accomplishments. Ledger drawings were so named for the ruled ledger books in which they were often executed which the creators obtained from soldiers or traders. Many twentieth century and twenty-first century Native American artists have also integrated ledgers in their work.

Description of the Collection

Drawings and inkjet prints of drawings created by Lakota artists, 2008-2017, as well as art produced by others related to protests against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota, 2016-2019. Artists represented in the collection include Gilbert Kills Pretty Enemy, III, Quinton Maldonado, Joe Pulliam, and Dwayne Wilcox. It includes 25 original drawings as well as 20 inkjet prints of drawings. More than half of the works created by the artists integrate paper from ledgers. Six works related to protests of the Dakota Access Pipeline chiefly consists of screen-prints on cloth, which includes an example designed by Dignidad Rebelde, a collaborative graphic arts project of Jesus Barraza and Melanie Cervantes.

Collection is organized with drawings and inkjet prints under the names of Lakota artists.

Arrangement

Organized into five series: I. Gilbert Kills Pretty Enemy, III, 2016. II. Quinton Maldonado, 2015-2016. III. Joe Pulliam, 2017-2019. IV. Dwayne Wilcox, 2008-2016. V. Dakota Access Pipeline Protest Art, 2016-2019.

Collection Contents

Gilbert Kills Pretty Enemy, III, 2016

3.67 linear feet (2 boxes)

Organized under two headings: Drawings and Inkjet Prints of Drawings.

	Drawings Arranged alphabetically.	
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 1	*Incredible Hulk Fights the Black Snake* *1 drawing, ink and crayon on paper, 29 x 45 cm, in window mat, 44 x 61 cm* Drawing on ledger paper for "Chattel Mortgages Filed" created by an unidentified corporate body, 1891-1898; signed and dated on recto by the artist See also: *Incredible Hulk Fights the Black Snake*, Box 2, folder 6	2016
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 2	*Morton County Sheriff's Last Stand* *1 drawing, ink and, crayon on paper, 29 x 45 cm, in window mat, 44 x 61 cm* Drawing on ledger paper for "Chattel Mortgages Filed" created by an unidentified corporate body; signed and dated on recto by the artist See also: *Morton County Sheriff's Last Stand*, Box 2, folder 7	2016
	Inkjet Prints of Drawings Arranged alphabetically.	
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 3	American Indian Movement, Water Protectors *1 inkjet print, 28 x 24 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2016; published by Chameleon Horse Art & Design; signed on recto by the artist	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 4	*American Indian Movement, Water Protectors* *1 inkjet print, 28 x 24 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2016; published by Chameleon Horse Art & Design	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 5	*Entering Standing Rock Indian Reservation* *1 inkjet print, 28 x 24 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2014; published by Chameleon Horse Art & Design	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 6	*Incredible Hulk Fights the Black Snake* *1 inkjet print, 28 x 24 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2016 on ledger paper for "Chattel Mortgages Filed" created by an unidentified corporate body, 1891-1898 See also: *Incredible Hulk Fights the Black Snake*, Box 1, folder 1	undated

Inkjet Prints of Drawings (continued)

b. 2 (Oversize), f. 7	*Morton County Sheriff's Last Stand* *1 inkjet print, 28 x 24 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2016 on ledger paper for "Chattel Mortgages Filed" created by an unidentified corporate body; see also: [LINK TO ORIGINAL DRAWING] See also: *Morton County Sheriff's Last Stand*, Box 1, folder 2	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 8	*Oceti Sakowin* *1 inkjet print, 28 x 24 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2016; published by Chameleon Horse Art & Design	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 9	*Protectors Not Protestors* *1 inkjet print, 28 x 24 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2016; published by Chameleon Horse Art & Design	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 10	*Sitting Bull* *1 inkjet print, 28 x 24 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2013	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 11	*Stand with Standing Rock* *1 inkjet print, 28 x 24 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2016 on six sheets of late twentieth century ledger paper that likely includes names of those protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline; published by Chameleon Horse Art & Design	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 12	Stand with Standing Rock *1 inkjet print, 28 x 24 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2016; published by Chameleon Horse Art & Design; signed on recto by the artist	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 13	*Stand with Standing Rock* *1 inkjet print, 28 x 24 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2016; published by Chameleon Horse Art & Design	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 14	*Stand with Strong Hearts* *1 inkjet print, 28 x 24 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2016; published by Chameleon Horse Art & Design; signed on recto by the artist	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 15	*Stand with Strong Hearts* *1 inkjet print, 28 x 24 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2016; published by Chameleon Horse Art & Design	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 16	*Standing Rock Sioux Tribe* *1 inkjet print, 28 x 24 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2013	undated

Inkjet Prints of Drawings (continued)

b. 2 (Oversize), f. 17	*Untitled* *1 inkjet print, 28 x 24 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2014; published by Chameleon Horse Art & Design	undated

Quinton Maldonado, 2015–2016

2.33 linear feet (1 box)

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 18	*Black Snake Killa* *1 drawing, ink on paper, 35 x 22 cm* Drawing on ledger paper for "George L. Mayer, District Manager" created by an unidentified corporate body, 1936-1939; titled, signed, and dated on verso by the artist; accompanied by board with description of the drawing by the artist	2016
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 19	Black Snake Killa, No DAPL *1 drawing, ink on paper, 28 x 44 cm, in window mat, 44 x 59 cm* Drawing on a inkjet print of a map of the Dakota Access Pipeline Project; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2016
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 20	*No DAPL* *1 drawing, ink on paper, 22 x 35 cm, in window mat, 37 x 50 cm* Drawing on ledger paper created by an unidentified corporate body, 1934; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2016
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 21	*No KXL Pipeline, No DAPL* *1 drawing, ink on paper, 31 x 48 cm, in window mat, 46 x 64 cm* Drawing on ledger paper for the Montpelier National Bank, 1913; titled, signed, and dated on recto by the artist	2015
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 22	No Meth *1 drawing, ink on paper, 38 x 21 cm, in window mat, 53 x 37 cm* Drawing on ledger paper created by an unidentified corporate body, 1923; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2016

Joe Pulliam, 2017–2019

2 linear feet (1 box, 1 broadside)

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 4 (Oversize), f. 23	*The Day the Buffalo Scared the Sheriffs* *1 drawing, ink on paper, 20 x 32 cm, in window mat, 35 x 47 cm* Drawing on ledger paper for an unidentified corporate body, 1876; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2017
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 24	*Nathan Standing in Prayer at Lincoln Memorial* *1 drawing, ink on paper, 40 x 24 cm, in window mat, 52 x 37 cm* Drawing on ledger paper for an unidentified corporate body, 1908; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2019
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 25	*Plywood Prayer* *1 drawing, ink on paper, 29 x 45 cm, in window mat, 45 x 61 cm* Drawing on ledger paper, likely for an index "Chattel Mortgages Filed," for an unidentified corporate body, 1888-1891; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2017
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 26	*Protector of the River* *1 drawing, ink on paper, 29 x 45 cm, in window mat, 45 x 61 cm* Drawing on ledger paper, likely for an index "Chattel Mortgages Filed," for an unidentified corporate body, 1891-1892; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2017
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 27	*Rubber Bullet Martyr* *1 drawing, ink on paper, 29 x 45 cm, in window mat, 45 x 61 cm* Drawing on ledger paper, likely an index for a "Chattel Mortgages Filed" ledger for an unidentified corporate body, 1890; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2017
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 28	*Standing Strong* *1 drawing, ink on paper, 21 x 9 cm, in window mat, 36 x 24 cm* Drawing on a promissory note of the National Park Bank, Jamestown, New York, August 1915; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2017
b. 5 (Broadside)	*Warrior Water Protector* *1 drawing, ink on paper, 91 x 52 cm, in window mat, 111 x 73 cm* Drawing on double-page sheet of ledger paper for an unidentified corporate body, likely a bank, 1914; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2017
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 29	*Water Protector* *1 drawing, ink on paper, 45 x 58 cm* Drawing on a double-spread of ledger paper for an index "Chattel Mortgages Filed" created by an unidentified corporate body, 1893; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2017

Dwayne Wilcox, 2008–2016

3.67 linear feet (2 boxes)

Organized under two headings: Drawings and Inkjet Prints of Drawings.

Drawings

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 6 (Oversize), f. 30	*500 Years of Making America Great Again* *1 drawing, ink, crayon, and colored pencil on paper, 29 x 45 cm, in window mat, 45 x 61 cm* Drawing on a blank sheet of paper from an ledger for an electoral board, approximately 1900; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2010
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 31	*After A Long Day of Clubbing, Dog Tired & Its Miller Time* *1 drawing, ink, crayon, and colored pencil on paper, 26 x 43 cm, in window mat, 41 x 61 cm* Drawing on a blank sheet of paper from a ledger for judgments at a circuit court printed by Brown and Saenger, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, approximately 1900; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2016
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 32	*Department of Indigenous Studies* *1 drawing, ink, crayon, and colored pencil on paper, 27 x 43 cm, in window mat, 42 x 58 cm* Drawing on a blank sheet of paper from a ledger for the treasurer of Missoula County, Montana, approximately 1950; variant of a work also known as *Under the Microscope*, 2014; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2015
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 33	*Fake News Report, They Say If You Take A Picture It Lasts Longer* *1 drawing, ink, crayon, and colored pencil on paper, 26 x 43 cm, in window mat, 41 x 58 cm* Drawing on a blank sheet of paper from a ledger for judicial cases in Gregory County, South Dakota, approximately 1950; variant of a work known as *Under the Microscope*, 2014 Signed on recto by the artist	undated
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 34	*Fighting Whities* *1 drawing, ink, crayon, and colored pencil on paper, 29 x 45 cm* Drawing on a blank sheet of paper from a ledger for town election results, approximately 1900; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2010
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 35	*Going Out Shopping* *1 drawing, ink, crayon, and colored pencil on paper, 29 x 45 cm* Drawing on a blank sheet of paper from a ledger for section, township, and range, approximately 1900; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2008
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 36	*Mobial House Park* *1 drawing, ink, crayon, and colored pencil on paper, 29 x 45 cm* Drawing on a blank sheet of paper from a ledger for town election results, approximately 1900; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2009

Drawings (continued)

b. 6 (Oversize), f. 37	*Woman Dancer (in Green Dress)* *1 drawing, paint on paper, 16 x 39 cm* Drawing on ledger paper, likely for a general store, July 1871; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2008
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 38	*Woman Dancer (in Red Dress)* *1 drawing, paint on paper, 39 x 16 cm* Drawing on ledger paper, likely for a general store, July 1871; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2008
b. 6 (Oversize), f. 39	*Wow Real Indians* *1 drawing, ink, crayon, and colored pencil on paper, 29 x 45 cm* Drawing on a blank sheet of paper from a ledger for town election results, approximately 1900; signed and dated on recto by the artist	2010

Inkjet Prints of Drawings

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 7 (Oversize), f. 40	*Cheese with that Whine?* *1 ink jet print, 26 x 36 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2007 on sheet from a ledger, 1882-1883; signed and titled on recto by the artist	undated
b. 7 (Oversize), f. 41	*From Here to Eternity* *1 ink jet print, 26 x 36 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2008 on sheet from a ledger, 1882-1883; signed and titled on recto by the artist	undated
b. 7 (Oversize), f. 42	*Quarter Horse* *1 ink jet print, 26 x 36 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2003 on sheet from a ledger for section, township, and range, approximately 1900; signed and titled on recto by the artist	undated
b. 7 (Oversize), f. 43	*Wasté* *1 ink jet print, 26 x 36 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2006 on sheet from a ledger for section, township, and range, approximately 1900; variant title: *Wasté, Washday*; signed and titled on recto by the artist	undated
b. 7 (Oversize), f. 44	*Wow Real Full Blooded White People* *1 ink jet print, 26 x 36 cm* Reproduction of a drawing created in 2008 on sheet from a ledger for section, township, and range, approximately 1900; signed and titled on recto by the artist	undated

Dakota Access Pipeline Protest Art, 2016–2019

2.0 linear feet (1 box)

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 8 (Oversize), f. 45	*Letter from Harold C. Frazier to TransCanada, July 12, 2018* *1 inkjet print, 28 x 23* Reproduction of a letter on letterhead of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe by Harold C. Frazier, 1966-, which includes a single line in its body: "We will be waiting"; for reference, the folder includes a copy provided by library staff of a July 11, 2018, letter by TransCanada, to which Frazier replies	2019 February 1
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 46	*Protect Mother Earth, #NODAPL, Water is Life* *1 screen print on fabric, 51 x 33 cm* Includes a depiction of Sitting Bull, 1831-1890, also known as T#at#áŋka Íyotake, from a photograph created in 1883 by D. F. (David Francis) Barry, 1854-1934	approximately 2016
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 47	*Protect the Water, Defend the Land* *1 screen print on fabric, 51 x 34 cm* Artwork by Dignidad Rebelde, a collaborative graphic arts project of Jesus Barraza and Melanie Cervantes	approximately 2016
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 48	*Seal of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North & South Dakota* *2 stickers, acrylic, 19 x 19 cm* Stylized version of the official seal	approximately 2016
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 49	*Tó éí iiná, Water is Life* *1 screen print on fabric, 48 x 32 cm* "Tó éí iiná" is Diné for "Water is Life"	approximately 2016
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 50	*Water is Life, Mní Wičhóni* *1 screen print on fabric, 24 x 32 cm* "Mní Wičhóni" is Lakota for "Water is life"	approximately 2016
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 51	*We are Here to Protect, Water is Life* *1 screen print on fabric, 32 x 28 cm*	approximately 2016

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Indian arts -- North America
Indians of North America -- Pictorial works
Indians of North America -- Political activity -- Pictorial works
Protest movements -- North Dakota -- Pictorial works

Geographic Names

Dakota Access Pipeline -- Pictorial works
Standing Rock Indian Reservation (N.D. and S.D.)
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North & South Dakota -- Pictorial works

Genres / Formats

Drawings (visual works)
Inkjet prints
Ledger drawings

Contributors

Willis, John, 1957- , collector
Wilcox, Dwayne , artist
Pulliam, Joe , artist
Maldonado, Quinton, 1982- , artist
Kills Pretty Enemy, Gilbert, III , artist
Dignidad Rebelde (Artistic group) , artist

Acquired From

John Willis , bookseller