

Joan Heath Fortner Papers
1948-1981, n.d.

Creator: Fortner, Joan Heath (1932-)
Extent: 1.5 linear. ft.
Processor: Sutton Skowron, August 2010

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None.

Usage Restrictions: Copyright to materials is held by Joan Heath Fortner.

Preferred Citation: Loyola University Chicago. Women and Leadership Archives. Joan Heath Fortner Papers. Box #, Folder #.

Provenance: Joan Heath Fortner donated her papers to the Women and Leadership Archives in 2010 (WLA2010.1).

Separations: .17 linear feet of extraneous material was removed.

See Also: Mundelein College Collection at the Women and Leadership Archives.

Biographical History

Joan Heath Fortner was born Joan Irene Heath in 1932 to Mr. and Mrs. Norbert A. Heath. She is an alumna of Immaculata High School (1950), Mundelein College (1954, BFA), the New York Fashion Academy (1955), and Loyola University (1979, M.A. in Education). In 1947, at the age of 15, she became the youngest person ever to win the Chicago Tribune American Fashions Competition, a title she garnered for five consecutive years. She was the 1950 recipient of the Bishop O'Brien scholarship to the Art Institute in Chicago. In 1953 she won a second scholarship to the New York Fashion Academy for a design she submitted to a contest by the Evans Fur Company.

Joan has been active in art organizations in Chicago and suburbs for years. She is currently the president of the Des Plaines Art Guild and the executive director of Art Cubes, a nonprofit art service organization funded by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council that brings the arts to older adults. Throughout the years, Joan has received many awards for her artwork, and is still involved in teaching art classes, as well as creating and exhibiting her watercolor and acrylic paintings.

Scope and Content

The Joan Heath Fortner Papers consist of material relating to Joan's education and early forays into fashion. These documents include correspondence, sketches, and photographs. Material is arranged alphabetically within each series and chronologically within each folder.

Series 1: Biographical, 1948-1981, n.d., Box 1

This series contains items relating mainly to Joan's life in fashion in high school and college, and touches briefly on her life in later decades. Documents include information on fashion contests that she entered, correspondence from competitions and the New York Fashion Academy, and newspaper articles detailing her high school and college achievements in fashion and fencing.

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Series 2: Visual, n.d., Box 2

This series contains photographs of Joan as a young woman and Joan today, as well as a photo from a fashion show. Also included are sketches and designs of Joan's dresses.

Subjects:

Chicago Tribune Co.

Fashion design

Illinois Arts Council

Loyola University, Chicago

Mundelein College

New York Fashion Academy.

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Series 1: Biographical, 1948-1981, n.d.			
1	1	Contests	1952-1953
	2	Correspondence	1949-1954
	3	Newspaper Articles	1948-1981, n.d.
Series 2: Visual, n.d.			
2	1	Photographs	n.d.
	2	Sketches and Designs	n.d.