

The George and Colleen Hoyt Collection of Northwest Coast Art

Over a period of decades, George W. Hoyt IV and Colleen Hoyt developed one of the finest private collections of contemporary Northwest Coast art in the United States, the majority of which has been given to the Hallie Ford Museum of Art. George Hoyt (1936–2024) was a descendant of the Hoyt family, one of the first settler families to arrive in Portland in the mid-1800s, and he graduated from Willamette University in 1958. George had a successful newspaper and magazine publishing career; Colleen Mullin Hoyt also had a career in publishing as well as in nonprofit management. Together they shared a love of the arts and devoted themselves to community service.

Upon their retirement in 1994, the Hoyts moved to the Lodge on Cedar Creek, a hand-hewn log home just a few miles west of the summit of Mount Hood, near Sandy, Oregon. They filled the lodge with contemporary Northwest Coast masks, carvings, and prints, building the collection through careful research and with the intention of ultimately donating it to the HFMA. The Hoyts focused upon the Legacy artists, a group identified in the 1970s as key figures in the continuation of millennia-old Northwest Coast artistic traditions, and on the artists who followed in their footsteps. Selections from the collection are presented here, and more works may be found on the Hallie Ford Museum of Art website.

George was a lifetime member of the Willamette University board of trustees; he and Colleen have given generously not only to the Hallie Ford Museum of Art but also to the Atkinson Graduate School of Management and other university initiatives.

The reinstallation of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Gallery has been made possible by generous gifts from George and Colleen Hoyt, through the George and Colleen Hoyt Permanent Collection Fund and the George and Colleen Hoyt Northwest Coast Art Acquisition Fund.