



Guide to the Caroline Vaughan Photographs, 1977-1992

This collection guide was produced in **October 2017**.

This PDF version was created on **April 3, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Names and Subjects	6
Collection Inventory	7
Portraits	7
Home Ground	15

Summary

Collection Title:

Caroline Vaughan photographs, 1977-1992

Creator:

Vaughan, Caroline

Source:

Archive of Documentary Arts (Duke University)

Abstract:

Collection comprises 63 exhibit-quality black-and-white photographic portraits of Durham, North Carolina citizens of all races, ages, genders, and sexual orientations, taken from 1989 to 1992 for a Center for Documentary Studies project. Subjects include activists, writers, older people, working class men, friends, couples, and families. Many of the individuals were alumni of Duke University. Also includes several prints and a brochure from an exhibit entitled "Home Ground," featuring Vaughan's family and landscapes from two family farms, 1977-1987. Formats include gelatin silver, Polaroids (some in color), and four palladium/plantinotype prints, along with a hand-pigmented, textured print. The photographs range in size from about 8 3/8 x 10 3/4 inches to 11x14 inches and are all matted, captioned, and signed. Acquired as part of the Archive of Documentary Arts at Duke University.

Extent:

6 Linear Feet (5 boxes; 64 items)
63 prints; one brochure

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

RL.11510

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1w13t>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Caroline Vaughan photographs, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

Collection chiefly comprises 63 exhibit-quality black-and-white photographic portraits of Durham, North Carolina citizens of all races, ages, genders, and sexual orientations, taken by Durham photographer Caroline Vaughan from 1989 to 1992 for a Center for Documentary Studies project. Subjects include activists, writers, older people, working class men, gay and straight couples, friends, and families. Many of the individuals were alumni of Duke University who were involved in sixties activism and remained in the area.

There are several photographers featured in the portraits whose work is also in the Rubenstein Library collections: Peter Goin, Alex Harris, Jeeva Rajgopaul, and Margaret Sartor.

Also includes a smaller series of black-and-white palladium/platinotype prints and a bifold brochure from a Duke University exhibit entitled "Home Ground." These prints feature Vaughan's family members posed in the studio and at two family farms in Oxford, N.C. and News Ferry, Virginia, taken from 1977 to 1987 and printed in 1992 and 1993.

The photographs were taken with large-format cameras and an instant camera (Polaroid), and printed and toned by Vaughan chiefly from 1990 to 1993. Formats include gelatin silver, Polaroids (some in color), and palladium/platinotype prints, along with one hand-pigmented, textured print. The prints range in size from about 8 3/8 x 10 3/4 inches to 11 x 14 inches and are printed on a variety of papers. Some of the palladium prints feature a circular image format. With a few exceptions, the prints are signed, dated, and matted. Titles were taken from original captions inscribed by the photographer on the prints or mats. Some titles for some uncaptioned prints were taken from the photographer's online gallery. Many prints have data on exposure times, shutter, speed, and other data marked on the back.

Acquired as part of the Archive of Documentary Arts at Duke University.

Biographical/Historical

Caroline Vaughan was born in 1949 in Durham, North Carolina. After studying photography with John Menapace, she broadened her experience at the Penland School of Crafts, and studied with Minor White at MIT in 1972. She traveled to San Francisco to meet another influential photographer, Imogen Cunningham, and struck up a long-term friendship with her. In 1977, Vaughan was named one of 43 promising young photographers listed in Time-Life's Photography Year 1977. A traditional darkroom printer, she specializes in special formats

such as instant camera and palladium prints, and has recently explored digital photography.

In addition to her photographic career, Vaughan has worked as a photography instructor, darkroom technician, and photographer at Duke University.

She was awarded an Emerging Artist Grant from the Durham Arts Council to continue her work with palladium prints, a selection of which she exhibited at Duke in 1986 in a solo show entitled "Home Ground." In 1990 she received funding from Duke's Center for Documentary Studies (CDS) and from Polaroid to produce the portraits of Durham citizens featured in this collection. In the mid-2000s, she re-photographed many of the same individuals, exhibiting their new portraits in a Center for Documentary Studies show, "Personal Disruptions," in 2006.

Her work continues to be exhibited across the United States in solo and group shows, and her prints are part of the collections of the N.C. Museum of Art in Raleigh and other museum and private collections. A selection of her work has been published by Duke University Press in 1986 as "Borrowed Time." Vaughan's work also appears in "Quartet: Four North Carolina Photographers," Safe Harbor Press, 2005.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Arranged in two series: Portraits and Home Ground.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive
Duke University
Durham 27708
askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Images may only be used for educational, non-commercial purposes; any other use and distribution requires the photographer's written permission.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48 hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Caroline Vaughan photographs were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase and gift in 1992 and 1993.

Processing Information

Processed and encoded by Paula Jeannet, October 2017.

Accession(s) described in this finding aid: 1993-0107.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Duke University -- Alumni and alumnae
- Families -- North Carolina -- Portraits
- Gay couples -- North Carolina -- Portraits
- Gay people -- Portraits

- Older people -- Portraits
- Portrait photographers -- North Carolina
- Portrait photography
- Working class -- Portraits
- Durham (N.C.) -- Social life and customs
- Durham (N.C.) -- Photographs
- Black-and-white photographs
- Color prints (photographs)
- Diffusion transfer prints
- Gelatin silver prints
- Palladium prints
- Portraits
- African Americans -- Portraits
- Duke University. Center for Documentary Studies
- Archive of Documentary Arts (Duke University)

Collection Inventory

Portraits, 1989-1992

Physical Description: 59 prints

4 boxes Gelatin silver and instant camera prints

Scope and Contents

The 59 portraits in this series belong to a project undertaken by Caroline Vaughan in 1990 to take a series of portraits of citizens of Durham, North Carolina, emphasizing their commonalities, as well as their diversity in ages, socio-economic backgrounds, race, and sexual orientation. The project was sponsored by the Center for Documentary Studies and by Polaroid.

Subjects include male and female activists, artists, construction workers, firefighters, welders, photographers, business owners, writers, friends, older people, gay and straight couples, parents and children. They are photographed singly as well as in pairs, sometimes in a trio, typically as half or full standing standing portraits rather than close-ups. Many of the subjects are Duke alumni. One male couple appears in several prints, clothed and nude.

There are several photographers in the portraits whose own work is part of the Rubenstein Library Archive of Documentary Arts collections: Peter Goin, Alex Harris, Margaret Sartor, and Jeeva Rajgopaul. Also present is a portrait of author Reynolds Price with Nick Shelley.

The photographs are all traditional darkroom gelatin silver or instant Polaroid prints, taken from 1989 to 1992. There are a few Polaroids in color. All are signed, dated, and matted, and titles have been taken from handwritten captions on the prints. A few were found to be untitled. In some cases their

titles were taken from the photographer's online gallery. Also, if the individuals in the portraits were known from other images, their names were added by library staff in a note. Most prints are marked on the backs with exposure times, shutter speeds, and other data.

Patsy Bailey, 1991 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-P-0001

Physical Description: 11 x 11 3/8 inches

Nathan Marvin Bishop [IV], 1990 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-P-0002

Physical Description: 11 x 12 1/2 inches

Nat Blevins, 1990 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-P-0003

Physical Description: 10 x 7 7/8 inches

Nat and AG Wood, 1990 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-P-0004

Physical Description: 11 x 11 3/4 inches

Nat Blevins, 1990 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-P-0005

Physical Description: 14 x 11 inches

Anne Bloom and her mother, 1992 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-P-0006

Physical Description: 8 x 10 inches

William Holdorf, 1992 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-P-0007

Physical Description: 8 x 10 inches

Jane and Joan Brannon, 1990 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-P-0008

Physical Description: 8 x 10 inches

R.L. Eurquhart, 1990 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-P-0009

Physical Description: 10 1/4 x 11 inches

James Fallon and David Lloyd, 1990 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-P-0010

Physical Description: 11 x 12 3/8 inches

Harold and Anne Frazier, 1990 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-
P-0011

Physical Description: 11 x 10 7/8 inches

Harold and Anne Frazier, 1990 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-
P-0012

Physical Description: 11 x 10 7/8 inches

Anton Foster and Bobby Ellwood Jones, 1990 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-
P-0013

Physical Description: 8 x 10 inches

Henry Caudell [?] and Erica, 1990 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-
P-0014

Physical Description: 8 x 10 inches

Tommy Ray Gilbert, 1990 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-
P-0015

Physical Description: 14 x 11 inches

Scope and Contents

Black-and-white version of color Polaroids, P-0051 and 0052.

Peter Goin, Kami [?], and Dana, 1992 Box 1 > Image RL.11510-
P-0016

Physical Description: 11 x 11 inches

Scope and Contents

Photographer. Collection of his photographs are also in the Rubenstein Library.

Alex Harris, Margaret Sartor, and Will, 1990 Box 2 > Image RL.11510-
P-0017

Physical Description: 14 x 11 inches

Jonathan Hexner, 1990 Box 2 > Image RL.11510-
P-0018

Physical Description: 11 x 10 1/2 inches

Scope and Contents

Color pigmented version, P-0054.

Alexander Koplowitz, Sidra Makhman, 1991	Box 2 > Image RL.11510-P-0019
Physical Description: 11 x 10 7/8 inches	
Robert McDonald, 1990	Box 2 > Image RL.11510-P-0020
Physical Description: 14 x 11 inches	
Lavelle McNeil and Pat Heath, 1990	Box 2 > Image RL.11510-P-0021
Physical Description: 8 x 10 inches	
John and Lee Murray, 1990	Box 2 > Image RL.11510-P-0022
Physical Description: 11 x 14 inches	
Scope and Contents	
The copyright date on the print back is 1990. On the artist's website, this image is given the title "Murray brothers, 1980."	
Roylee and Barbara Duvall, 1990	Box 2 > Image RL.11510-P-0023
Physical Description: 8 x 10 inches	
Alexander Koplowitz, 1990	Box 2 > Image RL.11510-P-0024
Physical Description: 14 x 11 inches	
Alexander Koplowitz, 1990	Box 2 > Image RL.11510-P-0025
Physical Description: 11 x 14 inches	
Tom and Merle, 1990	Box 2 > Image RL.11510-P-0026
Physical Description: 14 x 11 inches	
Phillip Pearson and Chuck, 1991	Box 2 > Image RL.11510-P-0027
Physical Description: 14 x 11 inches	
Christine Poe, Clinton Poe, 1990	Box 2 > Image RL.11510-P-0028
Physical Description: 11 7/8 x 9 1/4 inches	

-
- Charles Powers and Willie Cherry, 1990 Box 2 > Image RL.11510-P-0029
- Physical Description:** 9 3/4 x 13 1/4 inches
-
- Steve and Andrew Previn [?], 1990 Box 2 > Image RL.11510-P-0030
- Physical Description:** 14 x 11 inches
-
- Jeeva Rajgopaul, 1990 Box 3 > Image RL.11510-P-0031
- Physical Description:** 14 x 10 7/8 inches
- Scope and Contents**
- Photographer; photographs also in the Rubenstein Library.
-
- Reynolds Price, Nick Shelley, 1990 Box 3 > Image RL.11510-P-0032
- Physical Description:** 10 x 12 3/4 inches
-
- No known title, circa 1990 Box 3 > Image RL.11510-P-0033
- Physical Description:** 10 x 8 inches
- Scope and Contents**
- From another image on artist's online portfolio, appears to be Andrea Selch, poet, with father and mother. Polaroid version, P-0058.
-
- Cathy and Marcus Shell, 1990 Box 3 > Image RL.11510-P-0034
- Physical Description:** 9 1/4 x 12 1/4 inches
-
- Sue Snedham [?], 1990 Box 3 > Image RL.11510-P-0035
- Physical Description:** 8 x 10 inches
-
- No known title, 1990 Box 3 > Image RL.11510-P-0036
- Physical Description:** 11 x 14 inches
- Scope and Contents**
- Black man in military camouflage.

Erica and Carlton Van Court, 1991 Box 3 > Image RL.11510-
P-0037

Physical Description: 9 7/8 x 11 3/4 inches

Vega Metals, 1990 Box 3 > Image RL.11510-
P-0038

Physical Description: 8 x 10 inches

Scope and Contents

Three men posing with tools. Artist's online portfolio gives title as: "Francis Vega, Neal Carson, Vega Metals, 1990."

Tim P. [?] Walker, 1990 Box 3 > Image RL.11510-
P-0039

Physical Description: 8 x 10 inches

Billy Williams and Claude Reams, 1990 Box 3 > Image RL.11510-
P-0040

Physical Description: 11 x 14 inches

Claude Reams, 1990 Box 3 > Image RL.11510-
P-0041

Physical Description: 14 x 10 7/8 inches

Billy L. Williams, 1990 Box 3 > Image RL.11510-
P-0042

Physical Description: 14 x 11 inches

Jonathan Williams and Thomas Meyer, 1991 Box 3 > Image RL.11510-
P-0043

Physical Description: 13 x 10 3/8 inches

Jonathan William, Tom Meyer, 1991 Box 3 > Image RL.11510-
P-0044

Physical Description: 10 1/8 x 12 3/4 inches

No known title, circa 1990 Box 3 > Image RL.11510-
P-0045

Physical Description: 8 x 10 inches

Scope and Contents

Young construction worker, shirtless, with helmet

A.G. and Nat, 1989 Box 4 > Image RL.11510-
P-0046

Physical Description: 8 1/2 x 10 7/8 inches

Scope and Contents

Black-and-white Polaroid format.

Marvin Bishop, Durham Blueprinters, 1990 Box 4 > Image RL.11510-
P-0047

Physical Description: 8 1/2 x 10 7/8 inches

Scope and Contents

Black-and-white Polaroid format.

A.G. and Nat, 1989 Box 4 > Image RL.11510-
P-0048

Physical Description: 8 1/2 x 10 7/8 inches

Scope and Contents

Black-and-white Polaroid format.

Ray, 1990 Box 4 > Image RL.11510-
P-0049

Physical Description: 8 1/2 x 10 7/8 inches

Scope and Contents

Black-and-white Polaroid format. Caption inside of mat: "Raymond Lee Eurquhart, Maintenance Mechanic I, age 42, August 9, 1990."

Harry and Anne Frazier, 1990 Box 4 > Image RL.11510-
P-0050

Physical Description: 8 1/2 x 10 7/8 inches

Scope and Contents

Black-and-white Polaroid format.

No known title [Tommy Ray Gilbert], circa 1990 Box 4 > Image RL.11510-
P-0051

Physical Description: 8 1/2 x 10 3/4 inches

Scope and Contents

Color Polaroid format. Painter. Black-and-white 11x14 version in collection, P-0015

Tommy Ray Gilbert, 1990 Box 4 > Image RL.11510-
P-0052

Physical Description: 8 1/2 x 10 3/4 inches

Scope and Contents

Color Polaroid format. Slightly different version from P-0051. Black-and-white 11x14 version in collection, P-0015.

Tommy Ray Gilbert, 1990 Box 4 > Image RL.11510-
P-0053

Physical Description: 10 3/4 x 8 1/2 inches

Scope and Contents

Color Polaroid format. Vertical orientation. Same subject, black-and-white 11x14 version, P-0015.

Jonathan Hexner, 1991 Box 4 > Image RL.11510-
P-0054

Physical Description: 11 1/4 x 11 inches

Scope and Contents

Color pigment added to photographic image on deckle-edge thick paper. Version of P-0018.

Lee Murray and John Murray, 1990 Box 4 > Image RL.11510-
P-0055

Physical Description: 8 1/2 x 10 7/8 inches

Scope and Contents

Black-and-white Polaroid format. Caption inside of mat: "Lee Murray and John Murray, August 9, 1990, Durham Brazing and Welding Co., twins, age 60."

Lee and John Murray, 1990 Box 4 > Image RL.11510-
P-0056

Physical Description: 8 1/2 x 10 7/8 inches

Scope and Contents

Black-and-white Polaroid format. Caption inside of mat: "August 9, 1990, Lee and John Murray, age 60, metal fabricator and welder, Durham Brazing and Welding Co."

Claude Reams, 1990 Box 4 > Image RL.11510-
P-0057

Physical Description: 10 7/8 x 8 1/2 inches

Scope and Contents

Black-and-white Polaroid format.

No known title, circa 1990 Box 4 > Image RL.11510-
P-0058

Physical Description: 10 7/8 x 8 1/2 inches

Scope and Contents

Black-and-white Polaroid format, version of P-0033. From another image on artist's online portfolio, appears to be Andrea Selch, poet, with father and mother.

No known title [Claude Reams and Billy Williams], circa 1990 Box 4 > Image RL.11510-
P-0059

Physical Description: 8 1/2 x 10 3/4 inches

Scope and Contents

Color Polaroid format. Same subjects as in black-and-white version, P-0040.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Home Ground, 1977-1987

Scope and Contents

These four black-and-white photographs of Vaughan's family, including two taken on family farms in Oxford, N.C., and News Ferry, Virginia, were taken from 1977 to 1987 and were printed by Vaughan in 1992 and 1993. At least three of the images formed part of a 1986 solo exhibit by Vaughan entitled "Home Ground," held at the Duke Institute of the Arts, Durham, North Carolina. A fourth bears the date 1987 and may not have been in the exhibit.

Three of these photographs are palladium prints, and a fourth is labeled as a platinotype print, which is very closely related to the palladium process.

William and Mary Vaughan, 1985 Box 5 > Image RL.11510-
P-0060

Physical Description: 10 7/8 x 12 7/8 inches

Scope and Contents

Palladium print.

Son Vaughan, News Ferry, Virginia, 1982

Box 5 > Image RL.11510-
P-0061

Physical Description: 9 1/2 x 13 inches

Scope and Contents

According to online portfolio title, this print was taken in News Ferry, Virginia in 1982. Format is a palladium print with a circular format, printed in 1993. Original print was exhibited in show, "Home Ground," Duke University Institute of the Arts, 1986.

Mother, her sister, 1987

Box 5 > Image RL.11510-
P-0062

Physical Description: 10 1/4 x 13 5/8 inches

Scope and Contents

Palladium print of Vaughan's mother and aunt. Printed in 1993.

Oxford farm, N.C., 1977

Box 5 > Image RL.11510-
P-0063

Physical Description: 11 x 12 1/8 inches

Scope and Contents

Vaughan's earliest image in the collection, this print has a circular format is labeled "platinotype" on back of print, and was printed by Vaughan in 1992. Original print may have been palladium process, and was exhibited in show, "Home Ground," Duke University Institute of the Arts, 1986.

Bifold mailing brochure: "Home Ground, an exhibition of palladium prints by Caroline Vaughan," Duke Institute of the Arts, Durham, North Carolina, 1986

Box 5

Scope and Contents

Cover image is "Son Vaughan." Print is in collection, P-0061.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)