

# Sculptures, Assemblages, Paintings: Artwork of Caroline Hooke

## OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTS

<b>Repository:</b>	Crandall Public Library. Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY.
<b>Creator:</b>	Caroline Hooke (1921 - 2015) Cambridge, Washington, NY
<b>Title:</b>	Sculptures, Assemblages, Paintings: Artwork of Caroline Hooke
<b>Dates:</b>	1999 – 2015
<b>Quantity:</b>	3
<b>Identification:</b>	Folk Art & Artifacts

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Caroline Hooke's sculptured figures are reminiscent of the dolls she created out of wood, shells, bark and leaves as a young girl with her sister growing up. As an adult, all of her artwork continues to be an outgrowth of her love of nature and joy in working with natural materials. Many of her figures carry names such as "tree spirit" or "bird dancer" and are decorated with bird nests, turquoise beads or the feathers of birds. They are wrapped most often with wood fibres. The faces vary from painted pieces of drift wood to shells or stones. They are all one of a kind constructions varying in size and shape. As her art form became locally recognized, she tells how local hunters and friends have taken to providing her with feathers, scraps of wool, interesting pieces of wood, so that her figures and assemblages really become a collage of natural materials or found objects from the local environment.

Caroline Hooke was a longtime resident and active member of the art community in Washington County (Shushan and Cambridge), New York. She was born in California, raised in Kansas City, Missouri. She studied at the Parson's School of Design in New York, met her husband Walter Hooke, and settled in California to raise their 4 children before moving to upstate New York. Caroline Hooke participated in The Folklife Center exhibition, *If Only They Could Talk: Dolls, Stories & the Spirit of Doll Making*, curated by Nancy Scheemaker in 2000, a number of traveling children's workshops, and subsequent Folklife Gallery exhibitions, *Celebrating Women's Creative Hands & Spirits* in 2014, and *Battenkill Inspired* in 2015. In 2015, The Folklife Center acquired this small collection of her work through a donation by longtime friend, Ruth Sauer.

Artist statement: "These images are a personal interpretation of diverse aboriginal peoples of many ancient cultures, mostly inspired by our own Native Americans. The

use of found objects -wood, shells, stones, feathers, old material, and wonderful yarns, donated by many sources- are my working materials.”

## INDEX TERMS

**Topics:** Dolls  
Doll makers  
Folk Art  
Folk Artists  
Use of natural materials

**Places:** Cambridge, Washington, NY

**Important People:** Hooke, Caroline (1921 - 2015)

**Form/Genre:** Realia

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Preferred Citation:** Sculptures, Assemblages, Paintings: Artwork of Caroline Hooke  
Folklife Center  
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

**Accession Information:** Purchased 1999, or donated by Ruth Sauer in 2015.

**Processing Information:** Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea, July 2019

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS

1. Ancient Echoes  
RBS#4, assemblage with shells, bone, stone, fabric, bottle; box in 3 sections, covered with plexiglass, 7 inches x 12 inches x 3 inches deep.
2. Pink Lady (or Portrait of Mother)  
Pastel, 1988, framed 10 inches x 13 inches.
3. Figure  
RBS#6 thread wrapped, cloth face, pink cloth with triangles of copper, frog on head.

4. Figure  
RBS #7 wrapped with fabric and threads, feathered, wooden face, large
5. Small figure  
Orange wire, thread, fabric face, colored turquoise fiber, shell hat; 6 inches long.
6. Small figure  
wire, purple ribbon, thread, fiber, sticks, shell head; 5 inches long
7. Small dancer  
orange wire, shell necklace, black hat; 4.5 inches long.
8. Treasures  
Assemblage of rocks, feathers, shells, small figures in 3 section box covered with plexiglass, with a small painting attached to the top. 2000.  
Box: 4 3/4 inches x 9 1/4 inches x 2 3/4 inches deep; Whole with painting: 4 3/4 inches x 11 inches x 2 3/4 inches deep
9. Tree spirit  
Slate face, iris seed pod with turquoise, yarn, wire, wood body; 9.5 inches long.
10. Whale with calf  
Painted wood; 24 inches long
11. Legstick  
Feather arms and skirt, stick wrapped with thread, black and yellow eyes; 18 inches long
12. Bird Girl  
Sticks, feathers, fiber, thread; 12 inches long.
13. Corn maiden chant

- Pastel, framed; 17 1/2 inches x 20 inches
14. Figi garden 1  
Pastel and acrylic on handmade paper; framed 14 inches x 28 inches
  15. Figi Garden #3  
Pastel and acrylic on handmade paper,
  16. Buffalo Dream  
Collage with silk; framed 9 inches x 11 inches, 2000-2003.
  17. Bundles  
10 inches long
  18. Bundles 2  
10 inches long
  19. Dancing with the moon  
Crystal chest, bark back, sticks, fabric, thread, painted face and arms;  
27 inches long.
  20. Black dancer hag #3  
Painted mussel shell face, red leather skirt, sticks, thread; 19 inches long
  21. Moon river  
RBS#5 pastel on wood
  22. Nest  
Assemblage of abalone shell with nest and stone in box frame covered with plexiglass.  
10 inches x 12 1/4 inches x 4 inches deep
  23. Night Garden  
RBS#3; assemblage of stones, insects, feather, bone in box covered with plexiglass

