Selected Timeline—George Johanson

1928 Nov 1  George Eugene Ernest Johanson Jr. born in Seattle
1939  Self portrait at ten—see right from artist’s collection
1946  Graduates high school; enrolls Museum Art School, attends three years through 1950 but does not graduate
1950  First one-person show at Eda & Louis Bunce’s Kharouba Gallery; bus to New York, studies at Atelier 17 with Karl Schrag; works avidly and befriends Willem de Kooning and Jackson Pollock; prints and paintings in group show at Tanager Gallery
1953-55  Serves as conscientious objector in Quaker camps in rural Mexico
1955  Marries Phyllis Burnham, a Canadian, in Portland; begins teaching at Museum Art School
1956  One-person show reflecting Mexican experiences at Don Sorenson’s Morrison Street Gallery
1957-58  President—Oregon chapter of Artist’s Equity; enters most abstract period
1958  Son Aaron Johanson born
1961  Joins group of artists at Barbara and Jack McLarty’s Image Gallery
1965-66  Sabbatical in London; works printmaking with Birgit Skiold and meets David Hockney; pool and box paintings; exhibits in two group shows—American Embassy and Curwen Gallery
1968  “Magician’s Screens” commissioned by Oregon Art Commission for Civic (Keller) Auditorium
1969-70  London sabbatical on grant from Art Advocates; sells print to Victoria and Albert Museum
1972  Etching and Color Intaglio, film with Manson Kennedy, blue ribbon American Film Festival
1976  “18 People in 14 Paintings,” Portland Art Museum; solo show at Fountain Gallery
1977  Fire February 7 at Fountain Gallery; loses 17 large paintings as well as prints and drawings
1980  Retires from teaching at PNCA; paints “Fire and Water—New Yorkscape ’52”
1981  Co-founder Northwest Print Council with several regional artists
1980s  Paintings with erupting Mount St. Helens—“The Great Hot Tub,” “Bridge and Fire,” “Mirrored Porch,” etc., and street scenes—“Night Games” and “Bus Stop” (both series)
1987  “Five Decades of Drawings,” Littman Gallery, Portland State University
“Major Paintings 1972-1987,” Reed College; “Northwest Power” installed at BPA, Vancouver
1989  “Drawings—A 40 Year Retrospective,” Museum of Art, University of Oregon, Eugene
1990s  “Regatta with Three Graces,” “Bacchanal by the River” and several related works
1993  Oregon Governor’s Arts Award
2009  In the Studio with George Johanson—co-producers Mark Andres, Michael Annus and Prudence Roberts of PCC-Rock Creek; film premieres in OCHC Discovering Oregon Originals series

Timeline drawn from George Johanson: Image and Idea, Roger Hull

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