



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Harding Black Papers,  
1934-1979, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Harding Black papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.blachard
<b>Date:</b>	1934-1979
<b>Extent:</b>	0.4 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Black, Harding, 1912-
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The papers of ceramicist Harding Black measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1934 to 1979. The scattered papers include a transcript of an oral history, correspondence, financial notes and records, printed materials, and photographs.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Harding Black donated his papers to the Archives of American Art in 1980.

### Related Materials

Baylor University in Waco, Texas holds the Harding Black collection, Inclusive: 1910-2014, undated, Bulk: 1954-1998, undated. The papers consist of personal papers including notes on glazing and firing notebooks.

### Available Formats

The collection is available on 35mm microfilm reels 2245 and 2250 as part of the Archives of American Art's Texas project. The reels are only available through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material in the container inventory does not reflect the order of the material on microfilm.

### Processing Information

The Harding Black papers were arranged upon receipt and microfilmed onto reels 2245 and 2250 as part of the Archives of American Art Texas Project. The collection was processed with a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2018.

### Preferred Citation

Harding Black Papers, 1934-1979. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center.

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## Biographical / Historical

Harding Black (1912-2004) was a studio ceramicist who worked in Texas.

Harding Black was born in 1912 in Aransas Pass, Texas. An excavation of Native American burial mounds sparked his interest in ceramics. He started a ceramics studio near the Witte Museum in San Antonio, Texas where he taught children's classes. In the 1930s, he was active with the Works Progress Administration. Later in life, Black exhibited his works. He did extensive research and experimentation with glaze. Harding Black died in 2004 of respiratory failure.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of ceramicist Harding Black measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1934 to 1979. The scattered papers include a transcript of an oral history, correspondence, financial notes and records, printed materials, and photographs.

A transcript of an oral history was sponsored by the Bexar County Historical Commission of Harding Black by Mary Fenstermaker and dates from 1979. Correspondence is scattered and includes letters from friends and colleagues from 1950 to 1951. Printed materials consist of clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs. Photographs depict Harding Black, Black with others, an expedition to Reagan Canyon in 1934, and his studio and works of art.

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## Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection, the papers are arranged as one series.

- Series 1: Harding Black papers, 1934-1979 (Box 1; 0.4 linear feet)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Harding Black papers, 1934-1979

#### *0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)*

This series contains Harding Black's scattered papers and includes biographical material, correspondence, financial notes, printed material, and photographs.

A certificate of participation is from Joske's of Texas and the Arts Council of San Antonio Incorporated. A transcript for an oral history with Harding Black is from the Bexar County Historical Commission's Oral History Program and was conducted by Mary Fenstermaker. Correspondence is from the years 1950 and 1951. Correspondents include George Beishlag, Ceramics Monthly, Consolidated Tiles INC., The Kiln Club, Louise R. Morris, Lisle Pursel, J. H. Saling, Henry Steinbomer, Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts, Texas Fine Arts Association, and Mrs. Kenneth F. Zitman. Printed materials include clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs concerning and featuring Black's ceramic works and his classes at the Witte Museum. Photographs are of Black, with friends and others, an expedition in 1934 to Reagan Canyon, children's pottery classes, his studio, and of works of art.

Box 1, Folder 1	Certificate, 1973
Box 1, Folder 2	Oral History Transcript, 1979
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1950-1951
Box 1, Folder 4	Financial Notes, 1972-1975
Box 1, Folder 5-14	Clippings, 1938-1978
Box 1, Folder 15	Clippings, Magazine, 1953-1961
Box 1, Folder 16	Exhibition Announcements, 1950-1959
Box 1, Folder 17-20	Exhibition Catalogs, 1949-1969
Box 1, Folder 21	Photographs, Harding Black, 1940s-1960s
Box 1, Folder 22	Photographs, Reagan Canyon Expedition, 1934
Box 1, Folder 23	Photographs, Classes, circa 1930s
Box 1, Folder 24	Photographs, Pottery Studio and Work Area, circa 1940s
Box 1, Folder 25	Photographs, Works of Art, circa 1940s-1960s

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