



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Chakaia Booker Papers, 1981-2018, bulk 1994-2010, in the Archives of American Art

Rayna Andrews

Funding for the processing of this collection provided by the Henry Luce Foundation.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Chakaia Booker papers
Date:	1981-2018 (bulk 1994-2010)
Identifier:	AAA.bookchak
Creator:	Booker, Chakaia, 1953-
Extent:	2.3 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of African American sculptor Chakaia Booker measure 2.3 linear feet and date from 1981 to 2018 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1994 to 2010. The collection consists primarily of printed material, but also includes selected correspondence and professional files, including a portfolio.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The papers were donated to the Archives of American Art in 2018 by Chakaia Booker as part of the Archives' African American Collecting Initiative funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.

Processing Information

The collection was minimally processed and a finding aid prepared by Rayna Andrews in 2021 with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation.

Preferred Citation

Chakaia Booker papers, 1981-2018. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Chakaia Booker (1953-) is an African American sculptor in New York, New York. In an artist's statement, Booker refers to herself as a "narrative environmental sculptor." She is known for large-scale sculptures incorporating recycled rubber tires and stainless steel. Booker's works are included in more than 40 public collections and have been exhibited across the United States and internationally. She has also served on the boards of International Sculpture Center and Socrates Sculpture Park.

Scope and Contents

The papers of African American sculptor Chakaia Booker measure 2.3 linear feet and date from 1981 to 2018 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1994 to 2010. The collection consists primarily of printed material, including exhibition announcements; exhibition and auction catalogs; magazines; and newspapers. Also included are three folders of correspondence, including selected correspondence from artist Jack Whitten, and professional files, which includes a portfolio of Booker's work.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged as three series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1995-2013 (3 folders; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Professional Files, 1999-circa 2001 (3 folders; Box 1)
 - Series 3: Printed Material, 1981-2018 (2.2 linear feet; Boxes 1-3)
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Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

African American artists
African American sculptors
Women artists
Women sculptors

Names:

Whitten, Jack, 1939-2018

Occupations:

Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1995-2013

3 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: This series contains correspondence with museums, thank you letters Chakaia Booker received from students after a visit to the Rosa Park School, and a note and exhibition announcements from painter Jack Whitten.

Box 1, Folder 1 Museums, 2001-2005
Notes: Includes correspondence and accompanying printed material from Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, the Akron Art Museum, and the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park.

Box 1, Folder 2 Student Thank You Letters, Rosa Parks School, 2012-2013

Box 1, Folder 3 Jack Whitten, 1995-1997
Notes: Includes announcements for exhibitions of Whitten's work.

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Series 2: Professional Files, 1999-circa 2001

3 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Professional files include a resume and artist statement, likely printed to accompany exhibitions, as well as a portfolio (removed from a binder) containing photographs, slides, and artist statements regarding her work. Booker distributed this portfolio to galleries and museums prior to being represented by Marlborough Gallery.

Box 1, Folder 4 Chakaia Booker Resume and Artist Statement, 1999-circa 2001
Notes: Artist statement printed for Booker's work *Industrial Subliminal-I-zation* at Laumier Sculpture Park.

Box 1, Folder 5 [Portfolio, Removed from Binder, circa 1990s-2000](#)

Box 1, Folder 6 Portfolio, Removed from Binder, circa 1990s-2000

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Series 3: Printed Material, 1981-2018

2.2 Linear feet (Boxes 1-3)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes auction catalogs; announcements, invitations, and catalogs for exhibitions of Chakaia Booker's work; magazines; newsletters; newspapers; and reports from arts institutions.

Box 1, Folder 7	Auction Catalogs, 1997, 2010
Box 1, Folder 8	Calendar, Program, and Map, Garment District Arts Festival, 2014
Box 1, Folder 9	Cedarhurst Activity Book, 2010
Box 1, Folder 10	Event Calendars and Programs, 1981, 1994-2015
Box 1, Folder 11-14	Exhibition Announcements and Invitations, 1993-2016
Box 1, Folder 15-22	Exhibition Catalogs, 1984-20018
Box 1, Folder 23	Exhibition Catalogs, Solo Exhibitions, 2001-2008
Box 2, Folder 1	Exhibition Catalogs, Solo Exhibitions, 2009-2016
Box 2, Folder 2-9	Magazines, 1999-2014
Box 3, Folder 1	Oversize Magazines, 1998-circa 2010
Box 2, Folder 10-12	Magazines, Art in America, 1997-2005
Box 2, Folder 13	Magazines, ARTnews, 1998-2017
Box 2, Folder 14-15	Magazines, Sculpture, 1998-206
Box 2, Folder 16-17	Magazines, Time Out New York, 1996-1998
Box 2, Folder 18	Magazines, Women in the Arts, 2005-2006
Box 2, Folder 19	Newsletters, 1994-2004
Box 3, Folder 2-3	Oversize Newspapers, 1999-2015
Box 2, Folder 20	Postcard, Photograph of Booker's Sculpture A Moment in Time (2004), Storm King Art Center, circa 2004
Box 2, Folder 21	Reports, Arts Institutions, 1999-2012

Notes: Includes reports for McNay Art Museum, Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, and Abington Art Center.

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