



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Calvin Douglass Papers, 1954-1995, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Calvin Douglass Papers, 1954-1995	3

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Calvin Douglass papers
Date:	1954-1995
Identifier:	AAA.dougalv
Creator:	Douglass, Calvin, b. 1931
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of African American painter and teacher, Calvin Douglass, measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1954 to 1995. The small collection consists of biographical material, correspondence, photographs, printed material, professional files regarding Douglass's teaching career, and sketches.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Papers were donated in 1971 by Calvin Douglass. Additional material was donated after 1994, provenance unknown.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reel 99 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2021.

Preferred Citation

Calvin Douglass papers, 1954-1995. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Calvin Douglass (1931-2021) was an African American painter and teacher in Staten Island, N.Y. Douglass was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1931 and was first introduced to art at eleven when he apprenticed at a sign making shop. Later, he attended Howard University and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and the Brooklyn Museum of Art. He was a member of Spiral, the collective of African American artists formed by Romare Bearden. Douglass exhibited his works around New York City.

Douglass was a lecturer and educator at the Brooklyn Museum Art School, Vassar College and the Urban Center for Black Studies, and Smith College. Calvin Douglass died in 2021 in Edgewater, Florida.

Scope and Contents

The papers of African American painter and teacher, Calvin Douglass, measure 0.2 linear feet and date from 1954 to 1995. The small collection consists of biographical material, correspondence, photographs, printed material, professional files regarding Douglass's teaching career, and sketches.

Arrangement

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

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 educators
- African American painters

Types of Materials:

- Drawings

Occupations:

- Educators -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Calvin Douglass Papers, 1954-1995

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found are biographical materials consisting of curriculum vitae, a brief biography, and an artist's statement. Scattered correspondence is from the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Consulado General de Mexico, Whitney Museum of American Art, and others. Photographs depict portraits of Douglass, works of art and slides. Printed materials consist of flyers for classes taught by Douglass, clippings, and exhibition catalogs. Professional files concern Douglass's teaching career at the Brooklyn Museum, Essex Community College, and inquiries from the Urban Center for Black Studies at Vassar College. Also found are two sketches by Douglass on the back of flyers.

Available Formats: This series is digitized in its entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material, circa 1960-1995
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1955-1994
Box 1, Folder 3	Photographs, Portraits and Works of Art, 1954-circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 4	Photographs, Slides of Works of Art, 1991-1993
Box 1, Folder 5	Printed Material, Art Class Flyers, circa 1960-1981
Box 1, Folder 6	Printed Material, Clippings, 1954-1983
Box 1, Folder 7	Printed Material, Exhibition Catalogs, 1968-1970
Box 1, Folder 8	Professional Files, Teaching Records - Brooklyn Museum, Essex Community College, 1966-1980
Box 1, Folder 9	Professional Files, Teaching Records - Vassar College, 1969
Box 1, Folder 10	Sketches, circa 1970

[Return to Table of Contents](#)