



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Ralph Soule Du Casse Papers, circa 1892-1980, in the Archives of American Art

Allessandra Liberati

The processing of this collection received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collections Care and Preservation Fund, administered by the National Collections Program and the Smithsonian Collections Advisory Committee.

2023 October 11

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa 1892-1970	4
Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1913-1976	5
Series 3: Writings, circa 1908-1971	6
Series 4: Personal Business Records, circa 1930-1977	7
Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1909-1977	8
Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1904-1980	10
Series 7: Artwork, circa 1940-1980	11

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Ralph Soule Du Casse papers
Date:	circa 1892-1980
Identifier:	AAA.ducaralp
Creator:	Du Casse, Ralph Soule, 1916-
Extent:	4 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Ralph Soule Du Casse papers measure 4 linear feet and date from circa 1892-1980. They illustrate his career through biographical materials, correspondence, writings, personal business records, printed and photographic materials, and artwork.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Ralph Soule Du Casse papers were donated in 1979 by Ralph Soule Du Casse.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels 4023-4025 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

This collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared, by Alessandra Liberati in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Ralph Soule Du Casse papers, circa 1892-1980. 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

The Archives of American Art makes its archival collections available for non-commercial, educational and personal use unless restricted by copyright and/or donor restrictions, including but not limited to access and publication restrictions. AAA makes no representations concerning such rights and restrictions and it is the user's responsibility to determine whether rights or restrictions exist and to obtain any necessary permission to access, use, reproduce and publish the collections. Please refer to the Smithsonian's Terms of Use for additional information.

Biographical / Historical

Ralph Soule Du Casse (1916-2003) was a painter who worked primarily in San Francisco, California.

Ralph Soule Du Casse was born in Kentucky and attended the University of Cincinnati in 1940 where he gained a bachelor's degree, and at the University of California in Berkeley where he obtained a master's in 1948. He also studied with Hans Hoffman and attended the California College of Arts in 1950 where he obtained an additional master's degree in fine arts. His early paintings ranged from a loose and gestural abstract style to a linear style rooted in cubism.

During World War Two Du Casse served in the U.S. Army's cavalry corps and was honorably discharged due to demobilization. After the war he studied in Sorbonne in Paris. Du Casse taught at the University of California, Berkeley, the California College of Arts and Crafts, and the California School of Fine Art. Throughout the 1970s he was chairman of the art department at Mills College in Oakland.

Du Casse has had exhibitions at the Lucien Labaudt Gallery, the Rotunda Gallery, the Guggenheim Museum, the University of Illinois, the Syracuse Museum in New York, and many others. His work is housed in the collections of the Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Modern Art in Brazil, the museum of modern art in San Francisco, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Art. It also resides in the private collections of Vincent Price, Phyllis Wattis, and the Haas family collection in San Francisco.

Ralph Soule Du Casse died on December 30, 2003 in the San Francisco Bay area.

Scope and Contents

The Ralph Soule Du Casse papers measure 4 linear feet and date from circa 1892-1980. Biographical material consists of Du Casse's resume, materials regarding Du Casse's military records and career, and documents regarding genealogical records and family members. Correspondence is to and from Du Casse and includes family and business correspondence. Writings consist of a script for Du Casse's play "Route Order," a typescript of "West Coast School of Painting Since 1946", and other writings by Du Casse. Also present are writings by others including "Ralph Du Casse Exhibition" by Louise Ballard and a typescript of "The Bold Noo World of Ralph Soule Du Casse" by Annette Kazuko Kaide.

Personal business records consist of materials related to Du Casse's time as a teacher, lists of artworks and sales records, travel records, and other miscellaneous business records. Printed material includes a scrapbook compiled by Du Casse's father, Ralph R. Du Casse (1926-1960) and a disassembled scrapbook compiled by Du Casse containing letters, school records, four sketches, clippings, announcements, and photographs (1909-1967). Also included are various news clippings, press releases, exhibition announcements and catalogs for Du Casse and for others, brochures and pamphlets, and programs and other printed material. Photographic material consists of personal photographs of Du Casse and his family and friends, as well as his artwork. Artwork includes a folder of seven sketches.

Arrangement

This collection consists of seven series.

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa 1892-1970 (.2 Linear feet: Box 1, OV 6)
- Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1913-1976 (.2 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Series 3: Writings, circa 1908-1971 (.5 Linear feet: Box 1)
- Series 4: Personal Business Records, circa 1930-1977 (.3 Linear feet: Boxes 1-2)
- Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1909-1977 (2.3 Linear feet: Boxes 2-4)

- Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1904-1980 (.4 Linear feet: Box 5, OV 7)
- Series 7: Artwork, circa 1940-1980 (.1 Linear feet: Box 5)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Scrapbooks

Occupations:

Art teachers -- California -- San Francisco
Painters -- California -- San Francisco

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials, circa 1892-1970

.2 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 6)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material consists of Du Casse's resume, materials regarding Du Casse's military records and career, and documents regarding genealogical records and family members.

Box 1, Folder 1	Resume, circa 1916
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Material, Mills College, circa 1967
Box 1, Folder 3	Career Chronology, 1967, Apr. 6
Box 1, Folder 4	Military Records, circa 1940-1951
Box 1, Folder 5	Dr. Margaret Chung's Fair Haired Bastard's Club, Membership Card, circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 6	Small Pox Inoculation Record, circa 1936-1946
Box 1, Folder 7	San Francisco Art Institute, Artist's Biography, circa 1964
Box 1, Folder 8	Who's Who in the West, Biographical Data, circa 1950
Box 1, Folder 9	Marriage Certificate, Ralph S. Du Casse and Micaela Marie Martinez, 1944, Feb. 1
Box 1, Folder 10	Remembrance Cards, Mary Du Casse, 1937, Aug. 3
Box 1, Folder 11	Resume, Achmed Sadali, 1968, Nov. 24
Box 1, Folder 12	Redwood Acres Fair, Award Ribbon, circa 1970
Oversize 6	Awards and Certificates, circa 1909-1955
Box 1, Folder 13	Genealogical Records, circa 1892-1937

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, circa 1913-1976

.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence is to and from Du Casse and includes family and business correspondence.

Box 1, Folder 14	Correspondence (1910s), circa 1913
Box 1, Folder 15	Correspondence (1920s), circa 1924-1928
Box 1, Folder 16	Correspondence (1930s), circa 1932
Box 1, Folder 17	Correspondence (1940s), circa 1942-1944
Box 1, Folder 18	Correspondence (1950s), circa 1952-1959
Box 1, Folder 19-22	Correspondence (1960s), circa 1960-1969
Box 1, Folder 23	Correspondence (1970s), circa 1970-1976
Box 1, Folder 24	Undated Correspondence , circa 1913-1976

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Writings, circa 1908-1971

.5 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Writings consist of a script for Du Casse's play "Route Order," a typescript of "West Coast School of Painting Since 1946", and other writings by Du Casse. Also present are writings by others including "Ralph Du Casse Exhibition" by Louise Ballard and a typescript of "The Bold Noo World of Ralph Soule Du Casse" by Annette Kazuko Kaide.

by Ralph S. Du Casse

Box 1, Folder 25	"Bohemia", circa 1958
Box 1, Folder 26	"Dramatic Effects in Cyrano De Bergerac L'Aiglon and Chantecler by Edmond Rostand", circa 1938
Box 1, Folder 27	"Our Baby", circa 1953
Box 1, Folder 28	"Route Order", Script, circa 1942
Box 1, Folder 29	"Shakespeare's Style in the Merchant of Venice", circa 1938
Box 1, Folder 30	"West Coast School of Painting Since 1946", circa 1964
Box 1, Folder 31	Untitled, circa 1953
Box 1, Folder 32	"Exhibition at the DeYoung Museum", Notebook, circa 1930-1965
Box 1, Folder 33	List of Exhibitions and Awards, Notebook, circa 1947-1956
Box 1, Folder 34	List of Opera Recordings, Ledger, circa 1953-1958
Box 1, Folder 35	Miscellaneous Notes, circa 1959-1971

By Others

Box 1, Folder 36	"The Bold Noo World of Ralph Soule De Casse" by Annette Kazuko Kaide, circa 1967
Box 1, Folder 37	"Craftsmanship in Competitive Industry" by Charles R. Ashbee, circa 1908
Box 1, Folder 38	"Ralph Du Casse Exhibition" by Louise Ballard, circa 1955

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Personal Business Records, circa 1930-1977

.3 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Personal business records consist of materials related to Du Casse's time as a teacher, lists of artworks and sales records, travel records, and miscellaneous business records.

Box 1, Folder 39	California School of Fine Arts, circa 1955
Box 1, Folder 40	Guggenheim Fellowship, Application, 1955, Oct. 10
Box 1, Folder 41	University of California, circa 1952
Box 1, Folder 42	University of Cincinnati, circa 1934-1935
Box 1, Folder 43	Feingarten Galleries, Contract, circa 1961
Box 1, Folder 44	Sales Records and Price Lists, circa 1952-1968
Box 1, Folder 45	World Travel, circa 1961
Box 1, Folder 46-53	Catalog of Artworks, Card File, circa 1930-1977
Box 2, Folder 1-5	Catalog of Artworks, Card File, circa 1930-1977
Box 2, Folder 6	Miscellaneous Business Records, circa 1930-1977

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Printed Material, circa 1909-1977

2.3 Linear feet (Boxes 2-4)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes a scrapbook compiled by Du Casse's father, Ralph R. Du Casse (1926-1960) and a disassembled scrapbook compiled by Du Casse containing letters, school records, four sketches, clippings, announcements, and photographs (1909-1967). Also included are various news clippings, press releases, exhibition announcements and catalogs for Du Casse and for others, brochures and pamphlets, and programs and other printed material.

Box 2, Folder 7	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs (1940s), circa 1947-1949
Box 2, Folder 8-16	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs (1950s), circa 1950-1959
Box 2, Folder 17-19	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs (1960s), circa 1960-1969
Box 3, Folder 1-2	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs (1960s), circa 1960-1969
Box 3, Folder 3	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs (1970s), circa 1970-1977
Box 3, Folder 4	Undated Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs , circa 1940-1977
Box 3, Folder 5	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, Others, circa 1955-1973
Box 3, Folder 6	American Art Museums and Galleries (1960), by Eloise Spaeth, circa 1960
Box 3, Folder 7	University of Cincinnati, Commencement Booklet, circa 1940
Box 3, Folder 8	Brochures and Pamphlets, circa 1954-1975
Box 3, Folder 9-11	Clippings, circa 1938-1977
Box 3, Folder 12	Exhibition Entry Forms, circa 1962-1970
Box 3, Folder 13	Press Releases, circa 1963-1973
Box 3, Folder 14	Programs, circa 1935-1974
Box 3, Folder 15	Reproductions of Works of Art, circa 1920-1960
Box 3, Folder 16-25	Scrapbook, circa 1909-1967
Box 4, Folder 1-6	Scrapbook, circa 1909-1967
Box 4, Folder 7	Scrapbook, circa 1926-1960

Series 5: Printed Material

Ralph Soule Du Casse papers
AAA.ducaralp

Box 4, Folder 8

Miscellaneous Printed Material, circa 1943

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1904-1980

.4 Linear feet (Box 5, OV 7)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material consists of personal photographs of Du Casse and his family and friends, as well as his artwork.

Box 5, Folder 1-3 Personal Photographs, circa 1904-1972

Oversize 7 Personal Photographs, circa 1904-1972

Box 5, Folder 4-5 Photographs of Artwork, circa 1940-1980

Box 5, Folder 6 Photographs of Artwork, Negatives, circa 1940-1980

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Artwork, circa 1940-1980

.1 Linear feet (Box 5)

Scope and Contents: Artwork includes a folder of seven sketches.

Contents:

Box 5, Folder 7

Sketches, circa 1940-1980

[Return to Table of Contents](#)