



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Research material on Ralston
Crawford and Niles Spencer

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Research material on Ralston Crawford and Niles Spencer
Date:	1934-1986
Identifier:	AAA.freerich
Creator:	Freeman, Richard B., 1908-
Extent:	1 Linear foot ((partially microfilmed on 1 reel))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Material donated 1978 and 1985 by Richard B. Freeman; and additional material donated 1988 by Freeman's widow Barbara B. Freeman.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 3667 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Art administrator; Lexington, Ky. Died 1987.

Scope and Contents

Freeman's research materials on Ralston Crawford and Niles Spencer include biographical material, letters (1941-1983), writings and notes by Freeman (1967-1970) and Crawford (1953-1966), clippings, exhibition catalogs and photographs.

Scope and Contents

REEL 3667: Letters (1941-1976) from Ralston Crawford to Freeman, his close friend and business associate, concern Crawford's artistic thoughts and developments, his works of art including paintings, photographs, and films, his exhibitions, sales, teaching positions, travels, and other personal experiences. Also included

are letters from Crawford's wife Peggy to the Freemans and letters to Crawford and Berman from others on related subjects.

Scope and Contents

UNMICROFILMED: Other correspondence includes 10 letters (1971-1977) from Crawford to Edward Weigand regarding the consignment and sale of Crawford's work through the Bienville Gallery, New Orleans, and additional letters (1960-1983) between Freeman and the Crawfords. Other materials include notes and writings by Freeman, and Crawford's lecture notes on lithography, painting and art in the university (1953-1966). Printed materials consist of clippings (1945-1986), press releases (1962-1985), exhibition announcements and catalogs (1934-1986), and brochures on art courses (1960-1962). Photographs and a metal offset printing plate show Crawford (1971-1975), his funeral procession, the exterior of his studio, and works of art.

Scope and Contents

UNMICROFILMED: Research material relating to Niles Spencer includes 2 biographical accounts (1954, 1965), typescripts of Freeman's articles "Niles Spencer: An Early Painting (1967) and "Disaster in Aliquippa" (1970), 3 clippings (1965-1971), 3 exhibition catalogs (1965-1979), a photograph of Spencer and 65 works of art. Thirty-one letters (1965-1972), primarily from Spencer's colleagues, including Alexander Brook, John Dos Passos, Isabella Howland, Robert Laurent, and Henry Strater, discuss Spencer and his work.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- United States

Names:

Crawford, Ralston, 1906-1978
Spencer, Niles, 1893-1952

Occupations:

Art historians -- Kentucky
Painters -- United States