



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Felrath Hines Papers, 1954-2002, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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

2021/12/07

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Felrath Hines papers
Date:	1954-2002
Identifier:	AAA.hinefelr
Creator:	Hines, Felrath, 1913-1993
Extent:	1.2 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of abstract artist and art conservator Felrath Hines measure 1.3 linear feet and date from 1954 to 2002. The bulk of the papers include project files concerning his work as a conservator. These files may include correspondence; condition and treatment reports; financial records, photographic materials, and printed material. Also found is scattered biographical material, general correspondence, and photographs of conserved works--many of which are unlabeled.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Dorothy Fisher donated her late husband's papers to the Archives of American Art in 2002.

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Felrath Hines papers, 1954-2002. 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

Felrath Hines (1913-1993) was an African American painter and painting conservator in Washington, DC.

Felrath Hines was born in 1913 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps in the early-1930s and subscribed to art correspondence courses. He did not begin formal art education until 1945 when he enrolled at the Art Institute of Chicago. Hines created abstract landscapes influenced by Cubism, and in the 1960s he was a member of Spiral, a group of Black artists concerned with the role of African American artists in politics and the civil rights movement.

In addition to his personal art career, Hines was a skilled conservator and served as chief conservator at the National Portrait Gallery and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C. His clients included the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa Collection), Fisk University, Museum of Modern Art, Waddell Gallery, and many other institutions and individuals.

Felrath Hines died in 1993 in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Scope and Contents

The papers of abstract artist and art conservator Felrath Hines measure 1.3 linear feet and date from 1954 to 2002. The bulk of the papers include project files concerning his work as a conservator. These files may include correspondence, condition and treatment reports, financial records, photographic materials, and printed material. Also found is scattered biographical material, general correspondence, and photographs of conserved works--many of which are unlabeled.

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
- Art -- Conservation and restoration
- Painting -- Conservation and restoration

Occupations:

- Conservators -- Washington (D.C.)
- Painters -- Washington (D.C.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Felrath Hines Papers, 1954-2002

1.3 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, OV3)

Scope and Contents: Found are applications sent to Hines concerning potential apprenticeships; artifacts from the conservation of works of art including metal letters; general correspondence from colleagues including Georgia O'Keeffe; and project files relate to the conservation of works of art arranged by collector or institution. These files may contain correspondence, condition and treatment reports, financial records, photographic materials, and printed material.

Also found are photographs, negatives, and slides of works of art, many of which are identified. Printed material includes a exhibition material from the showing of Hines's artworks.

Box 1, Folder 1	Apprenticeship Applications and Inquiries, 1978-circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 2	Artifacts, circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 3	Biographical Material, 1973
Box 1, Folder 4	Conservation Reference Material, circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, 1973-1983
Box 1, Folder 6	Project Files, Alcoa Collection, 1975
Box 1, Folder 7	Project Files, Frances Graff Cockney Collection, 1980
Box 1, Folder 8	Project Files, Eichholz Collection, 1978
Box 1, Folder 9-10	Project Files, Fisk University, 1971-1976
Box 1, Folder 11-17	Project Files, General, 1964-1972
Box 1, Folder 18	Project Files, Marvin Gerstin Collection, 1975
Box 1, Folder 19	Project Files, Hampton University, circa 1970
Box 1, Folder 20	Project Files, Museum of Modern Art, 1963-1969
Box 1, Folder 21	Project Files, Robert Sargent Shriver Jr. Collection, 1977
Box 1, Folder 22	Project Files, Sneed Collection, 1972
Box 1, Folder 23	Project Files, Bernard Stark Collection, 1976
Box 1, Folder 24	Project Files, Hobart Taylor Jr. Collection, 1976

Box 1, Folder 25	Project Files, Weyhe Gallery, 1980
Box 1, Folder 26-29	Photographs, Conservation Work, circa 1970s
Oversize 3	Photographs, Conservation Work, Oversized , circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 30-32	Photographs, Negatives, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 1	Photographs, Negatives, circa 1970s
Box 1, Folder 2	Photographs, Slides, 1970s-1980s
Box 1, Folder 3	Printed Material, 1954-2002

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