



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Archibald Motley Papers, 1925-1977, in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Archibald Motley papers
Date:	1925-1977
Identifier:	AAA.motlarch
Creator:	Motley, Archibald John, 1891-1981
Extent:	71 Items
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of African American painter Archibald Motley consist of 71 items and date from 1925-1977. Found are photocopies of biographical material, correspondence, clippings and exhibition catalogs. Also found are three photographs of Motley's paintings.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1978 by Archie Motley, son of Archibald Motley, Jr.

Available Formats

The collection is photocopies. The collection is also available on 35mm microfilm reel 3161.

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Archibald Motley Papers, 1925-1977. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

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

Archibald Motley, Jr. (1891-1981) was an African American painter known for his contributions to the Harlem Renaissance and his depictions of Black life.

Scope and Contents

The papers of African American painter Archibald Motley consist of 71 items and date from 1925-1977. Found are photocopies of biographical material, correspondence, clippings and exhibition catalogs. Also found are three photographs of Motley's paintings.

Arrangement

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

- Series 1: Archibald Motley papers, 1925-1977 (Folder 1; 71 Items)
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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

Occupations:

Painters -- Illinois -- Chicago

Container Listing

Series 1: Archibald Motley Papers, 1925-1977

1 Folder (Folder 1)

Scope and Contents: The Archibald Motley papers contain photocopies of Motley's application for a John S. Guggenheim fellowship and accompanying correspondence and biographical material (1928-1930); an 8-page writing, "How I Solve My Painting Problems"; correspondence (1927-1977) with galleries, museums, and others; exhibition catalogs (1927-1933); and clippings (1925-1977). Also included are 3 photographs of Motley's paintings.

Folder 1 [Archibald Motley Papers, 1925-1977](#)

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