



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Hugh Samson Letters Relating to Augusta Savage, 1989, in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Hugh Samson letters relating to Augusta Savage
Date:	1989
Identifier:	AAA.samshugh
Creator:	Samson, Hugh
Extent:	3 Items
Language:	English .
Summary:	Three letters from Hugh Samson to Clyde Hart regarding sculptor Augusta Savage, written in response to Hart's query in the New York Times for information for a proposed biography on Savage (never realized). Samson recalls his friendship with Savage in New York in the late 1930s; her experiences as a Black woman artist and the racism she encountered; her studio in Harlem; and her eventual decline into obscurity.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1996 by Lawson Rosenberg, Hugh Samson's longtime roommate.

Reproduction Note

Items are photocopies.

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Hugh Samson letters relating to Augusta Savage, 1989. 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. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Biographical / Historical

Hugh Samson (d. circa 1990) was a friend of African American sculptor Augusta Savage (1892-1962), known for her association with the Harlem Renaissance. Samson lived in San Francisco, California.

Scope and Contents

Three letters from Hugh Samson to Clyde Hart regarding sculptor Augusta Savage, written in response to Hart's query in the New York Times for information for a proposed biography on Savage (never realized). Samson recalls his friendship with Savage in New York in the late 1930s; her experiences as a Black woman artist and the racism she encountered; her studio in Harlem; and her eventual decline into obscurity.

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
- Sculpture -- New York (State) -- New York
- Women artists
- Women sculptors

Names:

- Hart, Clyde
- Savage, Augusta, 1892-1962

Occupations:

- Art patrons -- California -- San Francisco

Container Listing

Series 1: Hugh Samson letters relating to Augusta Savage, 1989

1 Folder (Folder 1)

Scope and Contents: Found are three letters written to Clyde J. Hart, Jr. by Hugh Samson in 1989. The letters describe Samson's relationship with artist Harlem Renaissance era sculptor Augusta Savage.

Folder 1 Hugh Samson letters relating to Augusta Savage, 1989

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