



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Carroll Harris Simms Papers, 1945-1980, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

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was provided by the Henry Luce Foundation.

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Carroll Harris Simms papers |
| Date: | 1945-1980 |
| Identifier: | AAA.simmcarr |
| Creator: | Simms, Carroll, 1924-2010 |
| Extent: | 0.4 Linear feet |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | The papers of sculptor and educator Carroll Harris Simms measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1945 to 1980. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, printed material, and sketches. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Carroll Harris Simms donated his papers to the Archives of American Art in 1981.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 3357 available for use only at Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and through interlibrary loan.

Processing Information

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

Preferred Citation

Carroll Harris Simms papers, 1945-1980. 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.

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Biographical / Historical

Carroll Harris Simms (1924-2010) was an African American sculptor, ceramicist, and educator in Houston, Texas. Simms was born in Arkansas in 1924 and moved to Toledo, Ohio as a child. He attended Hampton University, Toledo University, and the Toledo Museum School of Art. He became the first Black student to graduate from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1950. He began a long teaching career at Texas Southern University where he taught sculpture and ceramics until retiring in 1987. Carroll Harris Simms died in 2010 in Texas.

Scope and Contents

The papers of sculptor and educator Carroll Harris Simms measure 0.4 linear feet and date from 1945 to 1980. Found are biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, printed material, and sketches.

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
- African American educators
- African American sculptors
- HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities)

Types of Materials:

- Drawings

Occupations:

- Ceramicists -- Texas -- Houston
- Educators -- Texas -- Houston
- Sculptors -- Texas -- Houston

Container Listing

Series 1: Carroll Harris Simms Papers, 1945-1980

0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found are biographical materials including a curriculum vitae and an introduction for Simms by R. Akinsola A. Akiwowo in 1968. Correspondence is with Cranbrook Academy of Art, Elizabeth Gassan, Hampton Institute (Hampton University), Joseph Jay, Margaret Lockhart McKelvy, and Toledo Museum of Art, among others. Photographs depict Simms with his art and with groups, likely school classes. Photographs of works of art are of his jewelry, murals, pottery, and sculpture. Printed materials concern the exhibition of Simms's artwork. Also found are pencil sketches, possibly for sculpture that was later produced.

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| Box 1, Folder 1 | Biographical Material, circa 1982 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Correspondence, 1945-1980 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Photographs, of Simms, 1960-circa 1970 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Photographs, Works of Art, Jewelry, circa 1960 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Photographs, Works of Art, Murals, circa 1960 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Photographs, Works of Art, Pottery, circa 1960 |
| Box 1, Folder 7-8 | Photographs, Works of Art, Sculpture, circa 1960 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Printed Material, Brochures and Bulletins, 1949-1980 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Printed Material, Clippings, circa 1950-1979 |
| Box 1, Folder 11-13 | Printed Material, Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1950-1980 |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Sketches, circa 1960 |

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