



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

David Smith papers

Archives of American Art
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	David Smith papers
Date:	1926-1965
Identifier:	AAA.smitdavp
Creator:	Smith, David, 1906-1965
Extent:	6 Microfilm reels
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming by Rebecca and Candida Smith.

Other Finding Aids

Finding aid available at Archives of American Art offices.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels NDSmith 1-NDSmith 6 available for use at Archives of American Art offices only.

Restrictions

ACCESS RESTRICTED; written permission required.

Restrictions

Patrons must use microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

David Smith (1906-1965) was a sculptor from Bolton Landing, N.Y. Began his career as a painter. Studied at Art Students League. Married artist Dorothy Dehner. Was one of the first sculptors to develop a uniquely American abstract style. Worked in monumental style, incorporating painted metal and welding techniques into his work. Smith died in an automobile accident in May 1965.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence; sketchbooks; sketches; scrapbooks; exhibition catalogs; photographs; business records; and printed material.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, mostly routine business dealing with exhibitions, sales, purchases of equipment, and other business matters, and from family and friends in the art world, including Alexander Calder, Herman Cherry, Robert M. Coates, Helen Frankenthaler, Clement Greenberg, Robert Motherwell, Kenneth Noland, George Rickey, Marian Willard and others; sketchbooks, sketches, and notebook, annotated and relating to his sculptural work, 1930s-1940s; lectures, speeches, and writings; an 18 page transcript of an interview of Smith conducted by Thomas Hess, June 1964; photographs, mostly small snapshots of Smith's work, often annotated with descriptive information; scrapbook materials; articles; exhibition catalogs and announcements; and publications.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Sculpture, American
Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century -- United States

Names:

Calder, Alexander, 1898-1976
Cherry, Herman
Frankenthaler, Helen, 1928-2011
Greenberg, Clement, 1909-1994
Motherwell, Robert
Noland, Kenneth, 1924-2010
Rickey, George
Willard, Marian, 1904-

Occupations:

Sculptors -- New York (State) -- Bolton Landing