



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

David Smith miscellaneous papers

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	David Smith miscellaneous papers
Date:	[ca. 1940]-1964
Identifier:	AAA.smithdav
Creator:	Smith, David, 1906-1965
Extent:	4 Items ((on partial microfilm reel))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Material on frames 54-89 provenance unknown. Material on frames 89-96 donated by Katharine Kuh, art critic, consultant, and friend of Dorothy Dehner.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 3472 available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

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

Sculptor; Bolton Landing, N.Y. Smith's Medals for Dishonor, completed in 1940, were explicit statements of protest against the horrors of war and violence. Smith befriended the writers, Williams Blake and his wife Christina Stead, after having read and been influenced by Blake's novel, THE PAINTER AND THE LADY. Dorothy Dehner, painter and sculptor, was Smith's first wife. They were married in 1927 and divorced in 1952. ART FOR THE MILLIONS, edited by Francis V. O'Connor, was originally intended to be published by the Federal Art Project but went unfinished. O'Connor took up the project and completed it in 1972.

Scope and Contents

Writings; printed material, including an exhibition catalog, Medals for Dishonor, for an exhibition of Smith's antiwar and violence medals and writings at the Willard Gallery, November, 1940, including a forward by authors William Blake and Christina Stead and a photograph of Smith; a typescript of Smith's essay, "Modern Sculpture and Society"; and a copy of Smith's essay, edited, as it appeared in Francis V. O'Connor's book, Art for the Millions; a 1942 press photograph of Smith at work on a marble sculpture; and a note written by Dorothy Dehner explaining the photograph.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Medals -- United States
Metal-work
Sculpture, Modern -- New York (State)

Names:

Blake, William J. (William James), 1894-1968
Dehner, Dorothy, 1901-1994
O'Connor, Francis V.
Stead, Christina, 1902-

Occupations:

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