



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the David Stuart Papers and Gallery Records, 1910-1984, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	David Stuart papers and gallery records
Date:	1910-1984
Identifier:	AAA.stuadavi
Creator:	Stuart, David, 1910-1984
Extent:	1.3 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The David Stuart papers and gallery records measure 1.3 linear feet and date from 1910 to 1984. The collection sheds light on Stuart's personal and professional life through scattered correspondence, photographs, and appraisal records; and his galleries' operations through scant artist files, exhibition files, photographs, and printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Jacqueline Anhalt Stuart in 1985.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Christopher DeMairo in 2021.

Preferred Citation

David Stuart Papers and Gallery Records, 1910-1984. 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

David Stuart (1910-1984) was a gallery owner and owner of a jazz shop and record label in Los Angeles, California. Stuart opened Jazz Man Record Shop in Hollywood in 1939, and then in 1941 started a record label, Jazz Man Records. Stuart parted ways with both the label and the shop by 1946. In 1961, David Stuart along with his friend, Edward Primus, founded the Primus-Stuart Gallery in Los Angeles, California. In the same location two years later, Stuart founded David Stuart Galleries. The gallery specialized in showing emerging contemporary artists and pre-Columbian art and artifacts. Included in the list of artists shown at Stuart's galleries is John Altoon, Oliver Andrews, Sorel Etrog, Marvin Harden, and June Harwood.

Scope and Contents

The David Stuart papers and gallery records measure 1.3 linear feet and date from 1910 to 1984. The collection contains Stuart's personal and professional papers as well as gallery records. Personal and professional papers include correspondence concerning Stuart's career in New Orleans jazz music; appraisal records of pre-Columbian artifacts; papers related to the Louis Armstrong Statue Fund in New Orleans; scattered family papers and personal photographs; and more. Gallery records shed light on the operations of both galleries owned by Stuart through scant artist, exhibition, collector, and gallery files; printed material such as newspapers clippings and gallery posters; and photographs of the gallery, artwork, and artists.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as two series.

- Series 1: David Stuart Personal and Professional Papers, 1910-1984 (Box 1; 11 folders)
 - Series 2: Gallery Records, 1960s-1983 (Box 1-2, OV 3; 1.1 linear feet)
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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:

Art dealers -- California -- Los Angeles
Art, Modern -- 20th century -- California -- Los Angeles
Jazz
Pre-Columbian art

Names:

David Stuart Galleries

Occupations:

Gallery directors -- California -- Los Angeles

Functions:

Art galleries, Commercial -- California

Container Listing

Series 1: Personal and Professional Papers, 1910-1984

11 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Found here is correspondence concerning Stuart's career in jazz music, including two letters from notable jazz drummer Monk Hazel; records from appraisals by Stuart of pre-Columbian artifacts; correspondence, resumes, printed material, and stationery from the Louis Armstrong Statue Fund; homemade christmas cards; and some family papers and personal photographs. Memorabilia consists of a stamp, membership cards for the Airline Navigators Association and Mouldy Fig Society, and a French lottery ticket. Also found here are sympathy letters sent to Stuart's wife, Jacqueline, and a guest book signed by visitors who came to Stuart's funeral service.

Box 1, Folder 1 [Appraisal, Pre-Columbian Artifacts, 1973-1978](#)

Box 1, Folder 2 Appraisal, Teotihuacan Fresco, 1972-1975

Box 1, Folder 3 Correspondence, General, 1941-1980

Box 1, Folder 4 Correspondence, Homemade Christmas Cards, 1960s-1973

Box 1, Folder 5-6 Correspondence, Sympathy Letters to Jacqueline Stuart, 1984

Box 1, Folder 7 Family Papers, 1910-1975

Box 1, Folder 8 Guest Book, 1984

Box 1, Folder 9 Louis Armstrong Statue Fund, 1970-1975

Box 1, Folder 10 Memorabilia, 1940s-1957

Box 1, Folder 11 Photographs, 1910-1982

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Series 2: Gallery Records, 1960s-1983

1.1 Linear feet (Box 1-2, OV 3)

Scope and Contents: This series includes correspondence with other galleries and museums, photographs of artwork, Gemini G. E. L. price lists, and several collector files that contain price lists, consignment records, and scant correspondence. Artist files consist of correspondence, biographical summaries, price lists, newspaper and magazine clippings, photographs, and exhibition ephemera. Exhibition files include photographs, reviews, press releases, and correspondence. Legal records pertaining to the gallery's exhibition, *Erotic Art*, are also present. Gallery posters feature artists George Ortman, Mel Ramos, Llyn Folkes, and others.

Box 1, Folder 12	Artist, John Altoon, 1965-1969, 1980
Box 1, Folder 13	Artist, Oliver Andrews, 1964-1975
Box 1, Folder 14	Artist, Oliver Andrews, Photographs, 1960s-1970s
Box 1, Folder 15	Artist, Joan Brown, 1960-1965
Box 1, Folder 16	Artist, Sorel Etrog, 1972-1974
Box 1, Folder 17	Artist, Marvin Harden, 1974
Box 1, Folder 18	Artist, June Hardwood, 1967-1979
Box 1, Folder 19	Artist, John Pearson, 1971-1972
Box 1, Folder 20	Artist, Garner Tullis, 1974
Box 1, Folder 21	Artwork, Possibly by Tyrus Wong, undated
Box 1, Folder 22	Collector, Jules Berman, 1975-1976
Box 1, Folder 23	Collector, Alan Lapiner, 1965-1974
Box 1, Folder 24	Collector, William Palmer, 1967-1972
Box 1, Folder 25	Correspondence, General, 1966-1983
Box 1, Folder 26	Exhibition, <i>Erotic Art</i> (1969), 1969
Box 1, Folder 27-28	Exhibition, <i>Erotic Art</i> (1969), Photographs and Negatives, 1969
Box 1, Folder 29	Exhibition, <i>Erotic Art</i> (1969), Printed Material, 1969-1970
Box 1, Folder 30-31	Exhibition, Marilyn Monroe: The Legend and the Truth (1972), 1972-1973

Box 1, Folder 32	Exhibition, Second Annual Cup Show + Plates + Food (1974), 1974-1975
Box 1, Folder 33	Exhibition, "The Dirty Dozen": Erotic Art by 12 Women (1977), 1976-1978
Box 1, Folder 34	Exhibition, James Abbe Exhibition Idea, 1975-1976
Box 1, Folder 35	Gallery, Anuschka, 1975-1980
Box 1, Folder 36	Gallery, Mahoubian Gallery of Ancient Art, 1962-1965
Box 2, Folder 1	Gemini G. E. L., 1975-1983
Box 2, Folder 2	Mayan Wall Panels, 1961-1982
Box 2, Folder 3	Papers, 1964-1971
Box 2, Folder 4	Photographs, Artwork and Artifacts, 1960s-1970s
Box 2, Folder 5	Photographs, Gallery Images, circa 1970s
Box 2, Folder 6	Photographs, New Guinea Area Artwork and Artifacts, 1960s-1970s
Oversize 3	Printed Material, Gallery Posters, 1964-1969, undated
Box 2, Folder 7	Printed Material, Miscellaneous, 1960s-1970s

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