



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Jan Stussy Papers, 1955-1985, in the Archives of American Art

Ricky Gomez

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Jan Stussy papers
Date:	1955-1985
Identifier:	AAA.stusjan
Creator:	Stussy, Jan, 1921-1990
Extent:	1.2 Linear feet ((partially microfilmed on 3 reels))
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Jan Stussy measure 1.2 linear feet and date from 1955 to 1985. The papers document the career of painter and educator Jan Stussy through correspondence; a resume and other professional documentation; clippings and exhibition announcements; and photographs and slides of Stussy and his artwork. The papers also document the life of artist Stanton MacDonald-Wright through correspondence with Stussy; manuscripts and other writings; lectures and discussions with Stussy; clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and other printed material; and photographs of MacDonald-Wright.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Jan Stussy papers were donated to the archives between 1976-1985 by Jan Stussy.

Available Formats

Portions of the collection are available on 35mm microfilm reels 3976, 2728, 2200 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers should note that the arrangement of material described in the container inventory does not reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Ricky Gomez in 2020.

Citation

Jan Stussy papers, 1955-1985. 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. Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Jan Stussy (1921-1990) was a painter and educator primarily in Los Angeles, California. Stussy was born in 1921 in Benton County, Missouri, and he taught at UCLA. Stussy studied with Stanton MacDonald-Wright and remained life-long friends with him. Stussy was married to artist Maxine Kim Stussy.

Stanton MacDonald-Wright (1890-1973) was a modern American artist and co-founder of Synchromism, an early abstract, color-based mode of painting, which was the first American avant-garde art movement to receive international attention. MacDonald-Wright was born in Charlottesville, Virginia in 1890. He moved to Los Angeles in 1918 where he would serve as director of the Southern California division of the Works Project Administration Federal Art Project from 1935 to 1943. He also taught art at UCLA.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Jan Stussy measure 1.2 linear feet and date from 1955 to 1985. The papers document the career of painter and educator Jan Stussy through correspondence; a resume and other professional documentation; clippings and exhibition announcements; and photographs and slides of Stussy and his artwork. The papers also document the life of artist Stanton MacDonald-Wright through correspondence with Stussy; manuscripts and other writings; lectures and discussions with Stussy; clippings, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and other printed material; and photographs of MacDonald-Wright.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into five series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1955-1973 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Writings, 1970-1974 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 3: Professional Activity Files, circa 1977-1985 (0.1 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 4: Printed Material, 1956-1985 (0.2 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 5: Photographic Material, 1956-1985 (0.6 linear feet; Boxes 1-2)
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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 -- Study and teaching -- California -- Los Angeles
Synchromism (Art)

Types of Materials:

Sound recordings
Video recordings

Names:

Macdonald-Wright, Stanton, 1890-1973

Occupations:

Educators -- California -- Los Angeles
Painters -- California -- Los Angeles

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1955-1973

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence includes primarily letters between Jan Stussy and Stanton MacDonald-Wright, but there are also letters between Stussy and other individuals.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1955-1957, 1955-1957
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1971, 1971
Box 1, Folder 4-14	From Stanton MacDonald-Wright, 1959-1973

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Series 2: Writings, 1970-1974

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Writings are primarily partial manuscripts of "the Image of Fire" by MacDonald-Wright, an outline for MacDonald-Wright's "Roots of Syncromism," and a foreword written by MacDonald-Wright for one of Stussy's exhibition brochures. Also included are statements on art and a biography on MacDonald-Wright written by Stussy.

Box 1, Folder 15	Biography of Stanton MacDonald-Wright by Stussy, 1974 November 12
Box 1, Folder 16	Foreword for Stussy Exhibition Brochure by Stanton MacDonald-Wright, 1973
Box 1, Folder 17	"The Image of Fire" by Stanton MacDonald-Wright, 1970
Box 1, Folder 18	"Roots of Syncromism" Outline, undated
Box 1, Folder 19	Statements on Art by Stussy, undated
Box 1, Folder 20	Story of Buried Crate of Russell's Work, undated

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Series 3: Professional Activity Files, circa 1977-1985

0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Professional activity includes Stussy's resume, three audio cassette discussions between Stussy and MacDonald-Wright on various topics, two audio cassette lectures by MacDonald-Wright, and a video recording of MacDonald-Wright discussing art.

Box 1, Folder 21	The Ideal of Occidental Composition, 1985 October 14 1 Videocassettes (U-matic)
Box 1, Folder 22, Item 1	MacDonald-Wright and Stussy Discussing Oriental Philosophy, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 22, Item 2	MacDonald-Wright and Stussy Discussing Art and Music, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 22, Item 3	MacDonald-Wright and Stussy Open Discussion, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 23	MacDonald-Wright Lecture at Santa Barbara Museum of Art, undated 2 Sound cassettes
Box 1, Folder 24	Resume, circa 1977

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Series 4: Printed Material, 1956-1985

0.2 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes newspaper clipping, exhibition catalogs and announcements, and books written or illustrated by Stussy. Also included are exhibition catalogs and announcements related to MacDonald-Wright.

Box 1, Folder 25-27	Clippings, 1957-1979
Box 1, Folder 28	"Currant" Magazine Interview with Stussy, 1975
Box 1, Folder 29-31	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Jan Stussy, 1950-1985
Box 1, Folder 32	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs for Stanton MacDonald-Wright, 1964-1984
Box 1, Folder 33	In Memoriam, 1976
Box 1, Folder 34	"The Furtive Wall", 1982 Notes: A book illustrated by Jan Stussy.
Box 1, Folder 35	"Stussy Drawings", 1984
Box 1, Folder 36	Miscellaneous, 1956-1984

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Series 5: Photographic Material, 1956-1985

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material includes photographs of Stussy and slides of Stussy's artwork. Also included is a file of photographs of MacDonald-Wright.

Box 1, Folder 37 Stanton MacDonald-Wright, circa 1958-1973

Box 1, Folder 38 Jan Stussy, 1960-1970

Box 1, Folder 39-45 Slides, Works of Art, 1956-1985

Box 2, Folder 1-4 Slides, Works of Art, 1957-1985

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