



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Akio Takamori Papers, 1981-2004, in the Archives of American Art

Sarah Mundy

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

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Akio Takamori papers
Date:	1981-2004
Identifier:	AAA.takaakio
Creator:	Takamori, Akio, 1950-
Extent:	0.5 Linear feet
Language:	The collection is in English and Japanese.
Summary:	The papers of ceramicist and sculptor Akio Takamori measure 0.5 linear feet and date from 1981 to 2004. The collection comprises professional files containing an artist statement, correspondence with Vicki Halper and others, a digital photographic print of Takamori with Jun Kaneko, a presentation book, and a work plan for the European Ceramics Work Centre. Also found are printed materials featuring Takamori, and artwork by Takamori including drawings and sketches in pencil, pen, and ink.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The Akio Takamori papers were donated in 2004 by Akio Takamori as part of the Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America.

Related Materials

Also in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with Akio Takamori conducted on March 20-21, 2009, by Mija Riedel for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at Takamori's studio, in Seattle, Washington.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Sarah Mundy in 2022.

Preferred Citation

Akio Takamori papers, 1981-2004. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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Conditions Governing Use

Authorization to publish, quote, or reproduce requires written permission from Akio Takamori's widow, Vicki Takamori. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Akio Takamori (1950-2017) was a Japanese American ceramicist and sculptor based in Seattle, Washington. He is known for his figures, some life-sized, based on his childhood memories of Japan, and observations about his native Japanese and adopted American cultures.

Takamori was born in Nebeoka, Miyazaki, Japan. His father, an obstetrician, introduced him to art through art and medical books. Takamori went on to graduate in 1971 from Musashino Art College. After graduation, he became an apprentice to a master potter in Koishiwara ware and met American ceramicist Ken Ferguson who encouraged Takamori to study in the United States. Taking Ferguson's advice, Takamori moved to the United States and studied at Kansas City Art Institute, graduating in 1974. Takamori continued his studies at Alfred University earning his Master of Fine Arts degree. He eventually moved to Seattle, Washington in 1993 where he continued to produce ceramic sculptures and worked as an associate professor at the University of Washington.

Takamori died of pancreatic cancer in 2017.

Scope and Contents

The papers of ceramicist and sculptor Akio Takamori measure 0.5 linear feet and date from 1981 to 2004. The collection comprises professional files containing an artist statement, correspondence with Vicki Halper and others, a digital photographic print of Takamori with Jun Kaneko, a presentation book, and a work plan for the European Ceramics Work Centre. Also found are printed materials featuring Takamori, and artwork by Takamori including drawings and sketches in pencil, pen, and ink.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 3 series.

- Series 1: Professional Files, 1981-circa 1995 (5 folders; Box 1)
 - Series 2: Printed Materials, circa 1981-2004 (0.3 linear feet; Box 1)
 - Series 3: Artwork, circa 1990s (2 folders; Box 1, OV 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:

Asian American artists
Japanese American artists

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Names:

Halper, Vicki

Kaneko, Jun, 1942-

Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America

Occupations:

Ceramicists -- Washington (State) -- Seattle

Educators -- Washington (State)

Container Listing

Series 1: Professional Files, 1981-circa 1995

5 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The series contains an artist statement on vessels, correspondence with Vicki Halper and other professional contacts, a digital photographic print of Takamori with Jun Kaneko, a booklet containing a presentation on "Figurative Vessel," and a short work plan for the European Ceramics Work Centre.

Box 1, Folder 1	Artist Statement, circa 1990
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, 1981-1993
Box 1, Folder 3	Digital Photographic Print, circa 1995
Box 1, Folder 4	Presentation, Figurative Vessel, 1994 Notes: Presentation may have been created for an exhibition.
Box 1, Folder 5	Work Plan for European Ceramics Work Centre, 1993

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Series 2: Printed Materials, circa 1981-2004

0.3 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Printed materials consist of a booklet on the Japanese art group C.A.S.T., announcements and catalogs for Takamori's exhibitions, magazines and journals featuring articles on Takamori, newsletters created by Takamori, and a few miscellaneous items also featuring Takamori.

Box 1, Folder 6 Booklet, C.A.S.T. (Ceramic Art Studio of Takadanobaba, Tokyo), circa 1992

Box 1, Folder 7-9 Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1983-2004

Box 1, Folder 10-11 Magazines and Journals, 1992-2002

Box 1, Folder 12 Miscellaneous, circa 1996-2002

Box 1, Folder 13 Newsletters, circa 1981

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Series 3: Artwork, circa 1990s

2 Folders (Box 1, OV 2)

Scope and Contents: Artwork consists of drawings and sketches in pencil, pen, and ink. Some sketches appear to be preparatory sketches for sculpture projects. Also included are short writings about women and children.

Box 1, Folder 14 Drawings and Sketches, circa 1990s

Oversize 2 Drawings and Sketches, circa 1990s

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