



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the George Tsutakawa Papers, 1963-1991, in the Archives of American Art

Rihoko Ueno

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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:	George Tsutakawa papers
Date:	1963-1991
Identifier:	AAA.tsutgeor2
Creator:	Tsutakawa, George
Extent:	1 Linear foot
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of Washington-based sculptor and educator George Tsutakawa measure 1 linear feet and date from 1963 to 1991. The papers document his career as a painter, sculptor, and teacher and include biographical material, correspondence, exhibition files, membership records, project files, and printed material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The George Tsutakawa papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by George Tsutakawa in 1991.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is an oral history interview with George Tsutakawa conducted 1983 September 8-19, by Martha Kingsbury; an oral history interview with George Tsutakawa conducted 1987 June 26-27, by his daughter Mayumi Tsutakawa; and the George Tsutakawa in Japan video project recordings.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Rihoko Ueno in 2020.

Preferred Citation

George Tsutakawa papers, 1963-1991. 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

George Tsutakawa (1910-1997) was a Japanese American sculptor, painter, and teacher who primarily worked in Seattle, Washington. Tsutakawa was born in Seattle, but he was educated and raised in Japan from 1917 to 1927. Upon his return to Seattle, he enrolled in high school and later attended the University of Washington School of Art (1932-1937), where he majored in sculpture.

During World War II, his family was sent to the Japanese American incarceration camps, while Tsutakawa served in the U.S. Army from 1941-1945. After the war, he returned to Seattle and in 1947 he married his wife Ayame, whom he had met at one of the Japanese incarceration camps he visited in order to see and help family members during the war. That same year, Tsutakawa also started teaching at the University of Washington, where he resumed his studies and got his M.F.A. in 1950.

From the late 1950s through 1970s, Tsutakawa rose to prominence for his designs of fountains, usually made from bronze or welded steel. Over the course of his career, he designed fountains for roughly 80 commissions across the United States and Japan. During this time, he continued to teach at the University of Washington until his retirement in 1976. He died in Seattle in 1997.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Washington-based sculptor and educator George Tsutakawa measure 1 linear feet and date from 1963 to 1991. The papers document his career as a painter, sculptor, and teacher and include biographical material, correspondence, exhibition files, membership records, project files, and printed material.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Asian American art
- Asian American artists
- Asian American educators
- Asian American painters
- Asian American sculptors
- Japanese American art
- Japanese American artists
- Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century

Names:

- University of Washington

Occupations:

- Educators -- Washington (State) -- Seattle
- Sculptors -- Washington (State) -- Seattle

Container Listing

Series 1: George Tsutakawa papers, 1963-1991

1 Linear foot (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Included are biographical materials, correspondence, exhibition records, exhibition announcements and catalogs, and other printed material. Correspondence, primarily letters received, often discusses Tsutakawa's outdoor fountain sculptures. Exhibition records consist of correspondence, loan forms, and lists. Project files include the Northwest Kitchen Cookbook illustrated by Tsutakawa, the Puyallup Fair Memorial Sculpture, and Tsutakawa's Alumnas Summa Laude Designatas award from the University of Washington. Printed material includes newsclippings, press releases, newsletters, journal articles, and calendars of events.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Material - Artist Statement, 1982
Box 1, Folder 2	Biographical Material - Essay about George Tsutakawa, circa 1977
Box 1, Folder 3	Biographical Material - Interview Questions, circa 1970-circa 1990
Box 1, Folder 4	Biographical Material - Resumes and Bibliographies, circa 1970-circa 1990
Box 1, Folder 5	Biographical Material - University of Washington Alumni Award, 1984
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence - Undated, circa 1963-circa 1990
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1963-1967
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence, 1968-1972
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence, 1973-1975
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence, 1976
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence, 1977-1978
Box 1, Folder 12	Correspondence, 1979-1982
Box 1, Folder 13	Correspondence, 1983-1990
Box 1, Folder 14	Exhibition Files - Undated, circa 1973-circa 1990
Box 1, Folder 15	Exhibition Files, 1973-1975
Box 1, Folder 16	Exhibition Files, 1976-1982
Box 1, Folder 17	Exhibition Files, 1983-1984

Box 1, Folder 18	Exhibition Files, 1985-1990
Box 1, Folder 19	Membership Records, 1981-1984
Box 1, Folder 20	Northwest Sculptors Alliance By-Laws and Roster, circa 1977
Box 1, Folder 21	Northwest Kitchen Cookbook, 1978-1985
Box 1, Folder 22	Puyallup Fair Memorial, circa 1980-1983
Box 1, Folder 23	Printed Material - 10th International Sculpture Conference, 1978
Box 1, Folder 24	Printed Material - Calendars of Events, circa 1967-1990
Box 1, Folder 25	Printed Material - Exhibition Announcements, circa 1967-1990
Box 1, Folder 26	Printed Material - Exhibition Catalogs, circa 1973-1975
Box 1, Folder 27	Printed Material - Exhibition Catalogs, 1976-1988
Box 1, Folder 28	Printed Material - Journal Articles, circa 1982-1989
Box 1, Folder 29	Printed Material - Newsletters and Bulletins, circa 1971-1976
Box 1, Folder 30	Printed Material - Newsletters and Bulletins, 1977-1990
Box 1, Folder 31	Printed Material - Newspaper Clippings - Undated, circa 1965-circa 1991
Box 1, Folder 32	Printed Material - Newspaper Clippings, 1965-1973
Box 1, Folder 33	Printed Material - Newspaper Clippings, 1974-1976
Box 1, Folder 34	Printed Material - Newspaper Clippings, 1977-1979
Box 1, Folder 35	Printed Material - Newspaper Clippings, 1980-1987
Box 1, Folder 36	Printed Material - Newspaper Clippings, 1988-1991
Box 1, Folder 37	Printed Material - Press Releases, 1967-1977
Box 1, Folder 38	Printed Material - Miscellaneous, circa 1970-circa 1990
Box 1, Folder 39	Slide Lists, circa 1975-circa 1990

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