



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the James W. Washington, Jr. papers, 1938-1989, in the Archives of American Art

Rayna Andrews

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was provided by the Henry Luce Foundation.

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Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	James W. Washington, Jr. papers
Date:	1938-1989
Identifier:	AAA.washjame
Creator:	Washington, James W., 1911-2000
Extent:	2.3 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers of artist James W. Washington, Jr. measure 2.3 linear feet and date from 1938 to 1989. The collection includes biographical material, correspondence, writings, professional records, material related to the Artists Equity Association, printed material, and photographic material.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The James W. Washington, Jr. papers were donated to the Archives of American Art by James W. Washington, Jr. in two accessions in 1984 and 1989.

Location of Originals

The majority of the clippings in this collection are photocopies. The location of original clippings is not known.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art are two oral history interviews with James W. Washington, Jr., one conducted by Dorothy Bestor, October 13, 1965, the other by Paul Karlstrom, June 29, 1987.

Processing Information

The collection was minimally processed and a finding aid prepared by Rayna Andrews with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation in 2018.

Preferred Citation

James W. Washington, Jr. papers, 1938-1989. 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.

Biographical / Historical

James W. Washington, Jr. (1909-2000) was an African American painter and sculptor prominent in the Seattle, Washington art community. Religion was an important part of his life and he considered his art to be a spiritual undertaking. In addition to being active in his church community, he was a member of the Artists Equity Association, serving as the Seattle Chapter secretary from 1950 to 1960, and then as the president from 1960 to 1962. In 1990 the City of Seattle's Historic Landmark and Preservation Board designated Washington's home and studio at 1816 26th Avenue a cultural landmark.

Scope and Contents

The papers of artist James W. Washington, Jr. measure 2.3 linear feet and date from 1938 to 1989. The collection includes biographical material, correspondence, writings, professional records, material related to the Artists Equity Association, printed material, and photographic material.

Biographical material includes resumes, a short biographical sketch, and the transcript of an interview conducted by Cindy Huetter.

Correspondence makes up the bulk of this collection and consists of letters to Washington from family and friends expressing admiration for his work, writings, and lectures. Also documented is his involvement in organizations including the Pacific Arts Center, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Correspondents include Kenneth Callahan, Anne Gould Hauberg, Val M. Laigo, and George Tsutakawa. This series also includes a file of correspondence related to Washington's articles for the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*.

Writings include articles for *Zionews*, the Mt. Zion Baptist Church newsletter; *the Seattle Post Intelligencer*; and *the Puget Sounding* related to Washington's artwork; his thoughts on race; his teacher, Mark Tobey; and his strong religious beliefs. Also included are an unidentified editorial and assorted notes.

Professional records include material related to committees and professional groups, financial records, materials related to commissions and sculptures, materials related to Mark Tobey works loaned for exhibition, teaching files, and legal files.

Artists Equity Association files consist of correspondence, membership information, constitution and by-laws, reports and meeting minutes, proposals, newsletters, and clippings.

Printed material includes exhibition announcements, exhibition catalogs, newsletters and bulletins, magazine and newspaper clippings, programs, and religious material.

Photographic material consists of photographs of artwork, photographs of Washington with his work, and one oversized portrait of Washington.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in seven series.

- Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1970-1989 (Box 1; 2 folders)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1938-1988 (Boxes 1-2; 1.4 linear feet)
- Series 3: Writings, 1958-circa 1986 (Box 2; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 4: Professional Records, 1950-1983 (Box 2; 7 folders)
- Series 5: Artists Equity Association Files, 1948-1963 (Box 2; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1946-1989 (Boxes 2-3; 0.3 linear feet, OV 4)
- Series 7: Photographic Material, 1951, 1964-1969, 1980s (Box 3; 2 folders, OV 4)

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- African American artists
- African American painters
- African American sculptors
- Race awareness
- Racial identity

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Photographs
- Transcripts

Names:

- Artists Equity Association
- Callahan, Kenneth, 1905-1986
- Hauberg, Anne Gould
- Huetter, Cindy
- Laigo, Val M., 1930-1992
- Mount Zion Baptist Church (Seattle, Wash.)
- Scottish Rite (Masonic order)
- Tobey, Mark
- Tsutakawa, George

Occupations:

- Painters -- Washington (State) -- Seattle
- Sculptors -- Washington (State) -- Seattle

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Material, circa 1970-1980

2 Folders (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: Biographical material includes James W. Washington Jr.'s resumes, a short biographical sketch of the artist, and the transcript of an interview conducted by Cindy Huetter.

Box 1, Folder 1 Biography and Resume, circa 1970, 1989, undated

Box 1, Folder 2 Transcript of Interview with Cindy Huetter and Associated Correspondence, 1985-1986

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1938-1988

1.4 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: Correspondence consists of letters to Washington from family and friends expressing admiration for his work, writing, and lectures. Also included is correspondence regarding his involvement in organizations including the Pacific Arts Center, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. This series also includes a file of correspondence related to Washington's articles for the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*.

Arrangement: This series is arranged chronologically. The file of correspondence related to Washington's articles for *the Seattle Post Intelligencer* appears at the end of the series.

Box 1, Folder 3-22	Chronological Correspondence, 1938, 1944-1977
Box 2, Folder 2-8	Chronological Correspondence, 1978-1988
Box 2, Folder 9	Undated Correspondence, undated
Box 2, Folder 10	Correspondence Related to Washington's Articles for the Seattle Post Intelligencer, 1965-1968

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Series 3: Writings, 1958- circa 1986

Scope and Contents: Writings include articles for *Zionews*, the Mt. Zion Baptist Church newsletter; *the Seattle Post Intelligencer*, and *the Puget Sounding* related to Washington's artwork; his thoughts on race; his teacher, Mark Tobey; and his strong religious beliefs. Also included are an unidentified editorial, and assorted notes.

Box 2, Folder 11 Zionews, Mt. Zion Baptist Church Newsletters and Draft Typescripts, 1958-1961

Box 2, Folder 12 Seattle Post Intelligencer Article Drafts, 1965-1968

Box 2, Folder 13 Article for Puget Sounding on Mark Tobey, 1970

Box 2, Folder 14 Editorial Regarding Seattle Police, undated

Box 2, Folder 15 Notes, circa 1959- circa 1986

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Series 4: Professional Records, 1950-1983

7 Folders (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Professional records include material related to committees and professional groups; financial records; materials related to commissions and sculptures; materials related to Mark Tobey works loaned for exhibition; teaching files; and legal files.

Arrangement: This series is arranged chronologically.

Box 2, Folder 16	City of Seattle Planning Commission— Civic Memorial Arts Center Site, 1950
Box 2, Folder 17	Financial Records, Invoices and Receipts, 1952-1983
Box 2, Folder 18	Materials Related to Commissions and Exhibitions, 1961-1974
Box 2, Folder 19	Material Related to the State Capitol Museum and Washington State Arts Commission, 1963-1966, 1971
Box 2, Folder 20	Material Related to Mark Tobey Work for Exhibition at State Capitol Museum, 1966-1968
Box 2, Folder 21	Teaching Files, 1960s
Box 2, Folder 22	Lawsuit Against Robert and Jane Carpenter, 1971-1972

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Series 5: Artists Equity Association Files, 1948-1963

0.3 Linear feet (Box 2)

Scope and Contents: Artists Equity Association files consist of correspondence, membership information, constitution and by-laws, reports and meeting minutes, proposals, newsletters, and clippings.

Box 2, Folder 23-25	Correspondence, 1950-1957, 1963, undated
Box 2, Folder 26	Roster and Membership Information, 1948, 1956-1958
Box 2, Folder 27	Constitution, By-laws, Code of Ethics, Etc., 1949-1955
Box 2, Folder 28	Reports and Meeting Minutes, 1948-1956
Box 2, Folder 29	Proposal for the Establishment of a National Council for Community Art Centers, undated
Box 2, Folder 30	Newsletter, National, 1950-1959
Box 2, Folder 31	Newsletter, Northern California Chapter, 1954
Box 2, Folder 32	Newsletter, Seattle, 1952-1956, undated
Box 2, Folder 33	Exhibition Announcements and Catalogs, 1952-1956
Box 2, Folder 34	Newspaper Clippings, 1950-1961, undated

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Series 6: Printed Material, 1946-1989

0.2 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, OV 4)

Scope and Contents: Printed material includes exhibition announcements, exhibition catalogs, newsletters and bulletins, magazine and newspaper clippings, programs, and religious material.

Box 2, Folder 35	Exhibition Announcements, 1952, 1959-1989, undated
Box 2, Folder 36	Exhibition Catalogs, 1946-1977, 1989, undated
Box 2, Folder 37	Newsletters and Bulletins, Bellevue Art Museum Calend'art, San Francisco Art Institute News, Seattle Arts Newsletter, The Shoestring Newsletter, 1963, 1977, 1988-1989 Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Oversize 4	Oversized Seattle Arts Newsletter, 1988
Box 2, Folder 38	Magazine Clippings, 1958, 1970-1977, 1987
Box 2, Folder 39	Newspaper Clippings, 1949-1969
Box 3, Folder 1	Newspaper Clippings, 1970-1989, undated Notes: Oversized material housed in OV 4.
Oversize 4	Oversized Newspaper Clippings, 1973, 1975, 1989
Box 3, Folder 2	Programs, 1951-1981
Box 3, Folder 3	Religious Material, 1952-1954, 1961-1977, 1984-1986
Box 3, Folder 4	Assorted Printed Material, 1956, 1964-1972, 1986

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Series 7: Photographic Material, 1951, 1964-1969, 1980s

2 Folders (Box 3, OV 4)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material consists of photographs of artwork, photographs of Washington with his work, and one oversized portrait of Washington.

Box 3, Folder 5	Photographs of Works of Art, 1951, 1980-1981
Box 3, Folder 6	Photographs of Washington with His Work, 1964-1969, 1980, 1989
Oversize 4	Oversized Portrait of James W. Washington, Jr., 1964

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