



Smithsonian

Anacostia Community Museum

Barnett-Aden Collection Exhibition records, 1974

Carrie Gehrler created original finding aid. Revised
finding aid created by Britney Crawford in 2024.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Anacostia Community Museum Archives
Title:	<i>Barnett-Aden Collection: 100 Years of Multi-Ethnic Art Exhibition Records</i>
Date:	1973-1975
Identifier:	ACMA.03-010
Creator:	Barnett-Aden Gallery Smithsonian Institution. Anacostia Community Museum Aden, Alonzo J., 1906-1963 Herring, James V. (James Vernon)
Extent:	6.61 Linear feet (2 boxes, 1 oversize box, 1 binder; 2 slide boxes, 1 oversize folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This exhibition, organized by the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum (now the Anacostia Community Museum), was held from January 20 to May 6, 1974, and subsequently traveled to the Corcoran Gallery of Art from January 10 to February 1975. The catalog and associated exhibition provide a comprehensive view of the planning, organization, and promotion of them both. They include correspondence, research files, administrative records, press coverage, educational materials, and photographs. Collectively, these materials offer an in-depth look at the complexities and collaborative efforts involved in presenting the Barnett-Aden Collection of work.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Barnett-Aden Collection Exhibition records

Administrative Information

Processing Information

Collection level record created in 2022 by Carrie Gehrer. The collection was processed by Britney Crawford in August 2024.

Preferred Citation

Barnett-Aden Collection Exhibition Records, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Preferred Citation

The Barnett-Aden Collection, Anacostia Community Museum, Smithsonian Institution

Conditions Governing Use

Use of the materials requires an appointment. Please contact the archivist to make an appointment: ACMarchives@si.edu.

Biographical / Historical

The Barnett-Aden exhibition included selected works from the Barnett-Aden Gallery which closed in 1969. The Barnett-Aden Gallery, suggested to be the first African American privately-owned gallery in the U.S., open its doors on October 16, 1943. The gallery was founded by artist and scholar James V. Herring alongside his partner, curator Alonzo Aden. The gallery was housed in a private home that they shared, located at 127 Randolph Street NW in Washington, DC. These men aimed to create an art gallery that provided a venue for underrepresented artists of all races and genres. It was this partnership that laid the foundation for the shift in African American representation in modern art. Aden stated that the gallery's aim was to help foster new talent while also bringing "art of superior quality" to the community. Throughout this history, the gallery held almost 200 exhibitions and showcased the work of over 400 artists. In 2015, selected works were donated from the gallery connection to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture to preserve the legacy of the Barnett-Aden Gallery and the tireless work of James V. Herring and Alonzo Aden for generations to come.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes draft pages, revisions, and mockups that illustrate the iterative process of book creation, with Box 3 specifically featuring mockups for catalog publication accompanied by a memorandum. It also encompasses documentation related to exhibit planning, such as meeting notes, press releases, artifact lists, condition reports, and presentation notes for slide shows. Additionally, the series contains photographic materials, including prints of the artwork displayed in the exhibit, as well as images capturing the exhibition layouts and the opening reception.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three main categories:

Series 1: Catalog

Series 2: Exhibit Files

Series 3: Photographic Material

Featured Artwork and Artist

These selected works of art were featured in the exhibition Barnett-Aden Collection: 100 Years of Multi-Ethnic Art:

Walking Home, Laytonsville, Maryland, Alice Stanley Acheson

The President's House (Howard University), Frank Alston, Jr.

Landscape, 1989, Edward M. Bannister

Paris Evening, 1883, James MacDonald Barnsley

Brother Gardner, 1881, Barse, Jr.

War and Poor Thirsty Souls, 1946, Romare Bearden

Cockfight, 1950, Wilson Bigaud

Manda and Sharecroppers, John Biggers

Guitar Player, Teodoro Ramos Blanco

High Noon, Mimi Dubois Bolton
Five Figures, Donald A. Brown
The Twins, 1945, Samuel J. Brown
Portrait of Mr. James V. Herring, Frederick Campbell
Negro Woman and Pensive Portrait, 1945, Elizabeth Catlett
Negro Woman, 1943, Tony Cornetti
Eva, Man Smoking, and Head and Torso, Eldzier Cortor
Mamloi, Harold Cousins
In the Rooms, Bernice Cross
Alta, Aaron Douglas
Tondo, David C. Driskell
Negro Woman, 1934, Augustus Dunbier
Crucifixion, 1969, Adolphus Ealey
Meditation, Spring Forest, and Three Old Women, Adolphus Ealey
African Family, D.M. Fagog
Checker Players and the The Couple, John Farrar
Grocery Boy and Guitar Player, John Farrar
Self Portrait and Mrs. Mitchell, 1944, John Farrar
The Mourners and Self Portrait, 1941, Frederick Flemister
Head of Christ, Clare Fontanini
The Wood Gatherer, Michael J. Gallagher
Abstraction, Robert Gates
Warehouse, East River, R. Graves
The Cotton Picker, Robert Gwathmey
Trees, 1956, James V. Herring
The Flight og the Eyes, 1951, Harlan Jackson
Turkeys at Roost, Malvin Gray Johnson
Chalets and Farmer and and Wife, William H. Johnson
Going to Church and Three Girls Playing, William H. Johnson
Sunflowers, Green Apples and Grand Bois d'Illet, 1953, Lois Mailou Jones
Funerailles, Jasmin Joseph
St. Francis and the Bird, Joseph Kersey
Harlem Gothic, Joseph Lasker
Blind Flower Vendor, 1946, Jacob Lawrence
Hanging Cloth, 1954, Hughie Lee-Smith
Study in Blue and White, 1954, Norman Lewis
Wind and Ashes, 1938, Edward L. Loper, Jr.

Playground and The Argument, 1940, Archibald J. Motley
Column of Fire and The Dancer, I. Rice Pereira
Flash Red Every Three Seconds, Jack Perlmutter
Scene, Charleston, South Carolina, Jack Perlmutter
South Federal Street, Chicago, 1942, Dan Polumbo
Man in White (Alonzo Aden) and Young Negro, 1929, James A. Porter
Granny, Robinson
First Gallery, John Robinson
Self Portrait and Spring Landscape, John Robinson
Cabins, William E. Scott
Two Women, Charles Sebree
Study in Red, Merton Simpson
Laundress, Isaac Soyer
Spotlight on Houses, Theodoros Stamos
Matthew A. Henson, Celine Tabary
Flight Into Egypt, 1916, Henry O. Tanner
Georgetown Barge and Etude in Color, 1966, Alma W. Thomas
Study of a Young Girl and Still Life, 1923, Alma W. Thomas
Founders' Library (Howard University), Unknown Artist
Street Corner Discussion, Unknown Artist
Little Brown Girl, Laura Wheeler Waring
Naomi Barnett Aden, Laura Wheeler Waring
Portrait of Mr. Alonzo J. Aden, 1947, Laura Wheeler Waring
Howard Hall, Howard University, 1941, Rena Arnold Watson
Georgetown, James L. Wells
Market Place and St. Francis and the Birds, James L. Wells
Head of a Man, Charles White
Flower Vendor and The Matriarch, Ellis Wilson
Negro Boy, Hale Woodruff

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- African American art -- Exhibitions
- Art -- Exhibitions
- Museum exhibits

Types of Materials:

- Black-and-white photographs
- Black-and-white transparencies
- Catalogs
- Contact sheets
- Correspondence
- Exhibit scripts
- Exhibition records -- 1967-1989

Names:

- Anacostia Neighborhood Museum
- Barnett-Aden Collection
- Corcoran Gallery of Art