



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Genia de Galberg collection of Rwandan and Congolese paintings

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Genia de Galberg collection of Rwandan and Congolese paintings
Date:	undated
Identifier:	NAA.MS414286
Creator:	de Galberg, Genia, 1899-1967 (Collector)
Extent:	14 Paintings (visual works)
Language:	No linguistic content; Not applicable .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The paintings were donated to the Smithsonian as part of a larger collection of African artifacts by Genia de Galberg in 1966 (USNM Accession 280142). The paintings were transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives in 1969.

Related Materials

The Department of Anthropology object collections holds artifacts donated by Galberg in Accession 280142.

Processing Information

The paintings in this collection were originally cataloged by the NAA in four separate lots: MS 414286, MS 414288, MS 414290, and "Four Figures Dancing with Spears" (No MS Number). In 2023, the collection was reprocessed and all paintings collected by de Galberg were incorporated into a single collection under MS 414286.

Preferred Citation

Genia de Galberg collection of Rwandan and Congolese paintings (MS 414286), National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.
Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Genia de Galberg, also known as Eugenia or Eugenie, (1899-1968) was a hotel operator and translator. Born to German and Georgian parents in Ukraine, she was educated in Italy and France. In the 1930s, she traveled to Butembo, in Eastern Congo to help in the operation of a hotel. She went on to own and operate two hotels on Lake Kivu in Rwanda, as well as chrysanthemum and coffee plantations. She was an avid collector of African art and decorative objects, many of which she used to decorate her hotels. In 1960, she relocated to the United States, working as a Swahili interpreter for the United Nations in New York and later as a translator for the Rwandan Embassy in Washington, D.C. De Galberg died in Washington in 1968.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of fourteen (14) paintings collected by Genia de Galberg while living in Gisenyi, Rwanda. Eleven of the paintings are gouache watercolors on colored paper by Congolese artists. Three of the paintings are by European artists living in Rwanda.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Local Numbers

NAA MS 414286

USNM Accession 280142

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Tutsi (African people)

Cultures:

Tutsi (African people)

Types of Materials:

Paintings
Works of art

Places:

Africa, Central
Congo (Democratic Republic)
Rwanda

Container Listing

Paintings by Congolese artists 11 Paintings (visual works) (watercolor gouache on colored paper)	
Box 414286, Folder 1	Three groupings of figures 1 Paintings (visual works) (6.5 x 9.75 inches) Notes: Signed by the artist: Karrmou (?) NAA INV 09124900
Box 414286, Folder 1	Three groupings of figures 1 Paintings (visual works) (6.5 x 19.75 inches) Notes: NAA INV 09125000 Signed by the artist: Malonga
Box 414286, Folder 1	Three groupings of figures engaged in spearing 1 Paintings (visual works) (6.5 x 19.75 inches) Notes: NAA INV 09125100 Signed by the artist: Malonga
Box 414286, Folder 2	Three figures approaching huts; Two carrying game 1 Paintings (visual works) (12.75 x 10 inches) Notes: NAA INV 09125200 Signed by the artist: Yavonda (?)
Box 414286, Folder 2	Group paddling boat toward group on shore 1 Paintings (visual works) (12.75 x 9.75 inches) Notes: NAA INV 09125300 Signed by the artist: Elion
Box 414286, Folder 2	Group dancing with spears and drums 1 Paintings (visual works) (13 x 10 inches) Notes: NAA INV 09125400 Signed by the artist: Pierre
Box 414286, Folder 2	Group dancing with spears and shields 1 Paintings (visual works) (12.75 x 10 inches) Notes: NAA INV 09125500 Signed by the artist: Yavonda (?)
Box 414286, Folder 3	Group dancing with spears, shields, and drums 1 Paintings (visual works) (13 x 10 inches) Notes: NAA INV 09125600 Signed by the artist: Pierre
Box 414286, Folder 3	Group dancing with spears and shields

1 Paintings (visual works) (13 x 10 inches)
Notes: NAA INV 09125700
Signed by the artist: Ditouary

Box 414286, Folder 3 Group dancing with spears and shields around huts
1 Paintings (visual works) (13 x 10 inches)
Notes: NAA INV 09125800
Signed by the artist: Pierre

Box 414286, Folder 3 Group dancing with spears and drum; pot over fire nearby
1 Paintings (visual works) (12.75 x 10 inches)
Notes: NAA INV 09125900
Signed by the artist: Broussa

Paintings by European artists
3 Paintings (visual works)

Box 414286, Folder 4 Four figures dancing with spears
1 Paintings (visual works) (watercolor and crayon; 19.5 x 15 inches)
[Image\(s\): Four Figures Dancing With Spears Painting](#)
Notes: NAA INV 09126000
USNM Catalog 414287
Painting by Francine Somers (Belgian, 1923-).
Signed by the artist: "F. Somers."

Box 414286, Folder 5 Figures in front of a stockaded village
1 Paintings (visual works) (oil on wood; 19.5 x 16 inches)
Notes: NAA INV 09126100
Painting by Marion de Paepe.
Signed by the artist: "Marion de Paepe" and inscribed to Genia de Galberg on verso.

Folder 414286 [Portrait of an unidentified chief or king](#)
1 Paintings (visual works) (oil on canvas; 27.5 x 31.5 inches)
Notes: NAA INV 08619600
USNM Catalog 414286
Painting by Paul Sortet (1905-1966).
The USNM accession record for the painting describes it as "Portrait of the martyred king of Rwanda. Killed in revolution in 20th century (194?). Painted by a European." Based on this information, the painting was originally described by NAA as a "Portrait of Mutara III Charles Leon Pierre Rudahigwa, King of Ruanda." However, the portrait may depict Chief Kamuzinzi Godefroid, who was a chief in Gisenyi territory. Kamuzinzi's alias was Intare y'akanwa, or the lion with a mustache.
The painting is signed "Sortet" and "Kisenyi-yo."