Printmaking Workshop Records

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

Contact information: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2007085366

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012201

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013
Revised 2024 February

Collection Summary

Title: Printmaking Workshop Records
Inclusive Dates: 1979-1997
Bulk Dates: 1987-1997
ID No.: MSS85366
Creator: Printmaking Workshop
Extent: 4,000 items
Extent: 11 containers plus digital files
Extent: 4.4 linear feet
Extent: 23 digital files (3.30 MB)
Language: Collection material in English and Spanish
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2007085366
Summary: Studio and gallery facility dedicated to teaching and promoting the art of printmaking and related crafts, founded by African-American printmaker Robert Hamilton Blackburn in 1948. General office files, printmaking exhibition files, correspondence, print listings and catalogs, financial records, subject files, publicity material, photographs, receipts, printed matter, and miscellaneous material.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Blackburn, Robert Hamilton, 1920-

Organizations
Printmaking Workshop.
Robert Hamilton Blackburn Printmaking Workshop Core Collection and Archives (Library of Congress)

Subjects
Art, American--New York (State)--New York.
Artists' studios--New York (State)--New York.
Artists--New York (State)--New York.
Arts--New York (State)--New York.
Arts.
Printmakers--New York (State)--New York.
Prints--Technique.
Prints.

Acquisition Information

The records of the Printmaking Workshop were transferred to the Manuscript Division from the Prints and Photographs Division in 2007. The records are a gift to the Library of Congress from the Printmaking Workshop, part of an agreement that included a purchase by the Library of Congress of prints from the studio in 2000.

Processing History

Paper records in the Printmaking Workshop collection were processed in 2012 by Joseph K. Brooks. Born-digital files were organized and described in 2015.

Digital files were received as part of the Printmaking Workshop records on a variety of storage media, each of which was assigned a unique digital ID number. Use the digital ID number to request access copies of the files associated with each

media. A description of the standard processes taken on all born digital records can be found in the Processing History Note: Born Digital Collection Material at https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.digital.

Related Material

The records of the Printmaking Workshop in the Manuscript Division are part of the larger Robert Hamilton Blackburn Printmaking Core Collection and Archives, which includes material located in the Prints and Photographs Division.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Printmaking Workshop is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The records of Printmaking Workshop are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Access to digital content is available onsite only in the Manuscript Reading Room and requires advanced notice. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container, reel, or digital ID number, Printmaking Workshop Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Organizational History

The Printmaking Workshop was founded in New York, N.Y., in 1948 by African-American artist and printmaker Robert Hamilton Blackburn (1920-2003) to provide studio and gallery space, equipment, and instruction in printmaking and allied crafts to aspiring and experienced printmakers.

Scope and Content Note

The Printmaking Workshop is an ongoing New York City nonprofit organization and artists' cooperative founded by African-American artist and master printmaker Robert Hamilton Blackburn (1920-2003) in 1948 to provide studio space, equipment, instruction, gallery space, and community to artists in the printmaking and related fields. The collection spans the years 1979-1997, with the bulk concentrated in the period 1987-1997. The material consists of office files, material relating to exhibitions, correspondence, print listings and catalogs, financial records, subject files, publicity material, photographs, receipts, and printed matter.The records are organized into three series: Exibitions and Other Events, General Office File, and Digital File.

The Exhibitions and Other Events series documents exhibits, auctions, and benefits held at the Printmaking Workshop's own gallery and in other venues in the United States and across the world.

The General Office File documents the administration and operations of the organization from the 1970s into the late 1990s.

Arrangement of the Records

This collection is arranged in three series:

- Exhibitions and Other Events, 1984-1997

- General Office File, 1979-1997
- Digital File, 1997

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-6	**Exhibitions and Other Events, 1984-1997** Files relating to exhibitions and other events such as auctions and benefits held at the Printmaking Workshop and other venues. Grouped into exhibitions and events held at the Printmaking Workshop gallery and those held in other venues. Arranged thereunder by year of event and therein alphabetically by title of event or name of gallery.
BOX 6-11	**General Office File, 1979-1997** Office files, financial records, correspondence, catalogs and lists of artwork, and miscellaneous material relating to the operations of the Printmaking Workshop. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX DF	**Digital File, 1997** Lists of artists and prints in the FP3 file format. The series is comprised of four files and 1.65 MB. The series also includes a 2 MB floppy disk that is unreadable at this time.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-6	**Exhibitions and Other Events, 1984-1997**
	Files relating to exhibitions and other events such as auctions and benefits held at the Printmaking Workshop and other venues.
	Grouped into exhibitions and events held at the Printmaking Workshop gallery and those held in other venues. Arranged thereunder by year of event and therein alphabetically by title of event or name of gallery.
BOX 1	Printmaking Workshop gallery
BOX 1	circa 1990, auction
BOX 1	1992
BOX 1	The Anniversary Show
BOX 1	Artists of Color
BOX 1	Joan Vennum, Recent Prints
BOX 1	Summer/Selections from the Printmaking Workshop Collection
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BOX 2	Ruth Lauer-Manenti, Drawings and Prints
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BOX 2	Other venues
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BOX 2	1987 , benefit auction, Detroit, Michigan
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Container	Contents
BOX 3	Augusta Savage and the Art School of Harlem, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, N.Y.
BOX 3	Robert Blackburn, a Life's Work, Alternative Museum, New York, N.Y.
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BOX 3	Contemporary African-American Printmakers, Contemporary Sculpture from Zimbabwe, Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London, Conn.
BOX 3	Contemporary Prints: New York Workshops Create, Bronx Museum ofthe Arts, New York, N.Y.
BOX 3	A Cultural Celebration: Featuring a Collection of Prints from the Robert Blackburn Printmaking Studio Workshop, Manatee Community College, West Bradenton, Florida
BOX 3	Multiple Images: Prints by Afro-Americans, Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, N. J.
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BOX 3	Cinque Gallery, New York, N. Y.
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BOX 3	The Printmakers' Art, Hudson Guild, New York, N.Y.
BOX 3	Robert Blackburn, Goshen College, Goshen, Ind.
BOX 3	Robert Blackburn, Master Artist, Master Printmaker, Lafayette College, Easton, Pa.
BOX 4	Robert Blackburn, Inspiration and Innovation in American Printmaking, Wilmer Jennings Gallery, New York, N.Y.
BOX 4	The Robert Blackburn Legacy, the Printmaking Workshop at Forty-Five, Newark Public Library, Newark, N. J.
BOX 4	1995
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BOX 4	Blackburn Print Workshop Exhibition, Hass Gallery of Art, Bloomsburg, Pa.
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BOX 4	Falubiennalen Nya Grafiker, Falun, Sweden
BOX 4	Institute of Youth Enterprises, New York, N.Y.
BOX 4	Lois Mailou Jones and Her Former Students, Fondo del Sol Visual Arts Center, Washington, D. C.
BOX 4	Master Printmaker Robert Blackburn, Exhibition, CRT's Craftery Gallery, Hartford, Conn.
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BOX 5	NGO Forum on Women, Beijing, China
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BOX 5	Prints from the Printmaking Workshop Collection, Blair Academy, Blairstown, N. J.
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Container	Contents
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BOX 6	John Jay College of Criminal Justice
BOX 6	Hostos Art Gallery: The First Ten Years, Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture, New York, N. Y.
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BOX 6	Rice Gallery, Albany, N. Y.
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BOX 6	Miscellaneous, 1987, 1995
BOX 6-11	**General Office File, 1979-1997**
	Office files, financial records, correspondence, catalogs and lists of artwork, and miscellaneous material relating to the operations of the Printmaking Workshop.
	Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
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Container	Contents
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BOX 11	Teaching material, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 11	Vendors, undated

BOX DF **Digital File, 1997**

Lists of artists and prints in the FP3 file format. The series is comprised of four files and 1.65 MB. The series also includes a 2 MB floppy disk that is unreadable at this time.

Exhibitions and Other Events

Artist list, 1997

Digital ID: mss85366_27_1

Print list, 1997

Digital ID: mss85366_27_2