

Walker, Shawn (SC-43)

Shawn Walker Ephemera Collection
1964-2018

Title Statement

Walker, Shawn (SC-43) Finding Aids to the Special Collections in the VMFA Archives | Shawn Walker Ephemera Collection SC-43

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC-43

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/15994

Unit Date

1964-2018

Text

SC-43 Box 1 (box)

Language

English .

Abstract

The collection contains ephemera collected by photographer Shawn Walker, documenting his own career and those of other 20th-century African American artists.

Creator

Walker, Shawn, 1940-

source

Walker, Shawn, 1940-

Extent

0.25 Linear Feet 1 box

Repository

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The collection is subject to all copyright laws. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by copyright, beyond that allowed by fair use, requires the researcher to obtain permission of copyright holders.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection was donated to the archives by Shawn Walker in 2019.

Preferred Citation

Shawn Walker Ephemera Collection (SC-43). Gift of Shawn Walker. VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Born and raised in Harlem, Walker learned photography at a young age by practicing with his uncle, Herbert Hoover Winfield. Encouraged by his mother, Florine Winfield Walker, he earned a B.F.A. from Empire State College and made photography his life pursuit. For more than 50 years, he photographed life in Harlem and surrounding areas. He taught at New York University and the International Center of Photography and lectured widely.

"A lifetime resident of Harlem, I have tried to document the world around me, particularly the African American community, especially in Harlem, from an honest perspective so that our history is not lost," Walker said. "I am pleased that both my own photographic artwork and also some of the materials I have collected in my role as a cultural anthropologist will have a permanent home in an institution that will make them available to the public. I am so satisfied that this work has found a home in such a prestigious institution and can finally be shared with the world."

Walker's images depict scenes of daily life, city streets, parades and celebrations, poverty, drug use and policing, among other subjects. Walker made photographs of African American political leaders such as Jesse Jackson, David Dinkins and Elijah Muhammad, and cultural icons like Maya Angelou, Spike Lee, Toni Morrison, Dizzy Gillespie and Thelonious Monk.

Walker traveled outside of New York, photographing in cities throughout the United States, including Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Oakland and San Francisco. He photographed New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He also photographed abroad in places like Cuba, Guyana, Nigeria, Senegal and Mexico.

Source: Library of Congress

Scope and Contents

The collection's inclusive dates are 1964-2018. The collection is comprised of ephemera, invitations, press releases, and publications pertaining to Shawn Walker, the Kamoinge Workshop, and 20th-century African American photographers.

Keywords

Photography, Artistic -- 20th century.

Photographers

African American photographers

Black photographers

Walker, Shawn, 1940-

Walker, Shawn, 1940-

Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically. Items with no date are placed at the end of the collection.