

Gaines, William Robert (SC-16)

William Robert Gaines Personal Papers (SC-16)

1948-2008

Title Statement

Gaines, William Robert (SC-16) Finding Aids to Special Collections in the VMFA Archives | William Robert Gaines Personal Papers SC-16

Subtitle: Special Collection 16 (SC-16)

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC-16

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/255

Unit Date

1948-2008

Language

English .

Abstract

The collection documents the life of William "Bill" Robert Gaines, artist and long-time program director at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The collection is comprised of a partial manuscript of his autobiography as well as photographs, clippings, and other documents related to his career at the museum.

Extent

0.5 Linear Feet 1 box; 5 folders

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.

Processing Information

During processing, original newspaper clippings were photocopied and the autobiography was removed from its original, deteriorating binder and placed into a folder. The binder was titled "Virginia Museum 1948-82" and was presented to Gaines when he retired from the Programs Division.

Preferred Citation

William Robert Gaines Personal Papers (SC-16). VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Biographical Note

William Robert Gaines, known as "Buddy", was born in Madison County, Virginia in 1927. After entering the Army Specialized Training Program in 1945, followed by a brief time at Virginia Tech, Gaines briefly enrolled in the regular army and ultimately studied fine art and education at the Richmond Professional Institute. After graduation in 1950, he attended Columbia University's Teacher's College, earning a master's degree. In 1956, Gaines spent time painting in Italy before returning to Virginia in 1957 to work at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts where he would remain until 1982.

At VMFA, Gaines created a series of television programs on art for Virginia junior high school students that were ultimately broadcast in an additional 13 states. This led to three more series of programs, all focusing on art and art education. Also an accomplished dancer, Gaines performed in the first musical performed at the Virginia Museum Theater, "Kiss Me Kate", and many other productions, including "Oklahoma", "Carousel", and "Too Darn Hot". He was also the driver of the VMFA Artmobile in the 1950s, the first traveling art exhibition space. He died in May 2013 in Madison, VA.

Related Materials - VMFA Library: Books

Twelve American Painters: An Exhibition of Paintings by Twelve American Artists, Organized by William Gaines, 1974

Related Materials - VMFA Library: Exhibition File

Exhibition File: Virginia Artists: Behl, Gaines, and Jacobsen, 1960

Related Materials - VMFA Library: Artist File

Virginia Artist File: William Gaines

Custodial History

This collection was donated by William Gaines in March 2008. He donated the materials after he was interviewed for an oral history.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into two series, and items are generally arranged chronologically within each folder. Items with no date are generally placed at the end of each folder.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1: Autobiography

Unit ID SC-16-01

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48940

"Buddy/Bill: An Autobiography of William Robert Gaines"

Unit ID SC16.01.0.001

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48935

Mixed Materials SC-16 Box 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Container SC16.01.0.001 (Item)

Series 2: Personal Papers

Unit ID SC-16-02

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48941

Photographs

Unit ID SC16.02.0.001

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48936

Mixed Materials SC-16 Box 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Container SC16.02.0.001 (Item)

Newspaper Articles

Unit ID SC16.02.0.002

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48937

Mixed Materials SC-16 Box 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Container SC16.02.0.002 (Item)

Programs and Awards

Unit ID SC16.02.0.003

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48938

Mixed Materials SC-16 Box 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Container SC16.02.0.003 (Item)

Notes and Correspondence

Unit ID SC16.02.0.004

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48939

Mixed Materials SC-16 Box 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Container SC16.02.0.004 (Item)