

ROMARE BEARDEN COLLECTION, 2011

(Small Collections—Family/Personal) 2 folders

ABSTRACT

Romare Howard Bearden was born in Charlotte, to Richard Howard and Bessye Bearden, on September 2, 1911. While Bearden was still a toddler, the family moved to New York City, and he grew up in Harlem and Pittsburgh.

Bearden graduated with a degree in education from New York University, attended the Art Students League in New York, and later studied at the Sorbonne in Paris. During his college years, and following his graduation, Bearden was a cartoonist, art editor, and art director for several publications. He also became a member of the Harlem Artists Guild.

Bearden was a social worker with the New York City Department of Social Services from the mid-1930s through the 1960s. Working on his art during his off hours, his exhibitions began in 1940 in Harlem, and his career began to take off after his discharge from the army in 1945. In 1954, Bearden married Nanette Rohan (1927-1996).

Perhaps best known for his collages, Romare Bearden experimented with many mediums and artistic styles, with black life and culture as central themes. He had a prolific and distinguished career, was active in many arts organizations, founded several art venues, designed costumes and sets for prominent dance theatres, and published several books. His work is displayed in major collections across the country, including one at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, Main Branch. He was the recipient of many awards and honors during his life. Romare Bearden Park in Charlotte is named for him, and is located close to where the family lived at the time of his birth.

On March 12, 1988, Romare Bearden died from bone cancer.

This collection includes printed materials.

ACCESS

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PREFERRED CITATION

Cite as: Romare Bearden Collection, 2011, Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

ACQUISITION

Processed by Hannah Cox, 2016.

REFERENCES

Fraser, C. Gerald. *The New York Times*. "Obituaries, Romare, Bearden, Collagist and Painter, Dies at 75" <http://www.nytimes.com/1988/03/13/obituaries/romare-bearden-collagist-and-painter-dies-at-75.html>

Romare Bearden Foundation. *Biography, About the Artist*. <http://www.beardenfoundation.org/artlife/biography/biography.shtml>

RELATED MATERIALS

Artists—Bearden, Romare. (CALL NUMBER: NCR VERTICAL FILES)

Bearden, Romare. (CALL NUMBER: NCR VERTICAL FILES)

Bearden, Romare. *Charlotte Collaborations*. Charlotte: WTVI, 2003. (CALL NUMBER: NCR B BEARDEN)

Bearden, Romare. *Romare Bearden, 1970-1980, an Exhibition*. Charlotte: Mint Museum, 1980. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 750.19 BEARDEN N6537.B42 A4 1980)

Campbell, Mary Schmidt. *Romare Bearden, a Creative Mythology*. 1982. (CALL NUMBER: NCR MICROFORMS)

Schwartzman, Myron. *Romare Bearden, His Life & Art*. New York: H.N. Abrams, 1990. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 709.2 OVERSIZE)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Romare Bearden Collection is a small collection formerly from the Ephemera Collection. It consists of a brochure and an invitation. The materials are from 2011.

SERIES LIST

CONTENTS

Brochures, 2011

Brochure for *A Black Odyssey*, a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition, c. 2011.

Invitations, 2011

100th Birthday Celebration invitation, held at Macy's in Philadelphia, 15 February 2011.

BOX FOLDER

Family Bearden

Family Bearden