

THE PHILLIPS --- COLLECTION

Ralston Crawford

1984-1988

Finding Aid

**The Phillips Collection
Library and Archives
1600 21st Street NW
Washington D.C. 20009
www.phillipscollection.org**

CURATORIAL RECORDS IN THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION ARCHIVES

INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

Collection Title: *Ralston Crawford*

Author/Creator: The Phillips Collection Curatorial Department, Eliza Rathbone, Chief Curator

Collection No:

Size: .25 linear feet

Bulk Dates:

Inclusive Dates: 1984-1988

Repository: The Phillips Collection Archives, 1600 21ST Street NW, Washington, D.C.

ABSTRACT

Ralston Crawford exhibition records contain material created and collected by Eliza Rathbone, currently Chief Curator, The Phillips Collection, throughout the process of organizing the 1986 exhibition. Included are correspondence, exhibition planning files and research.

HISTORICAL NOTE

This exhibition marked the first comprehensive survey of the career of Ralston Crawford (1906-1978).

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

These curatorial records were collected and created during the research, planning and execution of the *Ralston Crawford* exhibition. This retrospective exhibition clarified the strong abstract character of Crawford's work. According to Barbara Haskell, Curator at The Whitney Museum of American Art, which organized the exhibition, "Ralston Crawford remains an elusive, if not enigmatic, figure in the history of twentieth century American painting...pursuing a geometric abstraction which was both expressive and rational he sustained an important current in twentieth-century American modernism...producing a powerful and versatile oeuvre."

This exhibition opened at The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. on April 19, 1986 and continued until May 25, 1986.

The primary creator of the exhibition planning records was Eliza Rathbone, Associate Curator.

The bulk of this collection consists of materials relating to the planning of the exhibition, including correspondence; installation planning documents; an exhibition preview invitation; and an article.

The remaining source material is comprised of exhibition pamphlets.

CUSTODIAL HISTORY AND ACQUISITION INFORMATION

This collection is owned by The Phillips Collection and was accessioned from the curators' office, in accordance with the museum's records schedule.

PROCESSING AND DESCRIPTION INFORMATION

Date Processed: Research material processed by Michele De Shazo January, 2009 through February 9, 2009.

Processed By: Michele De Shazo, Volunteer Archives Assistant, supervised by Karen Schneider, Librarian

Processing Notes: After an initial survey of the collection, some documents were identified as being of no future reference value to the collection, such as duplicate documents, general housekeeping notes, and poor quality photographs. These items were weeded with the librarian's approval. Original newsprint articles were copied onto acid-free paper; all documents were re-folded in acid free folders and metal clips were replaced with plastic clips.

Finding Aid Written By: Michele De Shazo, Volunteer Archives Assistant, supervised by Karen Schneider, Librarian

RELATED MATERIAL

Whitney Museum of American Art
945 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10021
(212)570-3600
www.whitney.org

ARRANGEMENT OF THE COLLECTION

The collection is arranged in one series:

Exhibition Planning

Within the Exhibition Planning series correspondence is arranged chronologically within the folder.

This collection maintains the original order created by Eliza Rathbone, Associate Curator.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series 1: Exhibition Planning

Series 1 contains material assembled to facilitate the organization and execution of the 1986 *Ralston Crawford* exhibition.

Box Inventory

Series 1: Exhibition Planning

Folder 1	Correspondence 1984-1986
Folder 2	Loan/Lender Documents
Folder 3	Exhibition Contract/ Agreements
Folder 4	Installation Planning Documents
Folder 5	Exhibition Schedule, Publicity, Exhibition Announcements
Folder 6	Miscellaneous (Article, Invitation: Special Opening Reception)