

Pamphlet for poem "The Negro Mother" by Langston Hughes inscribed and signed by author with illustration by Charles White

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December 1, 1961



Title Statement

Pamphlet for poem "The Negro Mother" by Langston Hughes inscribed and signed by author with illustration by Charles White
Guide to Pamphlet for poem "The Negro Mother" by Langston Hughes inscribed and signed by author with illustration by Charles White C0447

Subtitle: Pamphlet for poem "The Negro Mother" by Langston Hughes inscribed and signed by author with illustration by Charles White

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

C0447

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/748

Unit Date

December 1, 1961

box

1 (folder)

Language

English .

Abstract

Bifold pamphlet for poem "The Negro Mother" by Langston Hughes inscribed and signed by the author with illustration by Charles White created for the "Make History Live Series" by the Hugh Havelon Gordon Cultural Center.

Creator

Hugh Havelon Gordon Cultural Center (Los Angeles, California)

Extent

.01 Linear Feet 1 folder

Physical Location

R 71, C 2, S 6

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions

The copyright and related rights status of this collection have not been evaluated (See <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/>)

Acquisition Information

Purchased by Lynn Eaton from Ian Brabner Rare Americana in 2021.

Processing Information

Processing completed by Meghan Glasbrenner in April 2025. Finding aid completed by Meghan Glasbrenner in May 2025.

Preferred Citation

Pamphlet for poem "The Negro Mother" by Langston Hughes inscribed and signed by author with illustration by Charles White, C0447, Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries.

Biographical Information

Best known as a writer of poetry, novels, short stories, and plays and a key figure in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s, Langston Hughes was born James Mercer Langston Hughes on February 1, 1901 in Joplin, Missouri. His first book of poetry, *The Weary Blues*, was published in 1926 and in 1930 his first novel *Not Without Laughter* won the Harmon gold medal for literature. His poem "The Negro Mother" was first published in 1931 in his poetry collection *The Negro Mother and Other Dramatic Recitations*. Hughes passed away on May 22, 1967 at the age of 65. His ashes are interred beneath a cosmogram floor medallion inspired by and bearing lines from Hughes' poem "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" in the foyer of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, New York.

Charles W. White was born in Chicago, Illinois on April 2, 1918. A prominent figure in the Chicago Black Renaissance, White began his career as a painter, printmaker, and educator in California in 1956 and in 1965 began teaching at the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles, a position he would continue throughout his life. White graduated from the School of the Art Institute in Chicago in 1938 and worked as a muralist for the Works Progress Administration's Illinois Federal Arts Projects from 1939-1940. In 1942 and 1943 he received two Julius Rosenwald Foundation fellowships to create "The Contribution of the Negro to American Democracy" mural at the Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in Hampton, Virginia and was artist-in-residence at Washington, D.C.'s Howard University in 1945. As an artist, White primarily created black/sepia and white drawings, paintings, and lithographs depicting figurative portrayals of African American

history and experiences. His work has been exhibited throughout the country and in 1972 he was the third African American artist elected to full membership in the National Academy of Design. He passed away on October 3, 1979 at the age of 61 and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena, California.

Scope and Content

Bifold pamphlet for poem "The Negro Mother" by Langston Hughes inscribed and signed by the author with illustration by Charles White created for the "Make History Live Series" by the Hugh Havelton Gordon Cultural Center. When folded, the cover shows a reprint of White's 1952 illustration depicting a close-up of the face of an African American woman, with her hands holding a handkerchief to her cheek. When opened, the inside shows the full text of Hughes' poem, along with a stamp at the center bottom attributing the pamphlet to the "Make History Live Series". An inscription and signature from Hughes is included in green pen in the top left and bottom right portions of the interior pages reading: "For the House of Literary curios - Langston Hughes, New York, December 1, 1961." The back cover includes a list of books by Hughes available for purchase at the Hugh Gordon Book Shop in Los Angeles, California, along with information on the store.

Related Materials

The Special Collections Research Center holds Paul Robeson sound recording collection.

The Smithsonian Archives of American Art holds the Charles W. White papers.

Keywords

Poetry

American poetry -- 20th century

Art

African Americans

African American poets

African American artists

Hughes, Langston, 1901-1967

White, Charles, 1918-1979

Bibliography

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Arrangement

This is a single item collection.