

**Robert E. Washington
aka
Santree, the Artist**

**Processed by the Blair-Caldwell
African American Research Library
Denver Public Library
2013**

PROVENANCE:

Robert E. Washington aka Santree, the Artist, donated the collection to the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library on February 7, 2006.

ACCESS:

This collection is open research.

OWNERSHIP:

Robert E. Washington aka Santree, the Artist, collection is the physical property of the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library, a branch of the Denver Public Library.

CALL NUMBER: ARLM104 (Minus Collection)

SIZE:

1 envelope.

LOCATION:

Rg4B; Sec3; Sf2; Box 2

PROCESSED BY:

Annie Nelson

April 1, 2013

Biographical Note

Robert E. Washington has had a storied life as an associated mechanical engineer and an accomplished jazz musician. His creative talents are also evidenced by his contributions as a visual fine artist. His pseudonym "Santree" is a catchy signature that he created and has used for 25 years instead of Robert Washington. Today Santree Productions can be found on all of Robert Washington's copyrights.

Santree, attended the California College of Engineering Science and Design in Oakland. From 1954 to 1968, he worked for the U.S. Navy, the Marine Corp, and the Aero-Jet General and Standard Oil Company of California where he provided rendering and air brushing skills in their respective graphic departments.

Santree is a self-taught artist and paints mainly acrylics. He began painting on cork, which he found to be challenging; but it gave him the freedom to create his own style. His work on cork is undeniably vivid and striking. Santree sold his first 17 paintings in one month. He has painted on canvas, linen, paper and masonite, etc. His paintings represent themes of the West, seascapes, landscapes and portraits. His cork paintings include jazz, calypso and African themes.

Santree was a commissioned photographer for a book – *Carvoil Paintings*, which took him two years to photograph. He has worked with the Black Filmmakers Award Association (BFAA) in Oakland California on behalf of whom he donated 29 of his photographs to the Oakland Museum.

Santree's first painting exhibition was at the Martin Luther King Library in Oakland, California and included two paintings, titled respectively, "A Boy and His Dog" (24 x 48) on masonite and "Jones Horn" (22 x 28 on canvas). Other exhibitions consisted of four paintings at the South Berkeley (California) Library for "Children's Week; paintings for Black History Month at the South Berkeley Library; and a Western theme for the Les Belles Artes Club at the California State Capitol Gallery in Sacramento, California. Santree was honored with a one-man show at the Ebony Museum in Oakland, California. This show included 27 paintings and four photographs. The theme of this one-man-show was "Works of Beauty."

Santree became a member of the California Visual Arts Association (CVAA) in Sacramento, California. His affiliation with the CVAA provided opportunities for him to exhibit his paintings at the Zawadi Gallery, as well as at other Northern California galleries.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

This collection contains photocopies of Santree, the Artist's art work, photographs, a summary and narrative of various aspects about his career as a jazz musician and visual fine artist. This collection contains materials spanning from 1985-2006.

Container List

- | | | | |
|-------|------|--------------------|---|
| Box 2 | FF 1 | Spring-Summer 2005 | <i>My Buddy Notes: Creative Voices of the African-American Presence</i> |
| Box 2 | FF 2 | February 7, 2006 | Gift letter and envelope from Santree to Terry Nelson at BCAARL |
| Box 2 | FF 3 | n.d. | Biographical sketch – Santree |
| Box 2 | FF 4 | n.d. | Special Dance Supplement – Narrative of the Unsung |
| Box 2 | FF 5 | n.d. | Santree's musical summary (early years) |

Copies of Santree's Paintings

- | | | | |
|-------|------|------|---|
| Box 2 | FF 6 | n.d. | Santree's Art Work (Painting – #1) Photocopy –
“Woman in Profile” |
| Box 2 | FF 7 | n.d. | Santree's Art Work (Painting – #2) Photocopy –
“The Dancers” |
| Box 2 | FF 8 | n.d. | Santree's Art Work (Painting – #3) Photocopy –
“Mountain Town” |
| Box 2 | FF 9 | n.d. | Santree's Art Work (Painting – #4) Photocopy –
Collage of paintings and a photograph of the artist |

Copies of Photographs

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|------|---|
| Box 2 | FF 10 | 1985 | Photograph of Shelly Rhym, Bob White and
Anita White (Photocopy) |
| Box 2 | FF 11 | n.d. | Photograph of Debutantes (2 copies) |