



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Don G. Abel

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	1
Scope and Contents	1
Names and Subjects	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Don G. Abel
Date:	1965 June 10
Identifier:	AAA.abel65
Creator:	Abel, Donald G. (Interviewee) Bestor, Dorothy K., 1913- (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Extent:	12 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Don G. Abel, 1965 June 10, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt) Digital Content: Oral history interview with Don G. Abel, 1965 June 10, Transcript

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's New Deal and the Arts project, which includes over 400 interviews of artists, administrators, historians, and others involved with the federal government's art programs and the activities of the Farm Security Administration in the 1930s and early 1940s.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Don G. Abel was an art administrator with the Works Progress Administration, from Washington state.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Don G. Abel conducted 1965 June 10, by Dorothy Bestor, for the Archives of American Art. Abel describes his position as state administrator for the WPA in Washington state, the levels of organization within the WPA, and his relationship with Robert Hinckley, Harry Hopkins, and Robert Bruce Inverarity. He also speaks of Eleanor Roosevelt's visits to Seattle Art Projects and her interest in the work of women artists. He also discusses communist opposition to the WPA, federal appropriations, the transition from Federal Art Project to the Washington State Project and the accomplishments of the WPA.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 36 min.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Art and state
- Federal aid to the arts

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Federal Art Project (Wash.)
- Hinckley, Robert H., 1891-
- Hopkins, Harry Lloyd, 1890-1946
- Inverarity, Robert Bruce, 1909-1999
- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
- Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962

Occupations:

- Arts administrators -- Washington (State) -- Interviews