



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Harry N. Abrams

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Harry N. Abrams
Identifier:	AAA.abrams72
Date:	1972 March 14
Creator:	Abrams, Harry N. (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	1 Sound tape reel (Sound recording; 5 in.) 29 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Harry N. Abrams, 1972 March 14, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Harry N. Abrams, 1972 March 14, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' Oral History Program, started in 1958 to document the history of the visual arts in the United States, primarily through interviews with artists, historians, dealers, critics and others.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Harry N. Abrams (1905-1979) was a publisher from New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Harry N. Abrams conducted 1972 March 14, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art. Abrams speaks of his educational background including classes at the National Academy of Design, the Art Students League, and New York University. He recalls his book designs, advertising and mail orders for Schwab and Beatty (1928-1936) and the Book-of-the-Month Club (1936-1950) and his association with Illustrated Modern Library and Illustrated Junior Library.

Scope and Contents

He discusses the organization and early problems of the Abrams Publishing Company, paperback reprints, translations, foreign publications and successful titles. Abrams speaks of the Abradale Press, the Norman Rockwell series, the Contemporary Painters series; and the characteristics of book club and bookstore customers. The interview concludes with a description of his art collection.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 1 digital wav file. Duration is 1 hr.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Collectors and collecting -- New York (State) -- Interviews
Art publishing -- New York (State) -- New York
Publishers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings