



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Mary and Clinton Adams

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Mary and Clinton Adams
<b>Date:</b>	1998 April 24
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.adams98
<b>Creator:</b>	Adams, Mary E., 1920- (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer) Adams, Clinton, 1918-2002 (Interviewee)
<b>Extent:</b>	23 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Mary and Clinton Adams, 1998 April 24, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Mary and Clinton Adams, 1998 April 24, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives of American Art 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 administrators. Funding for the transcription of this interview provided by the Pasadena Art Alliance

### Available Formats

Transcript available on line

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Mary E. Adams (1920- ) is an art administrator from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Her husband, Clinton Adams is a printmaker, painter, and educator. Clinton Adams (1918-2002)

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Mary and Clinton Adams conducted 1998 April 24, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art, in the Adams' home, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## Scope and Contents

Mary recalls the early years at the Getty as assistant to Wilhelm Reinhold Valentiner, being hired by him in 1954, her responsibilities, such as driving Valentiner to the Malibu ranch location, and the property at the time the museum was established. She described the difficulties Valentiner faced in setting up the museum, and his views of J. Paul Getty. Clinton Adams enters into the conversation late and discusses the art scene in Los Angeles, where, at the time, the Huntington Hartford was regarded as the best hope for a local museum.

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## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound cassette. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hrs., 2 min.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Gallery of Modern Art Including the Huntington Hartford Collection
- J. Paul Getty Museum
- Valentiner, Wilhelm Reinhold, 1880-1958