



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Joan Ankrum

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Joan Ankrum
Date:	1997 November 5-1998 February 4
Identifier:	AAA.ankrum97
Creator:	Ankrum, Joan (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
Extent:	195 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Joan Ankrum, 1997 November 5-1998 February 4, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Joan Ankrum, 1997 November 5-1998 February 4, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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.

Biographical / Historical

Joan Ankrum (1913-2001) was a gallery owner from Los Angeles, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Joan Ankrum conducted 1997 November 5-1998 February 4, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art, in Pasadena, California.

Scope and Contents

Ankrum discusses her status as a role model for women due to her independence in leaving a difficult marriage and establishing a new career; her theater and film career and association with the Pasadena Playhouse; her discovery of Morris Broderson, the hearing-impaired nephew of her husband Morris Ankrum; encouraging Broderson's artistic talent and efforts to help him learn to speak and interact socially; her career as director of the Ankrum Gallery in Los Angeles and the artists, collectors and dealers she became involved with, among them Lorser Feitelson and Helen Lundeborg, Joseph Hirshhorn, Martha Jackson and Jake Zeitlin.

General

Originally recorded on 6 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 24 digital wav files. Duration is 5 hrs., 50 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Deaf artists
- Hearing impaired
- Women art dealers
- Women artists

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Ankrum Gallery
- Ankrum, Morris, d. 1964
- Broderson, Morris, 1928-2011
- Feitelson, Lorser, 1898-1978
- Hirshhorn, Joseph H.
- Jackson, Martha Kellogg
- Lundeberg, Helen, 1908-1999
- Pasadena Playhouse
- Zeitlin, Jake, 1902-1987

Occupations:

- Actors -- California -- Los Angeles
- Art dealers -- California -- Los Angeles