



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Stephen Antonakos

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Stephen Antonakos
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.antona75
<b>Date:</b>	1975 May 9
<b>Creator:</b>	Antonakos, Stephen, 1926-2013 (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	125 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Stephen Antonakos, 1975 May 9, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Stephen Antonakos, 1975 May 9, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Stephen Antonakos (1926-) is a sculptor from New York, New York.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Stephen Antonakos conducted 1975 May 9, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

Antonakos speaks of his family and educational background; his work as a commercial artist; the influence of Ben Shahn and David Martin; his association with the Allan Stone Gallery, Fischbach Gallery, and John Weber Gallery; and his collages, pillow assemblages and mail art projects. He discusses his neon sculpture, including electrical wiring and timing devices, selection of colors, glass tubing, installation problems and the cost of electricity. He discusses the aesthetic and conceptual development of his work with neon and mail art. He recalls Donald E. Droll, Marilyn Cole Fischbach and Lucy Lippard.

## General

Originally recorded on 2 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hrs., 30 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:

### Subjects:

Neon sculpture -- New York (State) -- New York  
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews  
Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century -- United States

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Names:

Droll, Donald E.  
Fischbach, Marilyn Cole, 1931?-2003  
Lippard, Lucy R.