



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Merle Armitage

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Merle Armitage
<b>Date:</b>	1964 February 6
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.armita64
<b>Creator:</b>	Armitage, Merle, 1893-1975 (Interviewee) Loomis, Sylvia Glidden (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
<b>Extent:</b>	23 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Merle Armitage, 1964 February 6, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a> <a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Merle Armitage, 1964 February 6 , Transcript</a>

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## 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.

### Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 3418 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

### Restrictions

This interview is open for research. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Merle Armitage (1893-1975) was an art administrator and graphic artist of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

## Scope and Contents

An interview of Merle Armitage conducted 1964 February 6, by Sylvia Loomis, for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

Armitage speaks of his role as Public Works of Art Project regional chairman of Southern California, including his supervision of 126 artists involved in painting, drawing, sculpture, lithography and mural projects; experimental work in PWAP easel painting projects; censorship of subject matter in a mural for the Frank Wiggins Trade School; his opposition to government subsidized art programs; his impressions of Edward Bruce, Dalzell Hatfield, James Milford Zornes, and others associated with the PWAP. Armitage also speaks of the American Institute of Graphic Arts and contemporary book design.

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## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 1 digital wav file. Duration is 48 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:

- Art -- Censorship
- Art and state
- Arts administrators -- California -- Interviews
- Federal aid to the arts -- California
- Graphic artists -- California -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- American Institute of Graphic Arts
- Bruce, Edward, 1879-1943
- Hatfield, Dalzell, 1893-1963
- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
- Public Works of Art Project
- Public Works of Art Project (Calif.)
- Zornes, James Milford, 1908-2008