



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Betty M. Asher

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Betty M. Asher
Date:	1980 June 30 and 1980 July 7
Identifier:	AAA.asher80
Creator:	Asher, Betty (Interviewee) Garver, Thomas H. (Interviewer)
Extent:	59 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Betty M. Asher, 1980 June 30 and 1980 July 7, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Betty M. Asher, 1980 June 30 and 1980 July 7, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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 others.

Available Formats

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Betty M. Asher (1914-1994) was an art collector and art dealer of Beverly Hills, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Betty M. Asher conducted 1980 June 30 and 1980 July 7, by Thomas H. Garver, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Asher speaks of her family; education; her marriage to Dr. Leonard Asher; buying her first prints and painting from the Associated American Artists Gallery; and early purchases at the Little, Bowinkle, and Green Galleries in Los Angeles. She discusses her interest in abstract expressionism; buying art in Mexico and New York; dealers including Irving Blum, Virginia Dwan, Paul Kantor, Felix Landau, Ernest Raboff, Esther

Robles, and Ileana Sonnabend; activities and members of the Modern and Contemporary Art Council of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; her work for Maurice Tuchman; Walter Hopps and the Pasadena Art Museum; and exhibitions and funding of the Asher/Faure Gallery.

General

Originally recorded on 4 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 8 digital wav file. Duration is 3 hr., 30 min.

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
- Women art dealers

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Asher & Faure
- Blum, Irving, 1930-
- Landau, Felix, 1924-2003
- Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- Robles, Esther
- Tuchman, Maurice

Occupations:

- Art dealers -- California -- Los Angeles
- Collectors -- California -- Los Angeles

Functions:

- Art museums -- California