Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Richard Ayer

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Richard Ayer
Date:	1964 September 26
Identifier:	AAA.ayer64
Creator:	Ayer, Richard Gentry, 1909-1967 (Interviewee) McChesney, Mary Fuller (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Extent:	20 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Richard Ayer, 1964 September 26, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Richard Ayer, 1964 September 26, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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 available on line.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Richard Ayer (1909-1967) was a mural painter from San Francisco, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Richard Ayer conducted 1964 September 26, by Mary McChesney, for the Archives of American Art New Deal and the Arts Project.

Scope and Contents

Ayer speaks of his "haphazard" education, including study with Hilaire Hiler; his work assisting Victor Mikhail Arnautoff on frescos in the Presidio Chapel; the WPA easel painting project in San Francisco; and the Aquatic Park Building mural program, 1934. He recalls some of the artists associated with the Aquatic Park project. He also discusses the Ostwald and Hiler color theories and Herman Volz's mural for the Treasure Island Federal Building.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 52 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Federal aid to the arts
Mural painting and decoration -- California
Muralists -- California -- San Francisco -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Arnautoff, Victor Mikhail, 1896-1979
Federal Art Project (Calif.)
Hiler, Hilaire, 1898-1966
New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Volz, Herman, 1904-1990