



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Richard Ayer

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.

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Collection Overview

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

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