



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Eve Babitz

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Eve Babitz
Date:	2000 June 14
Identifier:	AAA.babitz00
Creator:	Babitz, Eve (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
Extent:	44 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Eve Babitz, 2000 June 14, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Eve Babitz, 2000 June 14, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is 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 administrators. Funding for the transcription of this interview for the Artists and Model series is provided by Bente and Gerald E. Buck Collection.

Available Formats

Transcript available on line

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Eve Babitz (1948-) was an artist's model from Los Angeles, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Eve Babitz conducted 2000 June 14, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art, at Babitz's home, Hollywood, California.

Scope and Contents

Part of an ongoing series on the theme of artists and models, this interview focused on the subject's experience as the nude woman playing chess with Marcel Duchamp, at his Pasadena Art Museum retrospective, in 1963. Purportedly Duchamp's favorite photograph, staged and taken by Julian Wasser, it is among the key documentary images of American modern art. This interview offers inside information about Los Angeles and the cultural world of the late 1960s. Igor Stravinsky was Babitz's godfather and her own father was a Baroque musicologist who often traveled to Europe. She was introduced to the world of visual arts by the late Jim Elliott's girlfriend and soon became part of the Ferus Gallery circle including Ed Kienholz, Ed Ruscha, and Walter Hopps. She also describes being a student at Hollywood High School and the enormous influence of the film industry and celebrity (her favorite, James Dean) on the student body.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound cassette. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 2 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Occupations:

- Artists' models -- California -- Los Angeles