



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with William H. Bailey

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with William H. Bailey
Date:	2012 October 10-December 5
Identifier:	AAA.bailey12
Creator:	Bailey, William, 1930-2020 (Interviewee) McElhinney, James Lancel, 1952- (Interviewer)
Extent:	11 Items (sound files (7 hr.,19 min.); digital, wav) 110 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with William H. Bailey, 2012 October 10-December 5, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with William H. Bailey, 2012 October 10-December 5, 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.

Available Formats

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

Restrictions

The transcript and recording are open for research. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Interviewee William H. Bailey (1930-2020) was a figurative painter in New Haven, Connecticut. Interviewer James McElhinney (1952-) is a painter and educator in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview of William H. Bailey conducted 2012 October 10- December 5, by James McElhinney, for the Archives of American Art at Bailey's studio, in New Haven, Connecticut.

Scope and Contents

Bailey speaks of growing up during the Great Depression and World War II; studying commercial art at the University of Kansas; deciding to join the Army; being stationed in Japan and fighting in the Korean War; moving to New York City from Kansas City in 1953; the art scene in New York City during the 1950s; struggling to find his own artistic style; completing his BFA and MFA at Yale University under Josef Albers; the differing artistic philosophies and teaching mentalities within Yale's art department; receiving an American Specialist Program Grant from the U.S. State Department to teach and lecture on painting and drawing in Burma, Taiwan, and the Philippines; traveling in Europe; discovering an individual artistic philosophy and routine; his time as a professor at Indiana University; returning to Yale to teach; his Portrait of S; the industrialization of art; finding a gallery in New York to show his work; buying and renovating his home in Italy; the impact of living in Italy on his paintings; being an artist in residence at the American Academy in Rome; being a member of the National Council on the Arts during the 1990s. Bailey also recalls Herbert Fink, Robert Sudlow, Reginald marsh, Bernard Chaet, Conrad Marca-Relli, Sy Sillman, Julian Stanczak, Varujan Boghosian, Rico Lebrun, Richard Serra, Jack Tworkov, Rudy Pozzatti, Jim McGarrell, Eleanor Ward, Leland Bell , Robert and Jane Schoelkopf, André Emmerich, Jeffrey Deitch, Robert Miller, Mario Roncaglia, Sandro Manzo, and Alan Feltus.

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:

- Painters -- Connecticut -- New Haven