



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Mildred Baker

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## Collection Overview

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|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b>      | Archives of American Art  |
| <b>Title:</b>           | Oral history interview with Mildred Baker   |
| <b>Date:</b>            | 1963 September 21   |
| <b>Identifier:</b>      | AAA.baker63   |
| <b>Creator:</b>         | Baker, Mildred, 1905-<br>Phillips, Harlan B. (Harlan Buddington), 1920-1979 (Interviewer)<br>New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project   |
| <b>Extent:</b>          | 56 Pages (Transcript)   |
| <b>Language:</b>        | English .   |
| <b>Digital Content:</b> | <a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Mildred Baker, 1963 September 21, Transcript</a><br><a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Mildred Baker, 1963 September 21, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a> |

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## 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.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Mildred Baker (1905-1998) was an art administrator in New York, New York. Baker was assistant to the director, Holger Cahill, on the Federal Art Project. Prior to that appointment, she worked for College Art Association and a gallery on 57th Street. Baker's early role in FAP was to scout directors for regional programs in Ohio, Missouri, Nebraska, and Iowa. She later was involved in exhibitions and Community Art Centers.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Mildred Baker conducted 1963 September 21, by Harlan Phillips, for the Archives of American Art.

## Scope and Contents

This interview was conducted as part of New Deal and the Arts Project for the Archives of American Art. Baker speaks of her involvement with the Federal Art Project in its beginning, as assistant to Holger Cahill; getting the Project started nationwide; early goals of the Project; early political problems; camaraderie among the participants; the art centers that developed in the regions, and some of the people involved with them; the development of the Index of American Design in the regions; the issue of government control when government subsidizes the arts; the effect of the coming of World War II on the Project; the ending of the Project. She recalls Forbes Watson.

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## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 44 min.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Art and state
- Federal aid to the arts
- Women arts administrators

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Cahill, Holger, 1887-1960
- Federal Art Project
- Index of American Design
- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
- Watson, Forbes, 1880-1960

### Occupations:

- Arts administrators -- New York (State) -- New York