



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Mansfield Bascom and Ruth Esherick Bascom about Wharton Esherick

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Mansfield Bascom and Ruth Esherick Bascom about Wharton Esherick
Identifier:	AAA.bascom90
Date:	1990 July 13
Creator:	Bascom, Mansfield (Interviewee) Bascom, Ruth Esherick Polsky, Richard (Interviewer)
Extent:	78 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Mansfield Bascom and Ruth Esherick Bascom about Wharton Esherick, 1990 July 13, 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 of artists, historians, dealers, critics and administrators.

Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 4777 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Transcript: Patrons must use microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

Mansfield Bascom married Ruth Esherick and is the son-in-law of Wharton Esherick (1887-1970), who was a sculptor, painter, printmaker, wood-carver and furniture maker from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Ruth and Mansfield Bascom concerning artist Wharton Esherick, conducted 1990 July 13, by Richard Polsky, for the Archives of American Art Philadelphia Project.

Scope and Contents

Wharton Esherick was the father of Ruth Bascom. The Bascoms discuss Esherick's childhood sketching; studies at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts; professional life including painting, printmaking, frame carving, sculpture and furniture making; stylistic development, working methods, clients, materials, and exhibitions; his stays in Fairhope, Alabama; his "organic" life style; and the establishment of the Wharton Esherick Museum.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 3 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 15 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, Modern -- 20th century -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia -- Interviews
Printmakers -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia -- Interviews
Sculptors -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Esherick, Wharton

Occupations:

Cabinetmakers -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia -- Interviews
Wood-carvers -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia -- Interviews