



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

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

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Ruth Esherick and Mansfield Bascom on Wharton Esherick
Identifier:	AAA.bascom91
Date:	1991 March 26
Creator:	Bascom, Ruth Esherick (Interviewee) Pacini, Marina (Interviewer) Bascom, Mansfield
Extent:	105 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Ruth Esherick and Mansfield Bascom on Wharton Esherick, 1991 March 26, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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 others.

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

Ruth Esherick Bascom from Paoli, Pennsylvania, is the daughter of Wharton Esherick (1887-1970), who was a sculptor, painter, printmaker, and furniture maker from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Bascom is married to Mansfield Bascom.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Ruth Esherick Bascom and Mansfield Bascom regarding Wharton Esherick, conducted 1991 March 26, by Marina Pacini, for the Archives of American Art Philadelphia Project.

Scope and Contents

Ruth Esherick Bascom and Mansfield Bascom speak about Wharton Esherick's family, his education, his "organic" life in Paoli, Pennsylvania, and his efforts to support himself through the sale of his paintings, furniture and sculpture. They discuss Esherick's work, its stylistic development, and changes in his prints and furniture, materials; clients such as the Hedgrow Theater, The Fischer family, Marjorie Content, Curtis Bok; Esherick's studio and his workshop; Esherick's relationship with Miriam Phillips and some of the clients she brought him; and contacts in New York City.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 40 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art, Modern
- Women artists
- Women painters
- Women printmakers
- Women sculptors

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Esherick, Wharton

Occupations:

- Cabinetmakers -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
- Painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
- Printmakers -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
- Sculptors -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia