



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Don Baum

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Don Baum
Identifier:	AAA.baum86
Date:	1986 January 31-May 13
Extent:	2 Sound cassettes (Sound recording; analog) 108 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Baum, Don, 1922- Prince, Sue Ann
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' 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 available on line.

Restrictions

Patrons must use transcript.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Don Baum (1922-2008) was a sculptor, assemblage artist, curator, and educator from Chicago, Illinois.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Don Baum conducted 1986 January 31 and May 13, by Sue Ann Kendall, for the Archives of American Art, in Chicago, Illinois.

Scope and Contents

Baum speaks about his childhood in Michigan; interests during his college years at Michigan State; classes at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; friendship with artists such as Miyoko Ito and Ethel Spears; the Institute of Design and Laszlo Moholy-Nagy; faculty and classes at the University of Chicago; jam sessions at Gertrude Abercrombie's home; teaching at Roosevelt University; the influence of travel; June Leaf; Leon Golub; psychoanalysis and its influence on his work; collage; The Hyde Park Art Center; objects with a magical aura; writing and writers; dolls; the relationship of self to art; outsider art; transformation; Joseph Cornell; the Hairy Who artists; collectors; the Museum of Contemporary Art; the Illinois Arts Council; Chicago art and artists; and travel in Indonesia.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 12 digital wav files. Duration is 5 hr., 23 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Study and teaching -- Illinois -- Chicago
Assemblage (Art)
Psychoanalysis and art
Sculptors -- Illinois -- Chicago -- Interviews
Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century -- United States

Types of Materials:

Interviews

Names:

Abercrombie, Gertrude, 1909-1977
Cornell, Joseph
Golub, Leon, 1922-2004
Illinois Arts Council
Ito, Miyoko, 1918-1983
Leaf, June, 1929-
Moholy-Nagy, László, 1895-1946
Roosevelt University
Spears, Ethel, 1903-1974

Functions:

Art Schools -- Illinois -- Chicago