



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Jack Beal

Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Jack Beal
<b>Date:</b>	1968 March 27
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.beal68
<b>Creator:</b>	Beal, Jack, 1931- (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	35 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Jack Beal, 1968 March 27, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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.

### Restrictions

For information on how to access this interview contact Reference Services.

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## Biographical / Historical

Jack Beal (1931- 2013) was a painter from Oneonta, New York.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Jack Beal conducted 1968 March 27, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

Beal speaks of his family background, southern artists, the Chicago Art Institute, studying with Kathleen Blackshear, the "Wells Street Group", the influence of Arshile Gorky and Chicago artists. He discusses refusing a scholarship to the Hans Hofmann School; the Cedar Bar; the New York art world; his wife, Sandra; painting with Ivan and Susan Michod and the "color" of color television. Beal comments on making a movie with Tom Doyle, William Giles, Michael Kirby, and Stanley Landsman; living off the land; and overcoming the "masterpiece complex."

## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 10 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:

Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- United States

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Names:

Blackshear, Kathleen, 1897-1988  
Doyle, Tom  
Giles, William, 1930-  
Kirby, Michael  
Landsman, Stanley, 1930-  
Michod, Ivan  
Michod, Susan A., 1945-

### Occupations:

Painters -- Interviews