



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Emil Bisttram

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Emil Bisttram
Date:	1963 October 17
Identifier:	AAA.bisttr63
Creator:	Bisttram, Emil, 1895-1976 (Interviewee) Loomis, Sylvia Glidden (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Extent:	16 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Emil Bisttram, 1963 October 17, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt) Digital Content: Oral history interview with Emil Bisttram, 1963 October 17, Transcript

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.

Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 3418 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Restrictions

This interview is open for research. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Emil Bisttram (1895-1976) was a mural painter in Taos, New Mexico.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Emil J. Bisttram conducted by Sylvia Loomis on 1963 October 17 for the Archives of American Art New Deal and the Arts Project.

Scope and Contents

Bisttram speaks of his family background; first coming to Taos; his involvement with the Federal Art Project (FAP); his FAP murals; problems with the FAP; the effect of the FAP on public interest in art; and Taos as an art community.

General

Originally recorded 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 1 digital wav files. Duration is 42 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Federal aid to the arts
- Mural painting and decoration -- New Mexico
- Taos School of Art

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Federal Art Project (N.M.)
- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project

Occupations:

- Muralists -- New Mexico
- Painters -- New Mexico -- Taos