



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Nell Blaine

This interview received support from the Smithsonian  
American Women's History Initiative Pool.

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Nell Blaine
<b>Date:</b>	1967 June 15
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.blaine67
<b>Creator:</b>	Blaine, Nell, 1922-1996 (Interviewee) Seckler, Dorothy Gees, 1910-1994 (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	86 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Nell Blaine, 1967 June 15, Excerpt</a> <a href="#">Digital Content: Oral History Interview with Nell Blaine, 1967 June 15, Transcript</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.

### 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Nell Blaine (1922-1996) was a painter in New York, New York.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Nell Blaine conducted 1967 June 15, by Dorothy Seckler, for the Archives of American Art.

Blaine speaks of her family background; her competitive spirit; commercial art; becoming a "disciple" of Hans Hofmann; Hofmann as a teacher; the influence of Arp, Helion, Leger and Mondrian; the American Abstract Artists group; the Jane Street Gallery; jazz musicians; painting in Paris, Italy, Mexico, Greece, England, and elsewhere; her paralysis caused by polio; design work with Alvin H. Ross; her interest in color and light; landscape and figurative

paintings; and the contemporary art scene. She recalls Leland Bell, Worden Day, Jane and Jack Freilicher, Wolf Kahn, Albert Kresch, Larry Rivers, Hyde Solomon, and others.

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## General

Originally recorded 2 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr.

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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:

- Artists with disabilities
- Poliomyelitis
- Women artists
- Women painters
- Women printmakers

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- American Abstract Artists
- Bell, Leland
- Day, Worden, 1916-1986
- Freilicher, Jack
- Freilicher, Jane, 1924-2014
- Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966
- Jane Street Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
- Kahn, Wolf, 1927-2020
- Kresch, Albert, 1922-2022
- Rivers, Larry, 1925-2002
- Ross, Alvin, 1920-1975
- Solomon, Hyde, 1911-

### Occupations:

- Illustrators -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
- Printmakers -- New York (State) -- New York