



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Nancy Douglas Bowditch

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Nancy Douglas Bowditch
Identifier:	AAA.bowdit74
Date:	1974 January 30
Extent:	28 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Bowditch, Nancy Douglas Brown, Robert F.
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is 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 available online.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Nancy Bowditch (1890-1979) was a painter, a playwright, and costume and set designer. Bowditch was born in Paris, the second eldest child of painter George de Forest Brush. Brush made the artist-colony of Dublin, N.H. his American home, where Mark Twain and daughter Jean Clemens were neighbors. They spent considerable time in Paris and Italy. Nancy married William Robert Pearmain, a childhood neighbor and later, a pupil of her father, in 1909. Pearmain died of leukemia in 1912. Subsequently, she married Dr. Harold Bowditch whose father was instrumental in the development of Harvard University Medical School.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Nancy Douglas Bowditch conducted 1974 January 30, by Robert F. Brown, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Bowditch speaks of her memories of early childhood; her father, George de Forest Brush, and his work; her relationship with her father; and her education and upbringing. She reminisces about Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Abbott H. Thayer, who were family friends, and their relationships with Brush; her family's home life, their travels in Europe; her family's relationship with Samuel Clemens and family; and her first husband, William Robert Pearmain, his family background, their marriage, his involvement with organized labor and social reform, and his early death from leukemia. She also recalls Douglas Volk and Barry Faulkner.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 1 digital wav file. Duration is 1 hr., 38 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, American
Painters -- New Hampshire -- Peterborough -- Interviews
Women artists

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Brush, George de Forest, 1855-1941
Faulkner, Barry, 1881-1966
Pearmain, William Robert, 1888-1912
Saint-Gaudens, Augustus, 1848-1907
Thayer, Abbott Handerson, 1849-1921
Twain, Mark, 1835-1910
Volk, Douglas , 1856-1935