Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Robert Breer

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Robert Breer
Date:	1973 July 10
Identifier:	AAA.breer73
Creator:	Breer, Robert (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	65 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Robert Breer, 1973 July 10, Transcript

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.

Biographical / Historical

Robert Breer (1926-2011) was a sculptor and filmmaker from Tappacu, New York.

Scope and Contents

Interview of Robert Breer conducted 1973 July 10, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Breer speaks of his boyhood in Detroit; his family, and its activities in early auto engineering; attending Stanford University and drawing cartoons for its daily paper; Stanford's art department, his U.S. Army service; the influence of the Tannerhill collection; going to Paris and the art scene there in the 1950s; Galerie Denise René; making his first films in 1952; the experimental film movement and his involvement in it; Studio Parnene and its showings of his films; showings in America; tachism; his return to the United States; the Brussels Fair Film Festival; mutascopes; early sculptures; his "Bent Whale" transitional piece; kinetic sculpture; Tinguely and Oldenburg films; descriptions of some of his sculptures; his design for the Pepsi Cola Pavilion at the Japan Expo in 1970; the Bonino Gallery.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 43 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Filmmakers -- Interviews
Kinetic sculpture
Lyrical abstraction (Art movement)
Sculptors -- Interviews
Sculpture

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Bonino Gallery
Galerie Denise René
Oldenburg, Claes, 1929-
PepsiCo, Inc.
Stanford University -- Students
Tinguely, Jean, 1925-
United States. Army

Functions:

Film festivals