



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Alexander Brook

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

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Table of Contents

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

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Alexander Brook
Identifier:	AAA.brook77
Date:	1977 July 7-8
Creator:	Brook, Alexander, 1898-1980 (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	91 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Alexander Brook, 1977 July 7-8, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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.

Biographical / Historical

Alexander Brook (1898-1980) was a painter from Sag Harbor, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Alexander Brook conducted 1977 July 7-8, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art. Brook speaks of his childhood and family; his early interest in painting; studying at the Art Students League with Dmitri Romanowsky and Kenneth Hayes Miller; women at the Art Students League; his first wife, Peggy Bacon; his travels in Europe; the Penguin Club; the Whitney Studio Club; working as a "talent scout" for Juliana Reiser Force; sharing a studio with Alexander Calder and Reuben Nakian; art sales in the 1930s; women as subjects; his portraits of Katharine Hepburn; and his painting technique. He recalls William Murrell Fisher, Lloyd Goodrich, Edward Hopper, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 4 hr., 11 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Painters -- New York (State) -- Interviews
Painting, Modern -- 20th century

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Art Students League (New York, N.Y.)
Bacon, Peggy, 1895-1987
Calder, Alexander, 1898-1976
Fisher, William Murrell
Force, Juliana, 1876-1948
Goodrich, Lloyd, 1897-1987
Hopper, Edward, 1882-1967
Kuniyoshi, Yasuo, 1889-1953
Miller, Kenneth Hayes, 1876-1952
Nakian, Reuben, 1897-1986
Penguin Club (New York, N.Y.)
Romanowsky, Dimitri
Whitney Studio Club