



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with James Brooks

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with James Brooks
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.brooks65
<b>Date:</b>	1965 June 10 and June 12
<b>Creator:</b>	Brooks, James, 1906-1992 (Interviewee) Seckler, Dorothy Gees, 1910-1994 (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	36 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with James Brooks, 1965 June 10 and June 12, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with James Brooks, 1965 June 10 and June 12, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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 on line.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

James Brooks (1906-1992) was a painter from East Hampton, New York.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of James Brooks conducted 1965 June 10-12, by Dorothy Seckler, for the Archives of American Art.

## Scope and Contents

Brooks speaks of his childhood, early art training, study with Kimon Nicolaides and Boardman Robinson at the Art Students League, mural projects, and his work in advertising. He comments on the Artists Union, his Air Force service, Army art projects, teaching at Columbia and Pratt Institute, an early abstract expressionist group called "the 8th Street Club" or just "The Club"; influence of Hans Hofmann, practicing Zen, changes in his work, his use of line and his drawings. He recalls George Biddle, Philip Guston and Jackson Pollock.

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## General

Originally recorded on 3 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 59 min.

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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:

Abstract expressionism  
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Names:

Biddle, George, 1885-1973  
Club (New York, N.Y.)  
Guston, Philip, 1913-1980  
Nicolaides, Kimon, 1892-1938  
Pollock, Jackson, 1912-1956  
Robinson, Boardman, 1876-1952