



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Brooklyn Museum Interviews of Artists, 1965-1968, in the Archives of American Art

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August 26, 2010

Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Brooklyn Museum interviews of artists
<b>Date:</b>	1965-1968
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.broomuse
<b>Creator:</b>	Brooklyn Museum
<b>Extent:</b>	7 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Interviews of 72 artists, and transcripts for all but five, conducted by Arlene Jacobowitz, the Associate Curator for the Department of Painting and Sculpture at the Brooklyn Museum, between 1965 and 1968. The artists discuss their work in the museum collection. Also included are 38 edited excerpts of the interviews, approximately 2-3 min. in length, used as "audio-labels" in the 1968 "Listening to Pictures" installation at the museum.

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

This collection was donated to the Archives of American Art by Dierdre Lawrence of the Brooklyn Museum in 1989.

### Location of Originals

Almost all of the transcripts in this collection are photocopies. Original transcripts can be found in the Brooklyn Museum Libraries and Archives.

### Related Material

The Brooklyn Museum Archives houses the records of the Departments of European Painting and Sculpture, American Painting and Sculpture, Contemporary Art (1897-2005), which contain records relating to the work of Arlene Jacobowitz.

### Alternative Forms Available

All of the sound recordings in this collection were digitized for preservation and research access in 2009 and are available at the Archives of American Art offices.

### Processing Information

The sound recordings in this collection were preserved in digital format in 2009, at which time the metal cans in which the reels had been housed were discarded and replaced with archival plastic cans. The entire collection was re-housed, arranged, and described in 2010 by Megan McShea.

## Preferred Citation

Interview between [artist's name] and [interviewer's name] from the "Listening to Pictures" program of the Brooklyn Museum. Gift of the Brooklyn Museum. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

## Restrictions on Access

Use of original papers requires an appointment. Researchers may view the original reels for the archival notations on them, but original reels are not available for playback due to fragility.

## Conditions Governing Use

Authorization to quote or reproduce for purposes of publication requires written permission from the interviewee. Citations must read: "Interview between [artist's name] and [interviewer's name] from the "Listening to Pictures" program of the Brooklyn Museum. Archives of American Art. Gift of the Brooklyn Museum." Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Historical Note

The interview program at the Brooklyn Museum was begun by Arlene Jacobowitz in the spring of 1965 with artists whose works were on exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum. In 1968, excerpts from the interviews were incorporated into an exhibition entitled "Listening to Pictures," in which visitors could access the sound recordings using headphones while standing before the painting being discussed. The exhibition opened April 28, 1968, and was gradually disassembled, 1971-1973.

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## Scope and Content Note

Interviews of 72 artists, and transcripts for all but five, conducted by Arlene Jacobowitz, the Associate Curator for the Department of Painting and Sculpture, between 1965 and 1968. The artists discuss their work in the museum collection. Also included are 38 edited excerpts of the interviews, approximately 2-3 min. in length, used as "audio-labels" in the 1968 "Listening to Pictures" installation.

The artists interviewed are: Lennart Anderson, Stephen B. Antonakos, Marshall Arisman, Walter Barker, Leonard Baskin, Mary Bauermeister, Thomas Hart Benton, Isabel Bishop, Robert Brackman, Sydney Butchkes, Edmund Casarella, George Constant, Robert Warren Dash, Jose DeCreeft, Blanche Dombek, Tom Doyle, Jimmy Ernst, Neil Estern, Philip Evergood, Helen Frankenthaler, Jane Freilicher, Leon Goldin, Sidney Goodman, Sante Graziani, Balcomb Greene, John Grillo, William Gropper, Chaim Gross, Roy Gussow, Robert Gwathmey, Grace Hartigan, Edward Hopper, Nora Jaffe, Paul Jenkins, Minoru Kawabata, William Kienbusch, Karl Knaths, John Koch, Yayoi Kosama, Jennett Lam, Steven Lang, Robert Laurent, Jacob Lawrence, Jack Levine, Jacques Lipchitz, Seymour Lipton, Boris Margo, Ursula Meyer, Hans Moller, Walter Murch, Louise Nevelson, Toshio Odate, Elliot Offner, Douglas Ohlson, Kenzo Okada, Amanda Palmer, Irene Rice Pereira, Gabor Peterdi, Ad Reinhardt, Bill Richards, Larry Rivers, Emilio Sanchez, Karl Schrag, Ben Shahn, Charles Sheeler, Aaron Sopher, Moses Soyer, Raphael Soyer, William Thon, Albert Weinberg, and William and Marguerite Zorach.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as a single series:

Missing Title:

- Series 1: Interviews, 1965-1968 (Box 1-7; 7 lin. ft.)

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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:

Art, American -- Exhibitions  
Artists -- United States -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Transcripts

Names:

Anderson, Lennart, 1928-2015  
Antonakos, Stephen, 1926-2013  
Arisman, Marshall  
Barker, Walter  
Baskin, Leonard, 1922-2000  
Bauermeister, Mary, 1934-  
Benton, Thomas Hart, 1889-1975  
Bishop, Isabel, 1902-1988  
Brackman, Robert, 1898-  
Butchkes, Sydney, 1922-  
Casarella, Edmond, 1920-1996  
Constant, George  
Dash, Robert  
De Creeft, José, 1884-1982  
Dombek, Blanche, 1914-  
Doyle, Tom, 1928-  
Ernst, Jimmy, 1920-1984  
Estern, Neil, 1926-  
Evergood, Philip, 1901-1973  
Frankenthaler, Helen, 1928-2011  
Freilicher, Jane, 1924-2014  
Goldin, Leon, 1923-  
Goodman, Sidney  
Graziani, Sante, 1920-  
Greene, Balcomb, 1904-1990  
Grillo, John, 1917-  
Gropper, William, 1897-1977  
Gross, Chaim, 1904-1991  
Gussow, Roy, 1918-2011  
Gwathmey, Robert, 1903-1988  
Hartigan, Grace

Hopper, Edward, 1882-1967  
Jacobowitz, Arlene  
Jaffe, Nora  
Jenkins, Paul, 1923-2012  
Kawabata, Minoru, 1911-  
Kienbusch, William, 1914-1980  
Knaths, Karl, 1891-1971  
Koch, John, 1909-1978  
Kosama, Yayoi  
Lam, Jennett, 1911-  
Lang, Steven, 1944-1971  
Laurent, Robert, 1890-1970  
Lawrence, Jacob, 1917-2000  
Levine, Jack, 1915-2010  
Lipchitz, Jacques, 1891-1973  
Lipton, Seymour, 1903-1986  
Listening to pictures (1968-1973: Brooklyn Museum)  
Margo, Boris, 1902-1995  
Meyer, Ursula, 1915-  
Moller, Hans, 1905-  
Murch, Walter  
Nevelson, Louise, 1899-1988  
Odate, Toshio  
Offner, Elliot  
Ohlson, Douglas Dean, 1936-  
Okada, Kenzo, 1902-1982  
Palmer, Amanda, 1931-  
Pereira, I. Rice (Irene Rice), 1902-1971  
Peterdi, Gabor  
Reinhardt, Ad, 1913-1967  
Richards, Bill, 1936-  
Rivers, Larry, 1925-2002  
Sanchez, Emilio, 1921-1999  
Schrag, Karl  
Shahn, Ben, 1898-1969  
Sheeler, Charles, 1883-1965  
Sopher, Aaron, 1905-1972  
Soyer, Moses, 1899-1974  
Soyer, Raphael, 1899-1987  
Thon, William, 1906-2000  
Weinberg, Albert  
Zorach, Marguerite, 1887-1968  
Zorach, William, 1887-1966

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Interviews, 1965-1968

#### 7 Linear feet (Box 1-7)

**Scope and Contents:** This series contains interviews of 72 artists on 157 sound tape reels (1/4 in. tape). Jack Levine and John Koch were interviewed twice, so the collection contains 74 interviews total. Also found are brief excerpts of the interviews on 38 sound tape reels, made for the exhibition, "Listening to Pictures," an acoustiguide for a Walter Murch Retrospective exhibition on one sound tape reel, and a monologue by Elbert Weinberg on his painting, "Temptation of Eve" on one sound cassette. All interviews were conducted by Arlene Jacobowitz, Assistant Curator of Paintings and Sculpture at the Brooklyn Museum. Most of the interviews were recorded on one to three half-hour reels, except for the Ad Reinhardt and Walter Murch interviews, which are longer. Excerpts are typically between 2 and 3 minutes long. The interviews focus primarily on works by the artist that are in the museum's collection.

As noted in the box inventory below, transcripts are available for all but five interviews, as well as for the Murch acoustiguide and the Weinberg monologue. The interviews without transcripts include that of Stephen Antonakos, Jane Freilicher, Seymour Lipton, Walter Murch, and Elbert Weinberg. The Edward Hopper interview has a transcript only, and no original sound recording or excerpt.

**Available Formats:** All of the sound recordings have been digitized for preservation and research access.

**Arrangement:** Interviews, transcripts, excerpts, and other recordings are arranged alphabetically by interviewee.

Box 1, Folder 1      Lennart Anderson

Original Interview, 1966 July 26  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1966

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 1, Folder 2      Stephen Antonakos

Original Interview, 1968 April 5  
(2 sound tape reels)

Box 1, Folder 3      Marshall Arisman

Original Interview, 1968 March 21  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1968

Excerpt, 1968

	(1 sound tape reel)
Box 1, Folder 4	Walter Barker
	Original Interview, 1965 May 3 (1 sound tape reel)
	Transcript, 1965
	Excerpt, 1968 (1 sound tape reel)
Box 1, Folder 5	Leonard Baskin
	Original Interview, 1968 January 29 (1 sound tape reel)
	Transcript, 1968
	Excerpt, 1968 (1 sound tape reel)
Box 1, Folder 6-7	Mary Bauermeister
	Original Interview, 1968 February 24 (2 sound tape reels)
	Transcript, 1968
	Excerpt, 1968 (1 sound tape reel)
Box 1, Folder 8	Thomas Hart Benton
	Original Interview, 1966 July 7 (2 sound tape reels)
	Transcript, 1966
Box 1, Folder 9	Isabel Bishop
	Original Interview, 1965 May 3 (2 sound tape reels)
	Transcript, 1965
Box 1, Folder 10	Robert Brackman
	Original Interview, 1966 July 12



(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1966

Box 1, Folder 11-12 Sydney Butchkes

Original Interview, 1967 June 22  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1967

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 1, Folder 13 Edmund Casarella

Original Interview, 1966 May 18  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1966

Box 1, Folder 14 George Constant

Original Interview, 1965 April 29  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1965

Box 1, Folder 15 Robert Warren Dash

Original Interview, 1966 May 18  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1966

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 2, Folder 1-2 José DeCreeft

Original Interview, 1966 May 18  
(3 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1966

Box 2, Folder 3-4 Blanche Dombek

Original Interview, 1966 September 21

(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1966

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 2, Folder 5-6      Tom Doyle

Original Interview, 1968 March 21  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1968

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 2, Folder 7-8      Jimmy Ernst

Original Interview, 1966 November 2  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1966

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 2, Folder 9      Neil Estern

Original Interview, 1966 June 2  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1966

Box 2, Folder 10-11      Philip Evergood

Original Interview, 1966 May 18  
(3 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1966

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 2, Folder 12-13      Helen Frankenthaler

Original Interview, 1966 May 23

(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1966

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 2, Folder 14      Jane Freilicher

Original Interview, 1965 April 29  
(1 sound tape reel)

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 2, Folder 15      Leon Goldin

Original Interview, 1965 April 29  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1965

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 2, Folder 16      Sidney Goodman

Original Interview, 1968 January 24  
(1 sound tape reel)

Addendum, 1968 January 24  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1968

Box 3, Folder 1      Sidney Goodman

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 3, Folder 2      Sante Graziani

Original Interview, 1968 January 29  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1968

Excerpt, 1968

	(1 sound tape reel)
Box 3, Folder 3-4	Balcomb Greene
	Original Interview, 1966 December 14 (2 sound tape reels)
	Transcript, 1966
	Excerpt, 1968 (1 sound tape reel)
Box 3, Folder 5-6	John Grillo
	Original Interview, 1965 (2 sound tape reels)
	Transcript, 1965
	Excerpt, 1968 (1 sound tape reel)
Box 3, Folder 7	William Gropper
	Original Interview, 1965 April (1 sound tape reel)
	Transcript, 1965
Box 3, Folder 8	Chaim Gross
	Original Interview, 1968 January 23 (1 sound tape reel)
	Transcript, 1968
Box 3, Folder 9-10	Roy Gussow
	Original Interview, 1966 June 2 (2 sound tape reels)
	Transcript, 1966
	Excerpt, 1968 (1 sound tape reel)
Box 3, Folder 11	Robert Gwathmey
	Original Interview, 1966 September 29

(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1966

Box 3, Folder 12      Grace Hartigan

Original Interview, 1965 April 20  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1965

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 3, Folder 13      Edward Hopper

Transcript, 1968

Box 3, Folder 14-15      Nora Jaffe

Original Interview, 1967 June 14  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1967

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 3, Folder 16-17      Paul Jenkins

Original Interview, 1966 December 14  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1966

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 4, Folder 1      Minoru Kawabata

Original Interview, 1968 January 19  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1968

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 4, Folder 2      William Kienbusch

Original Interview, 1968 April 6  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1968

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 4, Folder 3-4

Karl Knaths

Original Interview, 1966 July 11  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1966

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 4, Folder 5-7

John Koch

Notes: (2 interviews)

Original Interview, 1966 May 20  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1966

Original Interview, 1968 February 15  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1968

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 4, Folder 8

Yayoi Kusama

Original Interview, 1968 January 19  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1968

Box 4, Folder 9-11

Jennett Lam

Original Interview, 1966 July 26  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcripts, 1968, 1969

Notes: (In addition to the photocopied transcript produced by the  
Brooklyn Museum in 1968, there is an transcript prepared

by the Archives of American Art in 1969, and a photocopy of the 1969 transcript with handwritten corrections.)

	Excerpt, 1968 (1 sound tape reel)
Box 4, Folder 12	Steven Lang
	Original Interview, 1967 June 15 (2 sound tape reels)
	Transcript, 1967
Box 4, Folder 13	Robert Laurent
	Original Interview, 1966 July 6 (1 sound tape reel)
	Transcript, 1966
Box 4, Folder 14	Jacob Lawrence
	Original Interview, 1968 March 21 (2 sound tape reels)
	Transcript, 1968
Box 4, Folder 15-16	Jack Levine Notes: (2 interviews)
	Original Interview, 1965 February 24 (1 sound tape reel)
	Transcript, 1965
	Original Interview, 1968 February 6 (2 sound tape reels)
	Transcript, 1968
Box 5, Folder 1	Jack Levine
	Excerpt, 1968
Box 5, Folder 2	Jacques Lipchitz
	Original Interview, 1965 April 27

(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1965

Box 5, Folder 3-4      Seymour Lipton

Original Interview, 1966 May 20  
(2 sound tape reels)

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 5, Folder 5      Boris Margo

Original Interview, 1968 March 21  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1968

Box 5, Folder 6-7      Ursula Meyer

Original Interview, 1968 February 24  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1968

Excerpts, 1968  
(2 sound tape reels)

Box 5, Folder 8      Hans Moller

Original Interview, 1965 May 3  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1965

Box 5, Folder 9-12      Walter Murch

Original Interview, between 1965 and 1967  
(5 sound tape reels)

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Retrospective Exhibition Acoustiguide, 1967  
(1 sound tape reel)

Retrospective Exhibition Acoustiguide Transcript, 1967



## Box 5, Folder 13-14 Louise Nevelson

Original Interview, 1965 May 3  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1965

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

## Box 5, Folder 15-16 Toshio Odate

Original Interview, 1968 January 19  
(3 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1968

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

## Box 6, Folder 1 Elliot Offner

Original Interview, 1966 September 22  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1966

## Box 6, Folder 2-3 Douglas Ohlson

Original Interview, 1968 February 15  
(3 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1968

## Box 6, Folder 4-5 Kenzo Okada

Original Interview, 1966 December 14  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1966

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

## Box 6, Folder 6-7 Amanda Palmer

Original Interview, 1968 February 16

Transcript, 1968

Excerpt, 1968

Box 6, Folder 8 Irene Rice Periera

Original Interview, 1966 July 26  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1966

Box 6, Folder 9-10 Gabor Peterdi

Original Interview, 1966 July 5  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1966

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 6, Folder 11-13 Ad Reinhardt

Original Interview, 1967 June 14  
(4 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1967

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reel)

Box 6, Folder 14-15 Bill Richards

Original Interview, 1968 March 15  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1968

Excerpt, 1968  
(1 sound tape reels)

Box 7, Folder 1 Larry Rivers

Original Interview, 1966 June 8  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1966

Excerpt, 1968

	(1 sound tape reel)
Box 7, Folder 2	Emilio Sanchez
	Original Interview, 1967 June 22 (2 sound tape reels)
	Transcript, 1967
Box 7, Folder 3	Karl Schrag
	Original Interview, 1966 May 20 (1 sound tape reel)
	Transcript, 1966
Box 7, Folder 4	Ben Shahn
	Original Interview, 1966 May 26 (1 sound tape reel)
	Transcript, 1966
Box 7, Folder 5	Charles Sheeler
	Original Interview, 1965 April 27 (2 sound tape reels)
	Transcript, 1965
Box 7, Folder 6	Aaron Sopher
	Original Interview, 1965 April 20 (1 sound tape reel)
	Transcript, 1965
Box 7, Folder 7	Moses Soyer
	Original Interview, 1966 June 8 (2 sound tape reels)
	Transcript, 1966
Box 7, Folder 8	Raphael Soyer
	Original Interview, 1966 June 10

(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1966

Box 7, Folder 9

William Thon

Original Interview, 1966 April 11  
(1 sound tape reel)

Transcript, 1966

Box 7, Folder 10-11

Elbert Weinberg

Original Interview, 1966 November 15  
(2 sound tape reels)

Monologue on "Temptation of Eve," Original Interview, circa 1966  
(1 sound cassette)

Monologue on "Temptation of Eve," Transcript, circa 1966

Box 7, Folder 12

William and Marguerite Zorach

Original Interview, 1965 May 18  
(2 sound tape reels)

Transcript, 1965

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