



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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Archives of American Art
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Brooklyn Museum interviews of artists
Identifier:	AAA.broomuse
Date:	1965-1968
Extent:	7 Linear feet
Creator:	Brooklyn Museum
Language:	English .
Summary:	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.

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.

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.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as a single series:

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

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-
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-

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

Container Listing

Series 1: Interviews, 1965-1968

7 Linear feet (Box 1-7)

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.

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

All of the sound recordings have been digitized for preservation and research access.

Box 1, Folder 1	Lennart Anderson
	Original Interview, 1966 July 26 <i>(1 sound tape reel)</i>
	Transcript, 1966
	Excerpt, 1968 <i>(1 sound tape reel)</i>
Box 1, Folder 2	Stephen Antonakos
	Original Interview, 1968 April 5 <i>(2 sound tape reels)</i>
Box 1, Folder 3	Marshall Arisman
	Original Interview, 1968 March 21 <i>(1 sound tape reel)</i>
	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 <i>(1 sound tape reel)</i>
	Transcript, 1966
Box 1, Folder 11-12	Sydney Butchkes
	Original Interview, 1967 June 22 <i>(2 sound tape reels)</i>
	Transcript, 1967
	Excerpt, 1968 <i>(1 sound tape reel)</i>
Box 1, Folder 13	Edmund Casarella
	Original Interview, 1966 May 18 <i>(1 sound tape reel)</i>
	Transcript, 1966
Box 1, Folder 14	George Constant
	Original Interview, 1965 April 29 <i>(1 sound tape reel)</i>
	Transcript, 1965
Box 1, Folder 15	Robert Warren Dash
	Original Interview, 1966 May 18 <i>(1 sound tape reel)</i>
	Transcript, 1966
	Excerpt, 1968 <i>(1 sound tape reel)</i>
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

- 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
(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

(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
(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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