



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Joan Brown

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Joan Brown
Identifier:	AAA.brown75
Date:	1975 July 1-September 9
Creator:	Brown, Joan, 1938-1990 (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
Extent:	152 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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: 35mm microfilm reel 3196 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Transcript: Patrons must use microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

Joan Brown (1938-1990) is a painter from San Francisco, California. Studied at the California School of Fine Arts 1955-1960 under Elmer Bischoff and others.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Joan Brown conducted 1975 July 1-September 9, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Brown speaks of her family background, childhood, and Catholic education; the influence of Egyptian art, Francis Bacon, Willem De Kooning, and others; her instructors at the California School of Fine Arts including Dorr Bothwell and Elmer Nelson Bischoff; her trips to Europe; abstract expressionism, figurative painting, funk art and regionalism; San Francisco's painters, poets and musicians in the late 1950s; women as

professional artists; and her imagery. She recalls Wallace Berman, Bruce Conner, Jay DeFeo, Wally Hedrick, George Herms, Edward Kienholz, Michael McClure, Manuel Neri, George W. Staempfli, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 4 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 7 digital wav files. Duration is 6 hr., 12 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Abstract expressionism
- Figurative art
- Women artists
- Women educators
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Berman, Wallace, 1926-1976
- Bischoff, Elmer, 1916-1991
- Bothwell, Dorr
- Conner, Bruce, 1933-2008
- DeFeo, Jay, 1929-1989
- Hedrick, Wally, 1928-2003
- Herms, George, 1935-
- Kienholz, Edward, 1927-
- McClure, Michael
- Neri, Manuel, 1930-
- Staempfli, George W.

Occupations:

- Educators -- California -- San Francisco
- Painters -- California -- San Francisco