



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Adele
S. Brown and William H. Calfee

Funding for the transcription of this interview provided
by the Smithsonian Institution's Women's Committee.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Adele S. Brown and William H. Calfee
Identifier:	AAA.brown95
Date:	1995 January 11
Extent:	33 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Brown, Adele Smith, 1910- Calfee, William H. (William Howard), 1909-1995 Kirwin, Liza
Language:	English

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 administrators.

Available Formats

Transcript available on-line at <http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/oralhistories/transcripts/brown95.htm>

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Brown, an art administrator in Washington, D.C., managed the sales gallery of the Phillips Studio House from 1933-1937. Calfee, a painter and sculptor, taught at the art school affiliated with Studio House from 1933 until it closed in 1945. Phillips Studio House, founded by C. Law Watkins, Associate Director of the Phillips Memorial Gallery, was both an art school and commercial gallery. It opened in November 1933, and closed in 1945 upon Watkins' death. In 1946 Calfee and a group of artists affiliated with the school were asked to form the first art department faculty at American University for which he served as its department head until 1954.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Adele S. Brown and William H. Calfee conducted 1995 January 11, by Liza Kirwin, at Calfee's home in Chevy Chase, Maryland, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Brown and Calfee speak of their roles in Phillips Studio House. They recall Law Watkins, Karl Knaths, Duncan Phillips, Bernice Cross, Bob Gates, Marjorie Phillips, Alice Acheson, John Marin, George Groves, Harold West, Adelyn Breeskin, Kenneth Noland, Jack Tworikov, Caresse Crosby, Prentiss Taylor, and many others.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound cassette. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 33 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art teachers -- Washington (D.C.) -- Interviews
Art, Modern -- 20th century -- Washington (D.C.)
Arts administrators -- Washington (D.C.) -- Interviews
Painters -- Washington (D.C.) -- Interviews
Sculptors -- Washington (D.C.) -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Acheson, Alice
Breeskin, Adelyn Dohme, 1896-1986
Crosby, Caresse, 1892-
Cross, Bernice
Gates, Robert Franklin, 1906-1982
Groves, George
Knaths, Karl, 1891-1971
Marin, John, 1870-1953
Noland, Kenneth, 1924-2010
Phillips, Duncan, 1886-1966
Phillips, Marjorie, 1895-1985
Studio House (Phillips Memorial Gallery)

Taylor, Prentiss, 1907-1991
Tworkov, Jack
Watkins, Law Bradley
West, Hal, 1902-1968

Functions:

Art Schools -- Washington (D.C.)