



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Margaret Taylor Burroughs

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service. This interview received support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative Pool.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Margaret Taylor Burroughs
Date:	1988 November 11-December 5
Identifier:	AAA.burrou88
Creator:	Burroughs, Margaret Taylor, 1915-2010 (Interviewee) Tyler, Anna, 1933- (Interviewer)
Extent:	57 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Margaret Taylor Burroughs, 1988 November 11-December 5, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt) Digital Content: Oral history interview with Margaret Taylor Burroughs, 1988 November 11-December 5, Transcript

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 is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Restrictions

This interview is open for research. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Margaret Taylor Burroughs (1917-2010) was a painter, poet, and art educator who lived and worked in Chicago, Illinois.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Margaret Burroughs conducted 1988 November 11-December 5, by Anna Tyler, for the Archives of American Art African American artists in Chicago oral history project (1988-1989).

Scope and Contents

Burroughs recalls her childhood and early artistic training through her current activities. She reminisces about her experiences as a student at the School of the Chicago Art Institute, the arts in Chicago in the 1930s, the Grant Park Art Fair, Chicago Negro People's Theater, African American Visual Artists Association, Lake Meadows Art Fair, Chicago Park Board, National Conference of Negro Artists, and the South Side Community Art Center. Other topics include WPA, World War II and the McCarthy era, her sabbatical in Mexico, awards and honors, the DuSable Museum of African American History, the Emancipation Centennial Exposition and the Afro-American Visual Roundtable. She discusses her teaching career in Chicago Public Schools and at Kennedy King College. She also discusses facing racism and discrimination, her exhibitions, and the philosophy of her artwork. She reads her poem, "What Shall I Tell my Children Who are Black?" She recalls her associations with Elizabeth Catlett; Sophie Wessel; Si Gordon; Kathleen Blackshear; Charles Sebree; Charlemae Rollins; Bernard Goss, and Marion Perkins, among others.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 31 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- African American artists
- African American women educators
- African American women poets
- Women artists
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- African American Artists in Chicago Oral History Project
- South Side Community Art Center

Occupations:

- Painters -- Illinois -- Chicago