



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Holger Cahill

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Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Holger Cahill
Identifier:	AAA.cahill60
Date:	1960 April 12 and 15
Creator:	Cahill, Holger, 1887-1960 (Interviewee) Morse, John D., 1906- (Interviewer) Pollack, Peter, 1909-1978 (Interviewer)
Extent:	53 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Holger Cahill, 1960 April 12 and 15, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Holger Cahill, 1960 April 12 and 15, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' 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.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Holger Cahill (1887-1960) was an art administrator from New York, New York. Cahill was the National director of Federal Art Project, administered under Federal Project No. 1 of the Works Progress Administration (later the Work Projects Administration). The FAP provided work to unemployed artists. Cahill was the director throughout its existence.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Holger Cahill conducted 1960 April 12-15, by John Morse and Peter Pollack, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Cahill discusses his work as national director of the Federal Art Project. He recalls other administrators and artists who participated, and describes the allocation of the art works produced. Of particular interest is an anecdote about Jackson Pollock's experiments with his characteristic style while on the WPA. Peter Pollack contributes his own recollections of his work under Cahill developing community art centers as part of the federal program.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 14 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art, American
- Arts administrators -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Federal aid to the arts

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Federal Art Project (U.S.)
- Pollock, Jackson, 1912-1956
- United States. Work Projects Administration
- United States. Works Progress Administration

Functions:

- Art centers