



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Harry M. Callahan

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Harry M. Callahan
Date:	1975 February 13
Identifier:	AAA.callah75
Creator:	Callahan, Harry M. (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
Extent:	41 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Harry M. Callahan, 1975 February 13, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Harry M. Callahan, 1975 February 13, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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 available online.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Harry M. Callahan (1912-1999) was a photographer of New York, New York. Callahan taught at the Institute of Design at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, 1946-1961. Chair of photography department, Rhode Island School of Design, 1961-1977.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Harry M. Callahan conducted 1975 February 13, by Robert Brown, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Callahan discusses his childhood and family. He talks about his informal training in photography and meeting his good friend, Todd Webb. He remembers meeting Ansel Adams and the great impression Adams made on him and his photography. He remembers meeting Alfred Stieglitz. Callahan talks about his job in the General Motor's photo lab. He remembers a disappointing first trip to New York. He talks about getting a teaching position at the Chicago Institute of Design with the assistance of Arthur Siegel. He recalls Lazlo Maholy-Nagy (then, Director) who was very impressed by Callahan's photographs. Callahan remembers meeting Aaron Siskind. He talks about the impact his daughter's birth had on him. He discusses starting the photography department at the Rhode Island School of Design. He talks about photographing during his travels to France, Germany, Puerto Rico, and South America.

General

The quality of the tapes is uneven due to mechanical difficulties.

General

Originally recorded as 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav file. Duration is 1 hr., 27 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Photographers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
Photography -- United States

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings