



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Paul Caponigro

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Paul Caponigro
Date:	1999 July 30-August 12
Identifier:	AAA.caponi99
Creator:	Caponigro, Paul, 1932- (Interviewee) Larsen, Susan C. (Interviewer)
Extent:	87 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Paul Caponigro, 1999 July 30-August 12, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Paul Caponigro, 1999 July 30-August 12, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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.

Biographical / Historical

Paul Caponigro (1932-) is a photographer and teacher from New England and New Mexico.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Paul Caponigro conducted 1999 July 30-August 12, by Susan C. Larsen, for the Archives of American Art, at Caponigro's home, in Cushing, Maine.

Scope and Contents

Caponigro describes his childhood, military career, and travels through the southwest and northern California, his association with Minor White, exhibitions, publications, employment, and marriage to wife Eleanor.

Scope and Contents

Caponigro discusses the significance of his Stonehenge series of photographs; others' interpretations of his work; further exhibitions; and the role that his family's move to Santa Fe, New Mexico, has played in the evolution of his work.

Scope and Contents

Further discussion of the photographic scene in Santa Fe and its connection to American modernist photographers such as Paul Strand and Ansel Adams; travels; Guggenheim grant; the 1991 fall from a rocky ledge that was a physical and spiritual watershed in his life; and his new home in Cushing, Maine.

Scope and Contents

He recalls George Tice, Ansel Adams, Minor White, Bert Westin, Imogen Cunningham, Dorothea Lange, Oliver Gagliani, Beniamino Bufano, Morris Graves, Walter Chappell, Jerry Uelsmann, Carl Chiarenza, William Clift, Marie Cosindas, Peter Bunnell, John Szarkowski, Robert Singer, Beaumont Newhall, Georgia O'Keeffe, Ed Ranney, David Scheinbaum, Janet Russek, Lucien Clergue, and many others.

General

Originally recorded on 7 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 12 digital wav files. Duration is 5 hr., 19 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Photographers -- Maine -- Cushing -- Interviews.
Photographers -- New Mexico -- Santa Fe -- Interviews.
Photography, Artistic

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Adams, Ansel, 1902-1984
Bufano, Beniamino, 1898-1970
Bunnell, Peter C.
Chappell, Walter, 1925-
Chiarenza, Carl
Clergue, Lucien.
Clift, William

Cosindas, Marie, 1925-
Cunningham, Imogen, 1883-1976
Graves, Morris, 1910-2001
Lange, Dorothea
Newhall, Beaumont, 1908-1993
O'Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986
Ranney, Edward.
Russek, Janet
Scheinbaum, David, 1951-
Singer, Robert T.
Strand, Paul, 1890-1976
Szarkowski, John
Tice, George A.
Uelsmann, Jerry, 1934-
Westin, Bert
White, Minor