



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Robert Carlen

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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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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Robert Carlen
Date:	1985 June 28-July 16
Identifier:	AAA.carlen85
Creator:	Carlen, Robert, 1906-1990 (Interviewee) Stover, Catherine (Interviewer)
Extent:	67 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Robert Carlen, 1985 June 28-July 16, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Robert Carlen, 1985 June 28-July 16, 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 on line.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Robert Carlen (1906-1990) was an art dealer of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Robert Carlen conducted 1985 June 28-July 16, by Catherine Stover, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Carlen speaks of his early life including his studies at the Graphic Sketch Club and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts; opening his gallery in 1937; the early years of the gallery; paintings he discovered over the years; collectors he worked with, including Albert Barnes and Meyer and Vivian Potamkin; other dealers; refugee artists; and the Philadelphia art scene.

General

Originally recorded on 5 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 10 digital wav files. Duration is 4 hr., 50 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- African American art
- African American artists

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Barnes, Albert C. (Albert Coombs), 1872-1951
- Potamkin, Meyer, 1909-2001
- Potamkin, Vivian, 1915-2002

Occupations:

- Art dealers -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia