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Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Mel Casas

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Mel Casas
Date:	1996 August 14 and 16
Identifier:	AAA.casas96
Creator:	Casas, Mel, 1929-2014 (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
Extent:	66 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Mel Casas, 1996 August 14 and 16, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Mel Casas, 1996 August 14 and 16, 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.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Mel Casas (1929-) is a painter from San Antonio, Texas.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Mel Casas conducted 1996 August 14-16, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Casas discusses his current work - dipped acrylic paintings in which technique and material become the subject; his involvement with Chicano art political issues and his own experience as a Mexican-American; a discussion of his family background; art education; early Abstract Expressionist painting; a shift to figuration; thirty years teaching at San Antonio College; the Chicano "movimiento"; and Chicano art and key figures, including Carlos Almaraz and Carmen Lomas Garza.

General

Originally recorded on 4 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 5 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Chicano art
- Chicano art movement
- Chicano artists
- Latino and Latin American artists
- Painters -- Texas -- San Antonio -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Almaraz, Carlos
- Garza, Carmen Lomas
- San Antonio College -- Faculty