



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Leo Castelli

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Leo Castelli
<b>Date:</b>	1969 May 14-1973 June 8
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.castel69may
<b>Creator:</b>	Castelli, Leo (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	194 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Leo Castelli, 1969 May 14-1973 June 8, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Leo Castelli, 1969 May 14-1973 June 8, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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 the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Leo Castelli (1907-1999) was an art dealer from New York, New York.

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## Scope and Contents

Interview of Leo Castelli conducted 1969 May 14-1973 June 8, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

Castelli speaks of his background; fleeing Europe, 1940-1941; his U.S. Army service; The Club; establishing his New York galleries; his first wife, Ileana Sonnabend, and her success as an art dealer; galleries in the 1940s and 1950s; his staff; prints; commissioned works; exhibitions and sales of works by Dan Flavin, Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein, Bruce Nauman, Robert Rauschenberg, Richard Serra, Frank Stella, and others;

collectors including Philip Cortelyou Johnson, Vera G. List, Peter Ludwig, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scull, and Mr. and Mrs. Burton Tremaine. Castelli recalls Alfred H. Barr, Richard Bellamy, John Cage, René Drouin, Ivan C. Karp, and Alan Robert Solomon.

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## General

Originally recorded as 8 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 15 digital wav files. Duration is 14 hr., 12 min.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Barr, Alfred H., Jr., 1902-1981
- Bellamy, Richard
- Callahan, Harry M.
- Club (New York, N.Y.)
- Drouin, René
- Flavin, Dan, 1933-
- Johns, Jasper, 1930-
- Johnson, Philip, 1906-2005
- Karp, Ivan C., 1926-2012
- Leo Castelli Gallery
- Lichtenstein, Roy, 1923-1997
- List, Vera
- Ludwig, Peter, 1925-
- Nauman, Bruce, 1941-
- Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925-2008
- Scull, Robert C.
- Serra, Richard, 1938-
- Solomon, Alan R.
- Sonnabend, Ileana
- Tremaine, Burton

### Occupations:

- Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York