



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Leo Castelli

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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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Leo Castelli
Identifier:	AAA.castel69may
Date:	1969 May 14-1973 June 8
Extent:	194 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Castelli, Leo Cummings, Paul
Language:	English

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.

Biographical / Historical

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

Scope and Contents

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

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.

General

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

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

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

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, 1939-
Solomon, Alan R., 1920-1970
Sonnabend, Ileana
Tremaine, Burton

Functions:

Art galleries, Commercial -- New York (State) -- New York