



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Wendell Castle

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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 Wendell Castle
Identifier:	AAA.castle81
Date:	1981 June 3-December 12
Creator:	Castle, Wendell, 1932-2018 (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
Extent:	145 Pages (Transcript) 1 Item (sound file (2 min. 21 sec.) Audio excerpt; digital)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Wendell Castle, 1981 June 3-December 12, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Wendell Castle, 1981 June 3-December 12, 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 online.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Biographical / Historical

Wendell Castle (1932-2018) was a furniture designer, sculptor, and educator from Rochester, New York. He taught at the School for American Craftsmen and Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Wendell Castle, conducted 1981 June 3-December 12, by Robert F. Brown, in Scotsville, New York, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Castle speaks of his early work, in Kansas, in industrial design and sculpture; the transition he made in the early 1960s from sculpture to furniture design; teaching furniture design at the School for American Craftsmen, Rochester, New York; Wharton Esherick; the importance of creative design and sound workmanship; exhibitions and commissions; current interest in French 18th Century and Art Deco furniture; the evolution of his work from laminated pieces to an elegant style; and efforts to gain fine art status for his furniture.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 5 hr., 27 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Decorative arts -- United States
Design, Industrial

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Esherick, Wharton
School for American Crafts

Occupations:

Educators -- New York (State)
Furniture designers -- New York (State)
Sculptors -- New York (State)