



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with John Chamberlain

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Oral history interview with John Chamberlain |
| Date: | 1991 January 29-30 |
| Identifier: | AAA.chambe91 |
| Creator: | Chamberlain, John, 1927-2011 (Interviewee) Clearwater, Bonnie, 1957- (Interviewer) |
| Extent: | 92 Pages (Transcript) |
| Language: | English . |
| Digital Content: | Audio: Oral history interview with John Chamberlain, 1991 January 29-30, 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.

Biographical / Historical

John Chamberlain (1927-2011) was a sculptor from Sarasota, Florida.

Scope and Contents

An interview of John Chamberlain conducted 1991 January 29-30, by Bonnie Clearwater, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Chamberlain talks of his studio in Sarasota; his assistants; working intuitively; encouraging a "sense of discovery" for the artists and audience; collaborating with poet Robert Creeley; his early interest in composing music; retrospective exhibitions; the "heroics of drinking" at the Cedar Bar; and working methods. Chamberlain was reluctant to be interviewed.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 3 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 19 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Sculptors -- Florida -- Interviews
Sculpture, Modern -- 20th century -- United States

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Creeley, Robert, 1926-