



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Oscar Chelimsky

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Oscar Chelimsky
Date:	1990 August 28-September 5
Identifier:	AAA.chelim90
Creator:	Chelimsky, Oscar (Interviewee) Plante, Michael (Interviewer)
Extent:	48 Pages (Transcript)
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.

Biographical / Historical

Oscar Chelimsky (1923-2010) was a painter.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Oscar Chelimsky conducted 1990 August 28-September 5, by Michael Plante, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Chelimsky recalls his studies at Cooper Union, the Art Students League (1939-1943), and the Hans Hofmann School of Art (1946-1947) and describes Hofmann's teaching methods. Chelimsky discusses his decision to go to Paris in 1948; his brief studies at the Fontainebleau School and the Academie de la Grande Chaumiere; his studio in Paris; the French attitude toward Americans in postwar Paris; a proposed exhibition of American painters in France at the Galerie des Beaux Arts in 1963; Americans exhibiting at the various salons and galleries in Paris; and the founding of the cooperative Galerie Huit and the artists involved including Bill Rivers, Jules Olitski, Reginald Pollack, Robert Kulicke, Sidney Geist, and Paul Keene. Chelimsky also discusses the evolution of his style, his move back to the United States in 1970, and his continuing investigation of the "open form" in his paintings.

General

Originally recorded on 4 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 34 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, Modern -- 20th century
Artists -- France -- 20th century -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Galerie Huit
Geist, Sidney
Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966
Keene, Paul F., Jr., 1920-2009
Kulicke, Robert M. (Robert Moore), 1924-2007
Olitski, Jules, 1922-2007
Pollack, Reginald
Rivers, Haywood Bill, 1922-2001

Occupations:

Painters -- Interviews