



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Herman Cherry

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Herman Cherry
Date:	1965 September
Identifier:	AAA.cherry65
Creator:	Cherry, Herman (Interviewee) Phillips, Harlan B. (Harlan Buddington), 1920-1979 (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Extent:	44 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Herman Cherry, 1965 September, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt) Digital Content: Oral history interview with Herman Cherry, 1965 September, Transcript

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's New Deal and the Arts project, which includes over 400 interviews of artists, administrators, historians, and others involved with the federal government's art programs and the activities of the Farm Security Administration in the 1930s and early 1940s.

Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 3949 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Available Formats

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

Restrictions

This interview is open for research. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Herman Cherry (1909-1992) was a painter, mural painter, lithographer, craftsman, writer, and teacher in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Herman Cherry conducted 1965 September, by Harlan Phillips. Cherry speaks of his background and education; the Depression's effect on him; his first association with the WPA Federal Art Project; working for Stanton Macdonald-Wright; how the project functioned; trying to create an "American style" in painting; the team approach to creating murals; the effect of the project on individual artists and their styles; experimenting with materials; unions and political problems; social interaction between artists on the project; the current art market; his overall view of the Federal Art Project. He recalls Thomas Hart Benton.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 8 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Artisans -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Decorative arts
- Educators -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Federal aid to the arts
- Lithographers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Mural painting and decoration
- Muralists -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Benton, Thomas Hart, 1889-1975
- Federal Art Project
- Macdonald-Wright, Stanton, 1890-1973
- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project