



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Charles Childs

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Charles Childs
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.childs72
<b>Date:</b>	1972 April 18-May 12
<b>Creator:</b>	Childs, Charles (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	70 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Charles Childs, 1972 April 18-May 12, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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: 35mm microfilm reel 3196 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

Transcript: Patrons must use microfilm copy.

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## Biographical / Historical

Charles Childs is an art dealer and collector from Boston, Massachusetts.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Charles Childs conducted 1972 April 18-May 12, by Robert F. Brown, for the Archives of American Art. Childs speaks of his childhood and the development of his interest in art; his first involvement with printmaking; studying at Normal Art School; working at Goodspeed's Print Shop; the art scene in Boston in the 1920s and 1930s; his theories and approaches to art collecting; the development of the Boston Arts Festival; and his involvement with the Institute of Contemporary Art. He recalls John Taylor Arms, Samuel Chamberlain, Maxim Karolik, and George Wales.

## General

Originally recorded on 2 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 35 min.

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## General

Parts 3 & 4 of Childs interview is under Walter Feldman on tape 2.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

Art -- Collectors and collecting -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- Interviews  
Art dealers -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Names:

Arms, John Taylor, 1887-1953  
Chamberlain, Samuel, 1895-1975  
Goodspeed's Book Shop (Boston, Mass.)  
Institute of Contemporary Art (Boston, Mass.)  
Karolik, Maxim  
Wales, George Canning, 1868-1940

### Functions:

Art festivals