



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Chuck Close

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Chuck Close
Date:	2017 July 20
Identifier:	AAA.close17
Creator:	Close, Chuck, 1940- (Interviewee) Lyon, Christopher (Interviewer)
Extent:	2 Items (sound files (1 hr., 34 min.) Audio; digital, wav) 19 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Chuck Close, 2017 July 20, Transcript

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.

Available Formats

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

Restrictions

Audio: ACCESS RESTRICTED; use requires an appointment.

Biographical / Historical

Chuck Close (1940-) is a painter and photographer, in New York, New York. Christopher Lyon (1949-) is a writer in Brooklyn, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview with Chuck Close conducted 2017 July 20, by Christopher Lyon, for the Archives of American Art, at Close's home and studio in Long Beach, New York.

Scope and Contents

Close speaks of his friendships with Robert Rauschenberg, Richard Serra, and other artists; his decision to explore the genre of portraiture; different methods of printmaking, photography, and painting that he employs; his friendship with Philip Glass; problems with his memory; his painting techniques since "The Event" (a spinal artery collapse which led to partial paralysis); his favorite early paintings; organizing his exhibition Head-On/The Modern Portrait; and his involvement with Turnaround Arts. Close also recalls Brice Marden, Vija Celmins, Janet Fish, Nancy Graves, Rackstraw Downes, Sol Lewitt, Paul Simon, Mark Greenwold, Debbie Wye, and others.

System Details

Recorded on Tascam DR-100MKII R00030.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Painters -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
Photographers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings