



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with George Condo

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Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with George Condo
Identifier:	AAA.condo17
Date:	2017 May 5-June 20
Extent:	5 Items (sound files (3 hr., 19 min.) Audio; digital, wav) 88 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Condo, George Lyon, Christopher
Language:	English

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.

Biographical / Historical

George Condo (1957-) is a contemporary visual artist working in New York, New York. Christopher Lyon (1949-) is a publisher and writer in Brooklyn, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview with George Condo conducted 2017 May 5 and June 20, by Christopher Lyon, for the Archives of American Art, at Condo's studio in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

Condo speaks of his childhood and adolescence in New England; his Italian grandparents and heritage; his early obsession with drawing; the mathematical dimension of his mind; his Catholic upbringing and its influence on his art; exposure to literature, art, and music through his family; his decision to pursue

visual art rather than music; the influence of jazz on his approach to making art; his understanding of tradition and originality; the influence of a wide range of literature on his approach to making art; dropping out of Mass College of Art; playing in a Boston punk rock band called The Girls in the late 1970s; moving to New York in 1981; working on Andy Warhol's silk-screening assembly line; moving to Los Angeles in 1982; being shown in Ulrike Kantor's gallery with Roger Herman's help; formative trips to Europe in the 1980s; important romantic relationships; changes in the New York art world in the 1990s; developing the concept of Artificial Realism; and his appreciation for the old masters of painting. Condo also recalls Dawn Clements, Keith Haring, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Devo, Mark Dagley, Rupert Smith, Fred Hughes, Susan Tyrrell, Gene Kelly, Willoughby Sharp, Walter Dahn, Bruno Bischofberger, and others.

System Details

Recorded on Tascam DR-100MKII R000330.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- New York (State) -- New York
Jazz
Music
Painters -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
Photo-realism
Printmakers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
Punk rock music
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Basquiat, Jean-Michel, 1960-1988
Bischofberger, Bruno
Clements, Dawn
Dagley, Mark
Dahn, Walter, 1954-
Devo (Musical group)
Haring, Keith
Herman, Roger
Hughes, Frederick W., 1943-2001
Kantor, Ulrike
Kelly, Gene, 1912-1996
Massachusetts College of Art -- Students
Sharp, Willoughby, 1936-2008
Smith, Rupert Jason
Tyrrell, Susan
Warhol, Andy, 1928-1987

Geographic Names:

Europe -- description and travel