



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with William Conger

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with William Conger
Date:	2015 May 18-20
Identifier:	AAA.conger15
Creator:	Conger, William (Interviewee) Silverman, Lanny (Interviewer)
Extent:	2 Items (sound files (3 hr., 44 min.); digital, wav) 79 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with William Conger, 2015 May 18-20, 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.

Biographical / Historical

Interviewee William Conger (1937-) is a painter in Chicago, Illinois. Interviewer Lanny Silverman (1947-) is a curator at the Chicago Cultural Center in Chicago, Illinois.

Scope and Contents

An interview with William Conger, conducted 2015 May 18-20, by Lanny Silverman, for the Archives of American Art's Chicago Art and Artists: Oral History Project, at Conger's home and studio in Chicago, Illinois.

Scope and Contents

Interview of William Conger, conducted by Lanny Silverman for the Archives of American Art, at Conger's home and studio on May 18th and 20th 2015. Conger speaks of Dixon, IL; his family history; moving around as a kid; his parents; Chicago; going to the Art Institute as a child; his mother and her painting; deciding to be an artist; Encyclopedia Britannica; realism and technique; regionalism; high school; Lane Tech; drafting and architecture; getting into college; excellence and doing your best; University of New Mexico; Art Institute of Chicago; Grand Jatte; abstraction, New York; color and regionalism; philosophy; Montgomery Ward; Hyde Park Art Center; monster roster; pop and high art; Lion Act; To the East Were Flowing Waters;

Chicago architecture; open works; Flossy's Night ; pictorial space; music; poetry; synesthesia; Abstract Expressionism; literature; Proust; Battle of Hastings; history; color; circus; improvisation; changes in the art world; education; technology; painting; gatekeepers; Chicago vs. New York; traveling; the Grand Canyon; studio practice; and impulse and final works. Conger also recalls William Boynton, William Nichols, Walter Yust, Briggs Dyer, Robert Lewis, Raymond Jonson, Elaine de Kooning, Bob Lewis, Archie Bahm, Robert Mallory, Virginio Ferrari, Ruth Duckworth, Seymour Rosofsky, Don Baum, Karl Wirsum, Ivan Albright, Larry Poon, Emil Bisttram, and Kathy Onderak.

General

Originally recorded as 2 sound files. Duration is 3 hr., 44 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Chicago Art and Artists: Oral History Project
- Chicago's Art-Related Archival Materials: A Terra Foundation Resource

Occupations:

- Painters -- Illinois -- Chicago -- Interviews