



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Bruce Conner

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
General.....	2
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Bruce Conner
Date:	1974 March 29
Identifier:	AAA.conner74mar
Creator:	Conner, Bruce, 1933-2008 (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer) Guilbaut, Serge (Interviewer)
Extent:	37 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Bruce Conner, 1974 March 29, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Bruce Conner, 1974 March 29, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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 others.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Bruce Conner (1933-2008) was a painter and filmmaker from San Francisco, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Bruce Conner conducted 1974 March 29, by Paul Karlstrom and Serge Guilbaut, for the Archives of American Art, in San Francisco, California.

Scope and Contents

Interview of Bruce Conner, conducted by Paul Karlstrom and Serge Guilbaut for the Archives of American Art, in San Francisco, on March 29, 1974. Conner speaks of his education and move to San Francisco; the art scene in California in the 1960s; the development and theory behind much of his work; his early

paintings and collages; his assemblages; the sculpture A Child [1959] and its showing at the de Young Museum in 1959-60; his interaction with Beat writers; about the coining of the words "beatnik" and "hippie" and subsequent commercial exploitation of the Beat generation; and his attitude towards political protest. He also recalls Michael McClure, Wallace Berman, Ed Kienholz, Jay DeFeo, Wally Hedrick, Allen Ginsberg and others.

General

Poor sound quality due to loud background noise.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav file. Duration is 1 hr., 26 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- California -- San Francisco
- Beat generation
- Bohemianism -- California -- San Francisco
- Experimental films
- Filmmakers -- California -- San Francisco -- Interviews
- Painters -- California -- San Francisco -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Berman, Wallace, 1926-1976
- DeFeo, Jay, 1929-1989
- Ginsberg, Allen, 1926-1997
- Hedrick, Wally, 1928-2003
- Kienholz, Edward, 1927-
- McClure, Michael