



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with John Coplans

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with John Coplans
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.coplan75
<b>Date:</b>	1975 April 4-1977 August 4
<b>Creator:</b>	Coplans, John (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	133 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with John Coplans, 1975 April 4-1977 August 4, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with John Coplans, 1975 April 4-1977 August 4, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

These interviews are part of the Archives' 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 available on line.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

John Coplans (1920- 2003) was an art administrator, editor, photograph, and educator of New York, New York. Born in London, England; died in Manhattan, New York.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of John Coplans conducted 1975 April. 4-1977 August 4, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art, in New York City.

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## Scope and Contents

Coplans speaks of his educational background; the founding and development of ARTFORUM magazine; ARTFORUM staff writers including Lawrence Alloway, Michael Fried, Philip Leider, and Barbara E. Rose; and the influence of Irving Blum and Walter Hopps on California artists and collectors. Coplans also discusses the art market in New York and in California, and talks about his career as a teacher, editor, gallery director, critic, and museum curator.

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## General

Originally recorded on 4 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 8 digital wav files. Duration is 8 hr., 6 min.

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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 publishing -- New York (State) -- New York
- Arts administrators -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Educators -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Gallery directors -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Museum curators -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Alloway, Lawrence, 1926-1990
- Artforum
- Blum, Irving, 1930-
- Fried, Michael
- Hopps, Walter
- Leider, Philip, 1929-
- Rose, Barbara

### Occupations:

- Editors -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews