



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Willard Cummings

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Willard Cummings
Identifier:	AAA.cummin73
Date:	1973 March 20
Creator:	Cummings, Willard Warren, 1915-1975 (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	82 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Willard Cummings, 1973 March 20, Transcript

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is 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.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Willard Cummings (1915-1975) was a painter from New York, New York and Maine.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Willard Cummings conducted 1973 March 20, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art. Cummings speaks of his family and its interests in art and theater; moving to Boston and his early education there; studying with Anna Ladd and at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts; his two years in Paris; going to Skowhegan during the Depression; the Art Students League and the Grand Central School; his interests in portrait painting and sculpture; his Yale art school experience; some early portrait subjects; exhibitions of his work; commercial art jobs he was involved in; his New York studio and friends in the mid-1930s; collecting American primitives; his U.S. Army service; the start of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 1946; the organization of the school; his own painting technique and some portrait subjects. He recalls Philip Hale, Waldo Peirce and Edith Halpert.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 19 min.

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) -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Hale, Philip Leslie, 1865-1931
Halpert, Edith Gregor, 1900-1970
Peirce, Waldo, 1884-1970
Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture

Occupations:

Painters -- Maine -- Interviews