



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Imogen Cunningham

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Imogen Cunningham
Date:	1975 June 9
Identifier:	AAA.cunnin75
Creator:	Cunningham, Imogen, 1883-1976 (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer) Kurabi, Louise Katzman, 1949- (Interviewer)
Extent:	36 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Imogen Cunningham, 1975 June 9, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Imogen Cunningham, 1975 June 9, 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

Imogen Cunningham (1883-1976) was a photographer from San Francisco, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Imogen Cunningham conducted 1975 June 9, by Louise Katzman and Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art, in Cunningham's home. [Note: A photograph of Cunningham taken by Katzman at the time of the interview has been cataloged separately.]

Scope and Contents

Cunningham speaks of her training in Germany, working in Edward Curtis' studio, her childhood art classes, her husband Roi Partridge, the f.64 group, platinum prints, her early interest in photography, and the

differences between West Coast and East Coast photographers. She discusses magazine photography, her work as a portrait photographer, collectors, and her professional and personal relationships with Ansel Adams, Maynard Dixon, Dorothea Lange, Willard Van Dyke, Edward Henry Weston, Minor White, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 56 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Photography, Artistic
- Portrait photography
- Women artists
- Women educators
- Women photographers

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Adams, Ansel, 1902-1984
- Curtis, Edward S., 1868-1952
- Dixon, Maynard, 1875-1946
- Group f.64
- Lange, Dorothea
- Partridge, Roi, 1888-1984
- Van Dyke, Willard
- Weston, Edward, 1886-1958
- White, Minor

Occupations:

- Educators -- California -- San Francisco
- Photographers -- California -- San Francisco