



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Avel De Knight

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Avel De Knight
Date:	1968 July 22
Identifier:	AAA.deknig68
Creator:	De Knight, Avel, 1921-1995 (Interviewee) Ghent, Henri, 1926- (Interviewer)
Extent:	43 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Avel De Knight, 1968 July 22, 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.

Biographical / Historical

Avel C. de Knight (1921-1995) was an African American painter, educator, and art critic. His birth dates are also cited as 1923, 1925, 1931, and 1933. Born in New York to parents from Barbados and Puerto Rico, he attended Pratt Institute before serving in a segregated United States Army unit in World War II. After the war, he studied at the École de Beaux-Arts, the Grand Chaumière, and the Académie Julian in Paris under the G.I. Bill. He returned to the United States in 1956 and in 1957 began reviewing New York exhibitions for *France-Amérique*. He also taught at the Art Students League and later at the National Academy School of Fine Arts. De Knight was an Academician of the National Academy of Design and his works are held in collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Walker Art Center, and the University of Richmond Museums.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Avel De Knight conducted 1968, by Henri Ghent, for the Archives of American Art.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 1 digital wav file. Duration is 1 hr., 49 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- African American artists
- Art, American
- Latino and Latin American artists
- Painters -- New York (State) -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings