



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with José de Rivera

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with José de Rivera
Date:	1968 February 24
Identifier:	AAA.derive68
Creator:	De Rivera, José Ruiz, 1904-1985 (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	60 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with José de Rivera, 1968 February 24, 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. Funding for the interview was provided by the New York State Council on the Arts.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

José de Rivera (1904-1985) was a sculptor in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview of José de Rivera conducted 1968 February 24, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art. De Rivera recalls his childhood on sugar plantations in Louisiana; his early work in New Orleans and Chicago as a mechanic; his training as a commercial artist at Chicago's Studio School and taking life drawing classes with John Norton. He talks about freelancing as a commercial artist in Chicago; his military service during World War II; traveling in Europe and Egypt and relocating to New York. Cummings and de Rivera discuss de Rivera's sculpture in some depth, as well as de Rivera's interest in artists such as Brancusi and Mondrian.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 9 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Hispanic American artists
- Sculptors -- Interviews
- Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Sculpture, American

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings