



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Richard Diebenkorn

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Richard Diebenkorn
Date:	1985 May 1-1987 December 15
Identifier:	AAA.dieben85
Creator:	Diebenkorn, Richard, 1922-1993 (Interviewee) Larsen, Susan C. (Interviewer)
Extent:	153 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Richard Diebenkorn, 1985 May 1-1987 December 15, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Richard Diebenkorn, 1985 May 1-1987 December 15, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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. [Another interview of Diebenkorn was donated by Larsen, 1977].

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Richard Diebenkorn (1922-1993) was a painter from California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Richard Diebenkorn conducted 1985 May 1-1987 December 15, by Susan Larsen, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Diebenkorn speaks of his family background and early life; his education and his service in the Marine Corps; his introduction to modernism; his early abstract work; the formation of the Bay Area figurative school and the

relationship between art in New York and in the Bay Area; teaching; critical and public reaction to his work; important exhibitions of his work; vacillating between the figurative and the abstract in his painting; his working methods. He recalls Daniel Mendelowitz, Erle Loran, Raymond Jonson, David Park, and Elmer Bischoff.

General

Originally recorded on 10 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 16 digital wav files. Duration is 7 hr., 43 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Study and teaching -- California -- San Francisco Bay Area
Painters -- California -- San Francisco Bay Area -- Interviews
Painting -- California -- San Francisco Bay Area
Painting, Abstract -- California -- San Francisco Bay Area

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Bischoff, Elmer, 1916-1991
Jonson, Raymond, 1891-1982
Loran, Erle, 1905-1999
Mendelowitz, Daniel Marcus
Park, David, 1911-1960