



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Elsie Driggs

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Elsie Driggs
<b>Date:</b>	1985 October 30-December 5
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.driggs85
<b>Creator:</b>	Driggs, Elsie, 1898-1992 (Interviewee) Tyler, Francine (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	304 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Elsie Driggs, 1985 October 30-December 5, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a> <a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Elsie Driggs, 1985 October 30-December 5, Transcript</a>

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## 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.

### Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

### Restrictions

This interview is open for research. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Elsie Driggs (1898-1992) was an artist from New York City known for her Precisionist paintings.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Elsie Driggs conducted 1985 October 30-December 5, by Francine Tyler, for the Archives of American Art. Driggs recalls her family and early life in New York and Pennsylvania; education; travels to Italy; Pittsburgh steel factory subject matter; her Precisionist and Classicist painting style; influence of Piero della Francesca and Cezanne; Art Students League; WPA; her husband, Lee Gatch; associations with Maurice Sterne, George Bridgman; Charles Demuth; Charles Sheeler; George Luks; Leo Stein; Niles Spencer; Georgia O'Keeffe; J.B. Naumann; Elsa

Schmid; Francis Bacon; Balthus; Ned Bruce, among others. She discusses her paintings and process, influences, materials, and technique; industrial and natural subject matter; New York art galleries, including Frank Rehn Gallery and Staempfli Gallery; art patrons; commissions; murals; and her residency at Yaddo.

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## General

Originally recorded on 7 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 13 digital wav files. Duration is 8 hr., 30 min.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Women art critics
- Women artists
- Women painters

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Occupations:

- Art critics -- New York (State) -- New York
- Curators -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York