



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Virginia Dwan

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Virginia Dwan
Identifier:	AAA.dwan84
Date:	1984 March 21-June 7
Extent:	192 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Dwan, Virginia Stuckey, Charles F.
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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

For information on how to access this interview contact Reference Services.

Conditions Governing Use

Authorization to publish, quote or reproduce must be obtained from Virginia Dwan, c/o of Anne Kovach.

Biographical / Historical

Virginia Dwan (1931-) is an art dealer from New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Virginia Dwan conducted 1984 March 21-June 7, by Charles F. Stuckey, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Dwan speaks of her background and education; her early interest in art; starting her gallery in 1959 in Los Angeles; the early days of her gallery; the development of her circle of artists; early shows; financing the gallery; "shopping" for art and artists; public and critical reaction to her gallery's shows; the decision to go to New York, and getting established there; making decisions about what to show; collectors; the closing of the Dwan Gallery; and her life since. She also relates anecdotes about the creation and execution of Robert Smithson's "Spiral Jetty" and reminisces about numerous artists with whom she was associated, including: Jean Tinguely, Robert Rauschenberg, Yves Klein, Ad Reinhardt, Ed Kienholz, Philip Guston, Arman, Robert Smithson, Franz Kline, Kenneth Snelson, Carl Andre, Sol Lewitt, Michael Heizer, Walter De Maria, and Robert Ryman.

General

Originally recorded on 10 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 19 digital wav file. Duration is 11 hr., 20 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Andre, Carl, 1935-
Arman, 1928-2005
De Maria, Walter, 1935-2013
Dwan Gallery (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Dwan Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
Guston, Philip, 1913-1980
Heizer, Michael, 1944-
Kienholz, Edward, 1927-
Klein, Yves, 1928-1962
Kline, Franz, 1910-1962
LeWitt, Sol, 1928-2007
Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925-2008
Reinhardt, Ad, 1913-1967
Ryman, Robert, 1930-2019
Smithson, Robert
Snelson, Kenneth, 1927-2016
Tinguely, Jean, 1925-

Functions:

Art galleries, Commercial