



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Jacob Alexander Elshin

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Jacob Alexander Elshin
Date:	1965 April 21-22
Identifier:	AAA.elshin65
Creator:	Elshin, Jacob Alexander, 1892-1976 (Interviewee) Bestor, Dorothy K., 1913- (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Extent:	44 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Jacob Alexander Elshin, 1965 April 21-22, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt) Digital Content: Oral history interview with Jacob Elshin, 1965 April 21 and 22, Transcript

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's New Deal and the Arts project, which includes over 400 interviews of artists, administrators, historians, and others involved with the federal government's art programs and the activities of the Farm Security Administration in the 1930s and early 1940s.

Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 3419 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

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.

Biographical / Historical

Jacob Alexander Elshin (1892-1976) was a painter in Seattle, Washington.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Jacob Elshin conducted by Dorothy Bestor on 1965 April 21-22 for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Elshin speaks of his background in Russia and China; moving to Seattle in 1923; his work as a free-lance commercial artist and working as a greeting card artist; painting for the Public Works of Art Project; working on murals for the WPA Federal Art Project; political problems with the WPA; the destruction of some of the work that was produced by the project; some of the injustices he suffered during his years with the WPA. He recalls Robert Bruce Inverarity, Edward Rowan and Mark Tobey.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 3 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 10 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art and state
- Federal aid to the arts
- Mural painting and decoration
- Muralists -- Washington (State) -- Seattle -- Interviews
- Painters -- Washington (State) -- Seattle -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Federal Art Project (Wash.)
- Inverarity, Robert Bruce, 1909-1999
- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
- Public Works of Art Project
- Rowan, Edward Beatty, 1898-1946
- Tobey, Mark