



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Steven Englander

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Steven Englander
Date:	2007 Sept. 7 and Oct. 10
Identifier:	AAA.englan07
Creator:	Englander, Steven (Interviewee) Kirwin, Liza (Interviewer)
Extent:	3 Sound discs (Sound recording, master (2 hr., 35min.); digital; 2 5/8 in.) 53 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Steven Englander, 2007 Sept. 7-Oct. 10, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Steven Englander, 2007 Sept. 7-Oct. 10, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is 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 administrators.

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

Steven Englander (1961-2024) was the director of ABC No Rio, New York, N.Y.

Biographical / Historical

Liza Kirwin is the curator of manuscripts at the Archives of American Art, in Washington, D.C.

Scope and Contents

An interview with Steven Englander conducted 2007 Sept. 7 and Oct. 10, by Liza Kirwin, for the Archives of American Art, in conjunction with Artists' Spaces Archives Project, at ABC No Rio, in New York, N.Y. Englander, the director of ABC No Rio, speaks about his early interest in film; his involvement with Anarchist Switchboard, the Libertarian Book Club, and other anarchist groups; his introduction to ABC No Rio through Matthew Courtney's events there; "baby-sitting" ABC No Rio in 1990 for director Lou Acierno, who went to Hamburg with the exhibition "10 years, Seven Days"; ABC No Rio's managerial tasks; the composition of the board; living at ABC No Rio; the character of the building; other tenants; previous directors Peter Cramer and Jack Waters; ongoing conflicts with the New York City Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (owner of the building); programs and projects; squatters and punks; challenges of educational outreach; conflicts with the board; the organizational structure of ABC No Rio as a "collective of collectives"; ABC No Rio's political activism; the process of purchasing the building; renovation plans; community support; and funding from the New York State Council on the Arts. Englander also recalls Bruce Weber, A Mica Bunker group, Hilly Kristal, Bobby G., Alan Moore, Colab, Paul Castrucci, and others.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Community activists
- Political activists -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- ABC No Rio (New York, N.Y.)
- Acierno, Lou
- Anarchist Switchboard
- Castrucci, Paul
- Collaborative Projects, Inc.
- Courtney, Matthew
- Cramer, Peter Francis
- Kristal, Hilly
- Libertarian Book Club
- Moore, Alan
- New York (N.Y.). Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development
- Waters, Jack
- Weber, Bruce

Occupations:

Political activists -- New York (State) -- New York