



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Martha Mayer Erlebacher

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Martha Mayer Erlebacher
Identifier:	AAA.erleba90
Date:	1990 December 7-1991 January 12
Extent:	155 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Erlebacher, Martha Mayer Hunter, Anne S.
Language:	English

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: 35mm microfilm reel 4777 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Transcript: Patrons must use microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

Martha Mayer Erlebacher (1937-) is a painter from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Wife of sculptor Walter Erlebacher.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Martha Mayer Erlebacher conducted 1990 December 7-1991 January 12, by Anne Schuster Hunter, for the Archives of American Art Philadelphia Project.

Scope and Contents

Erlebacher discusses her family background and education including her studies at Pratt Institute in Industrial Design, meeting future husband Walter Erlebacher; working for the design firm Arthur Wagner Associates; receiving her advanced degree from Pratt; her early optical paintings and the gradual introduction of the figure; studying and teaching herself anatomy along with Walter Erlebacher in the mid 1960s; a 1966 Yaddo fellowship; moving to Philadelphia and her first one person show there in 1966; showing with Robert Schoelkopf; the development of themes and use of mythology in her art; interest in Renaissance painters; Camille Paglia's "Sexual Personae"; and portrait commissions and models.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound tape cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 5 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 41 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Figurative painting -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia -- Interviews
Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Women painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Erlebacher, Walter, 1933-1991
Paglia, Camille, 1947-
Pratt Institute
Schoelkopf, Robert J., 1927-1991