



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Claire Falkenstein

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Claire Falkenstein
Identifier:	AAA.falken95
Date:	1995 Mar. 2-21
Creator:	Falkenstein, Claire, 1908-1997 (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer) Women in the Arts in Southern California Oral History Project
Extent:	3 Sound cassettes (Sound recording (60 min. each); analog) 51 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Claire Falkenstein, 1995 Mar. 2-21, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Claire Falkenstein, 1995 Mar. 2-21, 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. Funding for this interview was provided by the Margery and Harry Kahn Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund of New York.

Available Formats

Transcript available online.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Claire Falkenstein (1908-1997) was a sculptor of Venice, Calif.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Claire Falkenstein conducted 1995 Mar.2-21, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art, Women in the Arts in Southern California Oral History Project, in Falkenstein's studio, Venice, Calif.

Scope and Contents

Falkenstein discusses the evolution of her work; the benefit of being alone to her personal and artistic growth; her "vocabulary of art" which she created while at the University of California at Berkeley; her largest commission at St. Basil's Cathedral in Los Angeles and her views on religion and art; the influence on her of George Lusk, a visiting artist and philosopher from Paris; studying the nude figure and how it taught her personal expression; her family background and introduction to art; teaching in the Bay Area at the California School of Fine Arts; her friendships with other artists there such as Clyfford Still; her reasons for leaving the Bay Area to go to Paris; and meeting Michel Tapie and the Stadler Gallery group. She recalls Karl Appel, Martha Jackson, Clyfford Still, Sam Francis, and others.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Women artists
- Women authors
- Women designers
- Women educators
- Women painters
- Women sculptors

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Appel, Karel, 1921-
- Francis, Sam, 1923-1994
- Galerie Stadler
- Jackson, Martha Kellogg
- Lusk, George, 1902-
- Still, Clyfford, 1904-1980
- Tapie, Michel
- University of California, San Francisco. School of Fine Arts
- Women in the Arts in Southern California Oral History Project

Occupations:

- Authors -- California
- Educators -- California
- Jewelers -- California
- Painters -- California
- Sculptors -- California