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Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Rafael Ferrer

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Rafael Ferrer
Date:	1990 Sept. 19
Identifier:	AAA.ferrer90
Creator:	Ferrer, Rafael (Interviewee) Veloric, Cynthia (Interviewer)
Extent:	4 Sound cassettes (Sound recording) 157 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Rafael Ferrer, 1990 Sept. 19, 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 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

Rafael Ferrer (1933-) is a painter and conceptual artist from Puerto Rico and Philadelphia, Pa.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Rafael Ferrer conducted 1990 Sept. 19, by Cynthia Veloric, for the Archives of American Art Philadelphia Project.

Scope and Contents

Ferrer speaks about his childhood in Puerto Rico; his education in Catholic school and military school; his interest in music including his professional work as a drummer in Latin jazz bands both in Puerto Rico and New York City; studies at Syracuse University and the University of Puerto Rico; his interest in painting; meeting the surrealist Eugenio Granell and Granell's influence, including Ferrer's involvement in the 1950's with surrealists in Puerto Rico and Europe, and a discussion of his feelings on Dada and surrealism; the shift toward conceptual and process art in the 1960's; moving to Philadelphia in the 1960's, teaching at the Philadelphia College of Art (now the University of the Arts) and exhibiting at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; installations and exhibits in New York City in the late 1960's and 1970's, including his twenty year association with the Nancy Hoffman Gallery; the deflected fountain piece at the Philadelphia Museum of Art; the transition to handmade art works and then to painting and figurative works partially inspired by Alex Katz; collectors Sydney and Frances Lewis; and several commissions.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Study and teaching -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
- Art and music
- Art, Modern -- 20th century -- United States
- Conceptual art
- Figurative art
- Installations (Art)
- Latino and Latin American artists
- Surrealism

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Granell, Eugenio Fernández, 1912-
- Lewis, Frances
- Lewis, Sydney
- Nancy Hoffman Gallery
- Philadelphia College of Art
- Philadelphia College of Art -- Faculty
- Syracuse University -- Students

Occupations:

- Conceptual artists -- Puerto Rico -- Interviews
- Conceptual artists -- United States -- Interviews
- Painters -- United States -- Interviews