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Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Llyn Foulkes

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Llyn Foulkes
Identifier:	AAA.foulke97
Date:	1997 June 25-1998 Dec. 2
Creator:	Foulkes, Llyn, 1934- (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
Extent:	7 Sound cassettes (Sound recording, master (6 hrs., 25 min.); analog) 104 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Llyn Foulkes, 1997 June 25-1998 Dec. 2, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Llyn Foulkes, 1997 June 25-1998 Dec. 2, 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.

Biographical / Historical

Llyn Foulkes (1934-) is an assemblage artist in Los Angeles, Calif.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Llyn Foulkes conducted 1997 June 25-1998 Dec. 2, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art, in Foulkes home and studio, Los Angeles, Calif.

Scope and Contents

The interview begins with a discussion of Foulkes's move to downtown Los Angeles and "The Brewery" ["The Brewery" was formerly a working brewery that has been transformed into living/studio space for artists] from Topanga. A long discussion takes place about this being where he belongs as opposed to the fashionable westside. The interview continues with a discussion of divorce, his wife, narcissism, and the incorporation of his recent life in his current assemblage work. He discusses lessons learned from the Old Masters, and Wilhem de Kooning; issues of abstraction vs. representation; and subject vs. style. He proceeds with a

discussion about his ideas on music, rock and roll, jazz, black music, and the influence of Spike Jones that led to his own rock group "Rubber Band." There follows a lengthy discussion of the Ferus Gallery, Walter Hopps, Maurice Tuchman, Henry Hopkins, Rolf Nelson, John Coplans, and Christopher Knight. He also discusses Los Angeles as the center of popular art and culture. He reflects on his kinship with Wallace Berman and the spirituality they shared; his isolation as an outsider; his regrets about not responding to others (including Berman and George Herms), seeing it as a lost opportunity to participate more fully in the local art world and cultivating supportive relationships. The political content of his work was also covered at some length.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Philosophy
- Art -- Technique
- Painters -- California -- Los Angeles -- Interviews
- Philosophy

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings