



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Alfred Victor Frankenstein

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Alfred Victor Frankenstein
<b>Date:</b>	1965 Nov. 9
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.franke65
<b>Creator:</b>	Frankenstein, Alfred V. (Alfred Victor), 1906-1981 (Interviewee) McChesney, Mary Fuller (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Sound tape reel (Sound recording; 5 in.) 21 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Alfred Victor Frankenstein, 1965 Nov. 9, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a> <a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Alfred Victor Frankenstein, 1965 November 9, Transcript</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's New Deal and the Arts project, which includes over 400 interviews of artists, administrators, historians, and others involved with the federal government's art programs and the activities of the Farm Security Administration in the 1930s and early 1940s.

### Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 3949 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### 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

Alfred Victor Frankenstein (1906-1981) was an art historian from San Francisco, Calif.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Alfred Victor Frankenstein conducted 1965 Nov. 9, by Mary McChesney, for the Archives of American Art's New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project.

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## Scope and Contents

Frankenstein speaks of the WPA mural project and its value; problems with the project; Hans Hofmann's influence; the influence of surrealism; the Coit Tower murals and the controversy surrounding them; the easel painting project and its value; political problems with the Federal Art Project; the project's relevance to current problems; art in architecture; the Index of American Design. He recalls Beniamino Bufano.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art and state
- Coit Memorial Tower (San Francisco, Calif.)
- Federal aid to the arts
- Mural painting and decoration

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Bufano, Beniamino, 1898-1970
- Federal Art Project (Calif.)
- Index of American Design
- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project

Occupations:

- Art historians -- California -- Interviews