



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Helen Frankenthaler

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Helen Frankenthaler
Date:	1968
Identifier:	AAA.franke69
Creator:	Frankenthaler, Helen, 1928-2011 (Interviewee) Rose, Barbara (Interviewer)
Extent:	1 Sound tape reel (Sound recording; 7 in.) 41 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Helen Frankenthaler, 1968, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Helen Frankenthaler, 1968, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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.

Restrictions

Sound quality is very poor.

Biographical / Historical

Helen Frankenthaler (1928- 2011) was a painter from New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Helen Frankenthaler conducted 1968, by Barbara Rose, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Frankenthaler speaks of studying art at Bennington College with Paul Feeley; the influence of Picasso and Kandinsky on her work; Clement Greenberg and his relationship with Frankenthaler and other artists; studying with Hans Hofmann and Rufino Tamayo; her childhood; meeting Robert Motherwell; the New York School; and Jackson Pollock, his paintings, technique, and influence on her. She also describes her

technique, painting on the floor, titles, and color versus drawing. Frankenthaler recalls Grace Hartigan, Friedel Dzubas, Willem de Kooning, and others.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Painting -- Technique
- Women artists
- Women painters
- Women sculptors

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Bennington College
- De Kooning, Willem, 1904-1997
- Dzubas, Friedel, 1915-1994
- Feeley, Paul, 1910-1966
- Greenberg, Clement, 1909-1994
- Hartigan, Grace
- Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966
- Kandinsky, Wassily, 1866-1944
- Motherwell, Robert
- Picasso, Pablo, 1881-1973
- Pollock, Jackson, 1912-1956
- Tamayo, Rufino, 1899-

Occupations:

- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
- Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York