



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to "A Position Paper Directed to Revitalizing a Fine Modern Tradition" by Ed Garman in the Archives of American Art

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	A position paper directed to revitalizing a fine modern tradition / by Ed Garman
Date:	1993
Identifier:	AAA.garmed2
Creator:	Garman, Ed
Extent:	0.01 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	"A position paper directed to revitalizing a fine modern tradition" by painter and author Ed Garman measures 0.01 linear feet and is dated 1993. The collection consists of a single copy of Garman's essay in which he creates a model for the search for the ideal in modern art.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by art dealer Martin Diamond in 1993.

Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds the Ed Garman autobiography (1998) and an oral history interview with Ed Garman (1998 Mar. 25-30).

Available Formats

The collection was digitized in 2023 and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed on reel 4994 (frames 1058-1122) after receipt. The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Stephanie Ashley in 2023 and was digitized in 2023.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

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Biographical / Historical

Painter and author Ed Garman (1914-2004) was active in New Mexico and California and was one of the chief spokespersons for the Transcendental Painting Group (1938-1942).

Based in New Mexico, the group's manifesto stated its purpose "to carry painting beyond the appearance of the physical world, through new concepts of space, color, light and design, to imaginative realms that are idealistic and spiritual." Members sought to push the boundaries of art beyond the traditional and representative, towards the abstract and non-objective.

As well as being the group's chief spokesperson, Garman was also the archivist and chronicler for the Transcendental Painting Group and wrote a historical art study of member Raymond Jonson's work. He wrote the essay "A position paper directed to revitalizing a fine modern tradition" at the age of 79, stating it was the result of his "attempts to understand art in relation to life and grow as an outward looking, spiritual minded humanist."

Scope and Contents

"A position paper directed to revitalizing a fine modern tradition" by Ed Garman measures 0.01 linear feet and is dated 1993. The collection consists of a single copy of Garman's essay in which he creates a model for the search for the ideal in modern art. Garman examines the work and ideas of artists Robert Delaunay, Wassily Kandinsky, Frantisek Kupka, Kasimir Malevich, and Piet Mondrian as examples of artist-prophets who achieved the ideal in painting and who transcended the merely physical in art. Without mentioning the Transcendental Painting Group, Garman establishes the group's position on art and links it to the ideals of these past modernists.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Names:

Transcendental Painting Group (N.M.)

Occupations:

Authors -- California
Authors -- New Mexico
Painters -- California
Painters -- New Mexico

Container Listing

Series 1: "A position paper directed to revitalizing a fine modern tradition" by Ed Garman, 1993

0.01 Linear feet

Folder 1

[Essay, "A position paper directed to revitalizing a fine modern tradition" by Ed Garman, 1993](#)

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