



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Herbert Gentry

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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Herbert Gentry
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.gentry91
<b>Date:</b>	1991 May 23
<b>Creator:</b>	Gentry, Herbert, 1919-2003 (Interviewee) Kirwin, Liza (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Sound cassettes (Sound recording) 31 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Herbert Gentry, 1991 May 23, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Herbert Gentry, 1991 May 23, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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.

### Available Formats

Transcript available online.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Herbert Gentry (1919-2003) was a painter from New York, N.Y., and Malmo, Sweden. Gentry was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., and moved to Harlem as a young child. After serving in WWII, he went to Paris to study painting. In 1948 he opened a club and gallery in Montparnasse that featured jazz and art. Gentry moved to Sweden in 1959 but kept his studio in Paris, and beginning in 1972, New York City.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Herbert Gentry conducted 1991 May 23, by Liza Kirwin, for the Archives of American Art.

## Scope and Contents

Gentry recalls his childhood in Harlem; musicians he met and was influenced by, including Duke Ellington and Count Bassie; studies at New York University and at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes and L'Academie de la Grand Chaumiere under the G.I. Bill; his jazz club/gallery in Montparnasse; friendships with Romare Bearden and Beauford Delaney; early exhibitions; his marriages; identification with the artist's group COBRA; and studios in Sweden and New York.

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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:

- African American artists
- African American painters
- Art and music
- Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- France
- Painting, Modern -- 20th century -- United States

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Bearden, Romare, 1911-1988
- Cobra (Association)
- Delaney, Beauford, 1901-

### Occupations:

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