



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Ted Gilien

Archives of American Art  
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# Table of Contents

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

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Ted Gilien
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.gilien65
<b>Date:</b>	1965 Mar. 3
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Sound tape reels (Sound recording; 3 in.) 35 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Creator:</b>	Gilien, Ted, 1914-1967 McGlynn, Betty Hoag New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
<b>Language:</b>	English

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This interview 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.

### Restrictions

Use requires an appointment.

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## Biographical / Historical

Ted Gilien (1914-1967) was a painter and muralist in New York, N.Y. and Los Angeles, Calif.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Ted Gilien conducted 1965 Mar. 3, by Betty Hoag, for the Archives of American Art. Gilien speaks of his background and education; getting on the WPA Federal Art Project; starting out as an assistant mural painter on Ellis Island; his military service in World War II as a combat artist; working in New York City and then in California after World War II; experimenting in screenwriting and novel writing; recurring themes in his paintings; his feelings about the FAP; art criticism; the politics of government support for the arts; camaraderie among artists during the WPA years. He recalls Leonard Bocour and Jack Levine.

## General

An unrelated interview of Charles White (3/9/65) conducted by B. Hoag is also on one tape.

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## General

An interview of F. J. Schwankovsky (3/1/65) conducted by B. Hoag is also on one tape.

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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
- Art and war
- Federal aid to the arts
- Mural painting and decoration
- Muralists -- California -- Interviews
- Muralists -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Painters -- California -- Interviews
- Painters -- New York (State) -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Bocour, Leonard, 1910-1993
- Federal Art Project (New York, N.Y.)
- Levine, Jack, 1915-2010
- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project