



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Sam Gilliam

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Sam Gilliam
Date:	1984 Sept. 18 1984 Sept. 18
Identifier:	AAA.gillia84
Creator:	Gilliam, Sam, Jr. (1933-2022) (Interviewee) Young, Kenneth, 1933- (Interviewer)
Extent:	1 Sound cassette (Sound recording) 28 Pages (Transcript) 1 Sound cassette (Sound recording) 28 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Sam Gilliam, 1984 Sept. 18, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Sam Gilliam, 1984 Sept. 18, 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.

Available Formats

Transcript available on line.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Sam Gilliam (1933-2022) was a painter from Washington, D.C.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Sam Gilliam conducted 1984 Sept. 18, by Kenneth Young, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Gilliam speaks of his childhood in the South; discovering his talent and his early attraction to art; his education at the University of Louisville; how his philosophy of art developed; the influence of music; techniques and materials; early shows of his work; Washington artists he knew. He recalls Thomas Downing and Kenneth Noland.

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
- Painting -- Equipment and supplies
- Painting -- Technique

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Downing, Thomas, 1928-1985
- Noland, Kenneth, 1924-2010
- University of Louisville -- Students

Occupations:

- Painters -- Washington (D.C.)