



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Sidney Gordin

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Sidney Gordin
<b>Date:</b>	1965 Sept. 2
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.gordin65
<b>Creator:</b>	Gordin, Sidney, 1918-1996 (Interviewee) Seckler, Dorothy Gees, 1910-1994 (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	23 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Sidney Gordin, 1965 Sept. 2, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Sidney Gordin, 1965 Sept. 2, 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 others.

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## Biographical / Historical

Sidney Gordin (1918-1996) was a sculptor and educator from Berkeley, Calif.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Sidney Gordin conducted 1965 Sept. 2, by Dorothy Seckler, for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

Gordin speaks of immigrating to the United States from Shanghai, China in 1922; being the class artist in grade school; attending Brooklyn Technical High School; studying at the WPA art school at the Brooklyn Museum for a summer; attending the Cooper Union School of Art; encountering Cubism; working as a commercial artist and making cartoons; teaching at the Pratt Institute; and alternating, as inspiration strikes, between painting and sculpture; and Constructivist philosophy. Gordin also mentions Ralph Rosenborg, Tom Eldred, Carol and Wallace Harrison, Edward Alden Jewell, Pablo Picasso, Byron Thomas, Morris Kantor, Hans Hofmann, Paul Clay, Jackson Pollock, and others.

## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 1 min.

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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, American  
Sculptors -- California -- Berkeley -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Names:

Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art -- Students  
Harrison, Wallace, 1900-  
Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966  
Jewell, Edward Alden, 1888-1947  
Kantor, Morris, 1896-1974  
Picasso, Pablo, 1881-1973  
Pollock, Jackson, 1912-1956  
Pratt Institute -- Faculty  
Rosenborg, Ralph M., 1913-1992  
Thomas, Byron, 1902-1978

### Occupations:

Art teachers -- California -- Berkeley -- Interviews  
Painters -- California -- Berkeley