



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Boris Gorelick

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-7950  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

## Table of Contents

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Collection Overview .....        |   |
| Administrative Information ..... | 1 |
| Biographical / Historical .....  | 1 |
| Scope and Contents .....         | 1 |
| Names and Subjects .....         |   |

## Collection Overview

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b>      | Archives of American Art  |
| <b>Title:</b>           | Oral history interview with Boris Gorelick  |
| <b>Date:</b>            | 1964 May 20   |
| <b>Identifier:</b>      | AAA.goreli64  |
| <b>Creator:</b>         | Gorelick, Boris, 1912- (Interviewee)<br>McGlynn, Betty Hoag (Interviewer)<br>New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project |
| <b>Extent:</b>          | 1 Sound tape reel (Sound recording: (45 min.); 5 in.)<br>18 Pages (Transcript)  |
| <b>Language:</b>        | English .   |
| <b>Digital Content:</b> | <a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Boris Gorelick, 1964 May 20, Transcript</a>                    |

---

## 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.

### Available Formats

Transcript available on line at <http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/oralhistories/transcripts/goreli64.htm>

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Designer, mural painter; Los Angeles, Calif.

---

## Scope and Contents

An interview of Boris Gorelick conducted 1964 May 20, by Betty Hoag for the Archives of American Art's New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project.

## Scope and Contents

Gorelick speaks of his background in Russia and New York; attending the Art Students League; the formation of the Artists' Union; working on murals and stained glass for the WPA Federal Art Project; the influence of the Mexican muralists on FAP murals; Art Front magazine, and the American Artists' Congress. He recalls Ben Shahn and Arshile Gorky.

---

## General

Sound quality is poor.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

Designers -- California -- Los Angeles -- Interviews  
Federal aid to the arts  
Mural painting and decoration

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Names:

American Artists' Congress  
Artists' Union (New York, N.Y.)  
Federal Art Project  
Gorky, Arshile, 1904-1948  
New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project  
Shahn, Ben, 1898-1969

### Occupations:

Muralists -- California -- Los Angeles -- Interviews

### Preferred Titles:

*Art front*