



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Jack Greenbaum scrapbook and interviews

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Jack Greenbaum scrapbook and interviews
Identifier:	AAA.greejack
Date:	1961-1978
Creator:	Greenbaum, Jack
Extent:	0.3 Linear feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated 1978 by Dr. Jack Greenbaum.

Available Formats

Scrapbook: 35mm microfilm reel 1425 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Microfilmed portion (scrapbook) must be consulted on microfilm. Use of untranscribed interviews requires an appointment and is limited to AAA; Washington, D.C. office.

Biographical / Historical

Jack Greenbaum: collector and dentist; New York, N.Y. and an intimate friend of Willem de Kooning, Franz Kline, and Hugo Weber. He did their dental work and was given their paintings in payment.

Scope and Contents

Scrapbook compiled by Greenbaum relating to various artists; and untranscribed interviews, including two of Herman Somberg conducted by Greenbaum, ca. 1965; two of Greenbaum conducted by Vivienne Wechter, 1961 and 1978; and one of Greenbaum conducted by Hilda Weltman, 1968.

Scope and Contents

The scrapbook contains photographs of Greenbaum and artists George Segal, Miles Forst, and Willem de Kooning; photographs of works of art by Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning, Chryssa, Isamu Noguchi, Will Barnet, Barbara Hepworth, and Ilya Bolotowsky; sketches by Herman Somberg and Henry Pearson; a sketch of Greenbaum by Hugo Weber; a catalog, "The 30's -- Painting in New York"; clippings; and printed miscellany.

Scope and Contents

The interviews of Somberg conducted by Greenbaum include one (5 5" tapes) in which Somberg discusses Pop and Op movements; artist's motivations; realism vs. reality and tradition vs. modern art; the elements of structure, texture, composition and pigment in modern art; social commentary in painting; "pure painting"; Jackson Pollock, Franz Kline, and Willem de Kooning; happenings; and Somberg's disdain for art history. In the second interview (1 5" tape), painter Raymond Hendler is also present; they discuss their favorite television shows, an Op exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, and the meanings of the words "good," "like," "taste," and opinion" in relation to contemporary art.

Scope and Contents

The interviews of Greenbaum, include: one (on 2 5" tapes), conducted by Hilda Weltman, July 13 & 20, 1968 in which Greenbaum speaks of the conflicts and opportunities of American artists and his views on Pop art, strobe lights, civil rights, religion, existentialism, the Catholic Church, Vietnam, technology, hippies, and demonstrations at Columbia University; one (on 1 7" tape) conducted by Vivienne Wechter, 1961 wherein Greenbaum speaks of collecting, art and affordability, abstract art, the arrangement of paintings on walls, his collection, and artists as personalities independent of their aesthetic; and the third, conducted in 1978, also by Wechter (on 1 cassette) for a radio program entitled "Today's World" on FM radio station WFUV.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Collectors and collecting
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Scrapbooks
Sound recordings

Names:

De Kooning, Willem, 1904-1997
Forst, Miles, 1923-
Hendler, Raymond, 1923-
Kline, Franz, 1910-1962
Pearson, Henry, 1914-2006
Pollock, Jackson, 1912-1956
Segal, George, 1924-2000
Somberg, Herman
Weber, Hugo, 1918-1971
Wechter, Vivienne Thaul
Weltman, Hilda

Occupations:

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