



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Balcomb Greene

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Balcomb Greene
Date:	1972 Mar. 13
Identifier:	AAA.greene72
Creator:	Greene, Balcomb, 1904-1990 (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	2 Sound tape reels (Sound recording (3 hours 30 min.); 5 in.) 56 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is 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.

Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 4210 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Transcript: Patrons must use microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

Balcomb Greene (1904-1990) was a painter from New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Balcomb Greene conducted 1972 Mar. 13, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art. Greene speaks of his background as the son of a minister and growing up in various parish towns in Iowa; attending Syracuse University as a psychology major; beginning to draw and write; teaching at Dartmouth College; going to Paris in 1930-1931; his involvement with the Federal Art Project; getting his Master's at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University; teaching at Carnegie Institute; the American Abstract Artists group; working with models and photographs; the development of his own painting; collages;

Scope and Contents

color theory; his change from abstract to representational painting; figure and landscape painting; working with a spray gun; his painting technique and his use of light; his dislike for acrylics; style and personalization in art; exhibitions at New Art Circle, Bertha Schaefer Gallery, the Saidenberg Gallery, the Forum Gallery and others; going to Paris in 1960; and the contemporary art scene. He recalls J.W. Swinden, J.B. Neumann and Bertha Schaefer.

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:

Painters -- New York (State) -- Interviews
Sculptors -- United States -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

American Abstract Artists
Neumann, J. B. (Israel Ber)
Schaefer, Bertha, 1895-1971
Swinden, J. W.