



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with James Harithas

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with James Harithas
Date:	1979 Mar. 16-May 17
Identifier:	AAA.harith79
Creator:	Harithas, James (Interviewee) Levy, Sandra Curtis (Interviewer)
Extent:	1 Sound tape reel (Sound recording; 7 in.) 106 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with James Harithas, 1979 Mar. 16-May 17, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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.

Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 3752 available for use through interlibrary loan.

Biographical / Historical

James Harithas (1932-) is a museum director and painter from Houston, Tex.

Scope and Contents

An interview of James Harithas conducted 1979 Mar. 16- 1979 May 17, by Sandra Curtis Levy, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Harithas speaks of his youth in Maine; his educational background and early interest in art; the first exhibit he was involved in; his first curatorial position; going to work for the Corcoran and becoming director there; some of the Corcoran's important exhibits; teaching at Hunter College; controversial activities he involved himself in; becoming curator at the Syracuse Museum; political programs and activities at Syracuse; moving to Houston and becoming curator of the Contemporary Arts Museum there; fundraising problems; the visual

arts and their relationship to the media; ethnic exhibits; government support for the arts; trends in museums and collecting; Houston as an art community.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, American
Museum directors -- United States -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Functions:

Art museums -- United States