



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with John Held, Jr

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with John Held, Jr
<b>Date:</b>	2017 September 28-October 3
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.held17
<b>Creator:</b>	Held, John, 1947- (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	9 Items (Sound recording: 9 sound files (5 hr., 4 min.); digital, wav) 131 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with John Held, Jr, 2017 September 28-October 3, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with John Held, Jr, 2017 September 28-October 3, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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 administrators.

### Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds the papers of John Held.

### Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

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## Biographical / Historical

John Held (1947-) is a rubberstamp artist, participant in the international mail art network, activist, performance artist, collector of mail art, and a fine arts librarian in San Francisco, California. Interviewer Paul Karlstrom (1941-) is a writer and art historian in San Francisco, California.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview with John Held, Jr. conducted 2017 September 28 and October 3, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art, at Karlstrom's home in San Francisco, California.

## System Details

Recorded on Tascam DR 100MKII R000326.

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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:

- Librarians -- California -- San Francisco -- Interviews
- Mail art
- Performance artists -- California -- San Francisco -- Interviews
- Political activists -- California -- San Francisco -- Interviews
- Rubber stamps

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings