



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Ben Heller

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Ben Heller
Date:	1973 Jan. 8
Identifier:	AAA.heller73
Creator:	Heller, Ben, 1925- (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	1 Sound tape reel (Sound recording; 5 in.) 54 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Ben Heller, 1973 Jan. 8, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' 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.

Biographical / Historical

Ben Heller (1925-) is an art collector, patron, and dealer from New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Ben Heller conducted 1973 Jan. 8, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art. Heller speaks of his youth and education in New York; his early interest in music and literature; starting his painting and sculpture collection; the relationship between artists and collectors; art movements and the impact of collectors on them; art as a financial investment; the changes in his collecting interests; becoming a dealer, and some of the problems involved; the lack of financial support for art institutions; and traveling exhibitions of his collection.

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 -- New York (State) -- Interviews

Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
Art patrons -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings