



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Joseph H. Hirshhorn

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Joseph H. Hirshhorn
Identifier:	AAA.hirshh76
Date:	1976 Dec. 16
Creator:	Hirshhorn, Joseph H. (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	2 Sound tape reels (Sound recording; 5 in.) 48 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Joseph H. Hirshhorn, 1976 Dec. 16, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Joseph H. Hirshhorn, 1976 Dec. 16, 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.

Available Formats

Transcript available on line.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Joseph H. Hirshhorn (1889-1981) was an art collector from New York, N.Y. Hirshhorn agreed to donate his collection of modern and contemporary art to the Smithsonian in 1966. The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden opened in 1974.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Joseph H. Hirshhorn conducted 1976 Dec. 16, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Hirshhorn discusses his childhood; working as a stockbroker; his first art acquisition of two Durer engravings; buying Barbizon paintings; his relationship with the A.C.A. Gallery, Milton Avery, David Burliuk, the Collectors Club, Willem de Kooning, Louis M. Eilshemius, Lloyd Goodrich, Edith Gregor Halpert, Abram Lerner, Louise Nevelson, and others. Hirshhorn also describes the alternative plans he considered before giving his collection to the Smithsonian Institution.

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, Modern -- 20th century

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Avery, Milton, 1885-1965
Burliuk, David, 1882-1967
De Kooning, Willem, 1904-1997
Eilshemius, Louis M. (Louis Michel), 1864-1941
Lerner, Abram
Smithsonian Institution