



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Henry Tyler Hopkins

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Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Table of Contents

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

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Henry Tyler Hopkins
Date:	1980 Oct. 24-Dec. 17
Identifier:	AAA.hopkin80
Creator:	Hopkins, Henry, 1928-2009 (Interviewee) Chamberlin, Wesley (Interviewer)
Extent:	7 Sound cassettes (Sound recording) 90 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Henry Tyler Hopkins, 1980 Oct. 24-Dec. 17, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Henry Tyler Hopkins, 1980 Oct. 24-Dec. 17, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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

Henry Hopkins (1928-2009) was a director of San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Henry Tyler Hopkins conducted 1980 Oct. 24-1980 Dec. 17, by Wesley Chamberlin, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Hopkins speaks of his childhood and family background in Idaho; his education in Idaho and at the Art Institute of Chicago; his U.S. Army service as a photographer; the influence upon him of the early abstract expressionists; moving to California and getting involved in the museum community; working as a curator at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and developing its collection of modern works; becoming the director of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the value of art appreciation over art entertainment; problems with corporate and federal support; the psychological aspects of Jackson Pollack's work; pop art; the Bay area art scene; and the role of art museums. He recalls Shirley and Walter Hopps, Ed Ruscha, Joe Goode, Larry Bell, Ed Bereal, Ron Miyashiro, Jackson Pollack, Joseph Cornell, Billy Al Bengston, Kenny Price, Robert Irwin, William Copley, Franz Kline, and many others.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Abstract expressionism
- Art -- California -- San Francisco
- Museum directors -- California -- San Francisco -- Interviews
- Pop art

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Art Institute of Chicago -- Student
- Bell, Larry, 1939-
- Bengston, Billy Al
- Bereal, Edmund, 1937-
- Blum, Shirley Neilsen.
- Copley, William Nelson, 1919-1996
- Cornell, Joseph
- Fort Worth Art Museum
- Goode, Joe, 1937-
- Hopps, Walter
- Irwin, Robert, 1928-
- Kline, Franz, 1910-1962
- Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- Miyashiro, Ron
- Pollock, Jackson, 1912-1956
- Price, Kenneth, 1935-2012
- Ruscha, Edward
- San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

Functions:

- Art museums -- California -- San Francisco