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Oral history interview with Luchita Hurtado

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Luchita Hurtado
Date:	1994 May 1-1995 Apr. 13
Identifier:	AAA.hurtad94
Creator:	Hurtado, Luchita, 1920-2020 (Interviewee) Winter, Amy H. (Amy Harriet) (Interviewer) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
Extent:	4 Sound cassettes (Sound recording (4 hrs., 15 min.); analog) 120 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Luchita Hurtado, 1994 May 1-1995 Apr. 13, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Luchita Hurtado, 1994 May 1-1995 Apr. 13, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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. Funding for this interview was provided by the Margery and Harry Kahn Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund of New York.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Luchita Hurtado (1920-2020) was a painter from Santa Monica, Calif. and Arroyo Seco, N.M. She was born in Caracas, Venezuela.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Venezuelan born American painter, Luchita Hurtado, conducted 1994 May 1-1995 Apr. 13, by Amy Winter and Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art, Women in the Arts in Southern California Oral History Project.

Scope and Contents

1994 May 1 session: The interview focuses on Hurtado's family background; years with her second husband, artist and collector Wolfgang Paalen; the surrealist artist group, Dynaton, living and traveling in Mexico with Paalen, moving to San Francisco and her relationships with artists, collectors; influences on her painting; and Surrealism. Among those mentioned are Rufino and Olga Tamayo, Isamu Noguchi, Gordon Onslow Ford, Jacqueline Johnson, Frida Kahlo, Remedios Varos, Leonora Carrington, Edward James, Lucienne Bloch, Stephen Dimitroff, Grace McCann Morley, Sybil Moholy-Nagy, Jack and Frank Stauffacher, James Broughton, Rene d'Harnoncourt, Julius Karlebach, Herbert (Joe) Spinden, and Robert Motherwell.

Scope and Contents

April 13, 1995 session: Hurtado continues with a focus on the California years, discussing her reasons for settling there, the Dynaton group and her circle of friends; her third husband, Lee Mullican; the birth of her son Matthew Mullican; her work; California and Mexican imagery; importance of experience and senses, particularly smell, to her creativity and work; importance of her family; and difficulties of pursuing art as a career for a woman, wife and mother; and life in Taos, N.M. She recalls Jean Varda, Shiela and Giles Healey, Mary and Paul Wescher, and Joyce Kozloff.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Latino and Latin American artists
- Surrealism
- Women artists
- Women painters

Names:

- Bloch, Lucienne, 1909-1999
- D'Harnoncourt, Rene, 1901-1968
- Kozloff, Joyce
- Moholy-Nagy, Sibyl, 1905-
- Mullican, Lee, 1919-1998
- Mullican, Matt, 1951-
- Noguchi, Isamu, 1904-1988
- Paalen, Wolfgang, 1907-
- Varda, Jean
- Wescher, Mary
- Wescher, Paul, 1894-

Occupations:

- Painters -- California
- Painters -- New Mexico