



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Shirley Jaffe

This interview is part of the Elizabeth Murray Oral History of Women in the Visual Arts Project, funded by the A G Foundation.

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Table of Contents

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

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Shirley Jaffe
Identifier:	AAA.jaffe10
Date:	2010 Sept. 27-28
Creator:	Jaffe, Shirley, 1923-2016 (Interviewee) Berman, Avis (Interviewer) Elizabeth Murray Oral History of Women in the Visual Arts Project
Extent:	1 Item (Sound recording, master: 1 compact disc, 3 WMA files (4 hr., 28 min.); digital; 2 5/8 in.) 94 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .

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.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Shirley Jaffe (1923-2016) was an abstract painter and sculptor in Paris, France. Avis Berman (1949-) is a scholar in New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Shirley Jaffe conducted 2010 Sept. 27 and 28, by Avis Berman, for the Archives of American Art's Elizabeth Murray Oral History of Women in the Visual Arts project, at Jaffe's studio, in Paris, France.

Scope and Contents

Jaffe speaks of living with her family in Elizabeth, NJ and Brooklyn, NY; attending Abraham Lincoln High School, Parsons School of Design, Brooklyn College, and The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art; visiting the Brooklyn Museum, the Museum of Non-Objective Art (now the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum), and The Museum of Modern Art; living on St. Mark's Place and in Brooklyn, NY ; her

marriage in 1949 to Irving Jaffe; moving to Washington, DC and visiting The Philips Collection; moving to and adjusting to life in France; socializing with American artists in Paris, France; moving between New York and France; working and living in Berlin, Germany with a grant from the Ford Foundation; living independently in France; visiting the cathedrals and galleries in Italy; teaching undergraduate students; the evolution of her paintings and technique; her painting process and use of cellophane; painting on glass; murals; and her exhibitions and commissions. Jaffe also recalls Leon Friend, Morris Kantor, Pierre Bonnard, Karl Knaths, Max and Esther Gould, Jules Olitski, Michael Goldberg, Joan Mitchell, Beauford Delaney, Sam Francis, Janice Biala, Hermine Tworikov Ford, Edwin Dickinson, Jean-Paul Riopelle, Kimber Smith, Jean Fournier, Al Held, Haywood Bill Rivers, Milton Glaser, and others.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Expatriate artists -- France -- Paris
- Painting -- Equipment and supplies
- Painting -- Technique
- Women artists
- Women painters
- Women sculptors

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Biala, Janice, 1904-2000
- Brooklyn Museum
- Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art -- Students
- Delaney, Beauford, 1901-
- Dickinson, Edwin Walter, 1891-1978
- Elizabeth Murray Oral History of Women in the Visual Arts Project
- Ford, Hermine
- Francis, Sam, 1923-1994
- Goldberg, Michael, 1924-2007
- Mitchell, Joan, 1926-1992
- Phillips Collection
- Riopelle, Jean Paul
- Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

Occupations:

- Art dealers -- France -- Paris
- Painters -- France -- Paris
- Sculptors -- France -- Paris