



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Irma Jaffe Interviews, 1965-1977, in the Archives of American Art

Christopher DeMairo

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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>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Irma Jaffe interviews
<b>Date:</b>	1965-1977
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.jaffirma
<b>Creator:</b>	Jaffe, Irma B.
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Linear foot
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The records of art historian Irma Jaffe date from 1965-1977, measure 1 linear foot, and contain interviews, some transcripts, and a letter. The recordings include interviews conducted by Jaffe for her book <i>The Sculpture of Leonard Baskin</i> (1980), and recordings made for the radio program "Art News and Interviews," WFMU radio, Upsala College, East Orange, New Jersey.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The Irma Jaffe interviews were donated in two separate installments. The Hans Hofmann, Max Kozloff, and "Alienation and Commitment" panel discussion recordings and transcripts were donated in 1967 by Sam Jaffe, Irma Jaffe's husband. The remainder of the collection was donated by Irma Jaffe in 1985.

### Available Formats

All of the sound recordings in the collection were digitized for research access and are available at Archives of American Art offices.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid was written by Christopher DeMairo in 2019.

### Preferred Citation

Irma Jaffe interviews, 1965-1977. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment, and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Irma Jaffe (1917-2018) was an art historian in New York, New York, who wrote about European Renaissance, Baroque, and 19th and 20th century American art. She received her PhD from Columbia University, and then served as a research curator for the Whitney Museum. She later became a professor at Fordham University, and was founder and first chair of the university's Music and Art History Department.

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## Scope and Contents

The records of art historian Irma Jaffe date from 1965-1977, measure 1 linear foot, and contain interviews, some transcripts, and a letter. The recordings include interviews conducted by Jaffe for her book *The Sculpture of Leonard Baskin* (1980), and recordings made for the radio program "Art News and Interviews," WFMU radio, Upsala College, East Orange, New Jersey.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 2 series.

- Series 1: Interviews, 1965-1977 (Box 1, 0.9 linear feet)
  - Series 2: Correspondence, 1977 (Box 1, 0.1 linear feet)
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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Names:

Baskin, Leonard, 1922-2000

### Occupations:

Art historians -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Interviews, 1965-1977

#### 0.9 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The recordings include interviews conducted by Jaffe for her book *The Sculpture of Leonard Baskin* (1980), and recordings made for the radio program "Art News and Interviews," WFMU radio, Upsala College, East Orange, New Jersey. The radio series included interviews, panel discussions, and a sound recording made at the exhibition opening for the 1965-1966 Whitney Annual. Panel discussions include "Alienation and Commitment," with Martin Tucker, Robert Spector, Robert Indiana, Charles Hinman, and Henry Pearson, and the Spiral Group, including Romare Bearden, Alvin Hollingsworth (members of Spiral), and Jeanne Siegel.

Box 1, Folder 1-3	Leonard Baskin, 1977 July 3 - September 7 14 Sound cassettes
Box 1, Folder 4	Chaim Gross, 1977 February 13 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 5-6	Hans Hofmann, 1966 January 13 1 Sound cassette Notes: Includes transcript
Box 1, Folder 7	Sidney Kaplan, 1977 July 26 1 Sound cassette
	"Art News and Interviews," WFMU radio, Upsala College, East Orange, New Jersey
Box 1, Folder 8-9	Irma Jaffe moderating a panel discussion, "Alienation and Commitment", circa 1965-1975 2 Sound tape reels Notes: Includes transcript
Box 1, Folder 10	Peter Fingesten, 1966 January 16 1 Sound tape reel
Box 1, Folder 11	Nadia Gould, circa 1966 1 Sound tape reel
Box 1, Folder 12-13	Max Kozloff, 1965 December 16 1 Sound tape reel Notes: Includes transcript
Box 1, Folder 14	Dustin Rice, 1966 March 1 Sound tape reel
Box 1, Folder 15	Spiral Group, 1966 March 15

1 Sound tape reel

Box 1, Folder 16

Whitney Museum annual 1965-1966 exhibit opening, 1966 January  
1 Sound tape reel

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1977

### *0.1 Linear feet (Box 1)*

Scope and Contents: Includes a single letter written by Robert Indiana addressed to Sam and Irma Jaffe.

Box 1, Folder 17

Handwritten note by Robert Indiana, 1977 May 18

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