



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Sylvester Jerry

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Sylvester Jerry
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.jerry65
<b>Date:</b>	1965 June 11
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Sound tape reel (Sound recording; 7 in.) 11 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Creator:</b>	Jerry, Sylvester, 1904-1990 Phillips, Harlan B. (Harlan Buddington), 1920- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's New Deal and the Arts project, which includes over 400 interviews of artists, administrators, historians, and others involved with the federal government's art programs and the activities of the Farm Security Administration in the 1930s and early 1940s.

### Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 3949 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

Transcript: Patrons must use microfilm copy.

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## Biographical / Historical

Sylvester Jerry (1904-1990) was a painter and art administrator from Racine, Wis.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Sylvester Jerry conducted 1965 June 11, by Harlan Phillips, for the Archives of American Art. Jerry speaks of his first association with the WPA Federal Art Project (FAP), working as an FAP administrator in Detroit; working at finding locations for the artworks; the FAP's role in the development of furniture design; working with Holger Cahill; the Index of American Design; the relationship of art and

architecture; administering the project; selecting artists for particular projects; and the project's effect on the community.

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## General

An unrelated interview of Charlotte Partridge (6/12/65) conducted by H. Phillips is also on this tape.

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## General

An unrelated interview of Leonard Thiessen (6/10/65) conducted by H. Phillips is also on this tape.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Federal aid to the arts
- Furniture design
- Painters -- Wisconsin -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Cahill, Holger, 1887-1960
- Federal Art Project
- Index of American Design
- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project

### Occupations:

- Arts administrators -- Michigan -- Detroit -- Interviews
- Arts administrators -- Wisconsin -- Interviews
- Painters -- Michigan -- Detroit -- Interviews