



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Buffie Johnson

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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

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Buffie Johnson
<b>Date:</b>	1977 Nov. 22-1978 Jan. 23
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.johnso77
<b>Creator:</b>	Johnson, Buffie (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Sound tape reels (Sound recording; 5 in.) 140 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Buffie Johnson, 1977 Nov. 22-1978 Jan. 23, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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 others.

### Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 3198 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

Transcript: Use requires an appointment.

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## Biographical / Historical

Buffie Johnson (1912-2006) was a painter and muralist from New York, N.Y.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Buffie Johnson conducted 1977 Nov. 22-1978 Jan. 23, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

Johnson speaks of her childhood in New York City and Ducksbury, Mass.; her early encouragement in art; life in Paris and the European scene before World War II. She discusses getting established as a painter, selling her early work, the change in her painting toward abstraction, her friendship with gallery owner Howard Putzel, painting a mural for a movie theater, her inspirations for painting and her interest in the women's movement. She recalls Tony Smith, Hans Hofmann, Stanley William Hayter, Mark Rothko, and Jackson Pollock.

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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:

- Mural painting and decoration -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painting, Abstract -- New York (State) -- New York
- Women artists
- Women muralists
- Women painters

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Hayter, Stanley William, 1901-1988
- Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966
- Pollock, Jackson, 1912-1956
- Putzel, Howard, 1898-1945
- Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970
- Smith, Tony, 1912-1980

### Occupations:

- Muralists -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York