



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Buffie Johnson

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Buffie Johnson
Date:	1982 Nov. 13
Identifier:	AAA.johnso82
Creator:	Johnson, Buffie (Interviewee) Shikler, Barbara (Interviewer) Mark Rothko and His Times Oral History Project
Extent:	2 Cassettes (Sound recording; analog.) 16 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Buffie Johnson, 1982 Nov. 13, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Buffie Johnson, 1982 Nov. 13, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview was conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's Mark Rothko and his Times oral history project, with funding provided by the Mark Rothko Foundation.

Acquisition Information

Others interviewed on the project (by various interviewers) include: Sonia Allen, Sally Avery, Ben-Zion, Bernard Braddon, Ernest Briggs, Rhys Caparn, Elaine de Kooning, Herbert Ferber, Esther Gottlieb, Juliette Hays, Sidney Janis, Jacob Kainen, Louis Kaufman, Jack Kufeld, Katharine Kuh, Stanley Kunitz, Joseph Liss, Dorothy Miller, Betty Parsons, Wallace Putnam, Rebecca Reis, Maurice Roth, Sidney Schectman, Aaron Siskind, Joseph Solman, Hedda Sterne, Jack Tworokov, Esteban Vicente and Ed Weinstein. Each has been cataloged separately.

Available Formats

Transcript available on-line.

Restrictions

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Biographical / Historical

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

Scope and Contents

An interview of Buffie Johnson conducted 1982 Nov. 13, by Barbara Shikler, for the Archives of American Art's Mark Rothko and His Times oral history project.

Scope and Contents

Johnson talks about her friendship with Rothko, recalling their meeting in 1942 or 1943; introducing Rothko to Peggy Guggenheim; Rothko's philosophical interests; a visit to Rothko's studio shortly before his death; the women in his life; and the Houston chapel paintings. She recalls Howard Putzel, Peggy Guggenheim, Barney Newman, Adolf Gottlieb, Gene Goossen, Tony Smith, Lee Krasner, and others.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Abstract expressionism
- Mural painting and decoration
- Painting, Abstract
- Women artists
- Women muralists
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Goossen, E. C.
- Gottlieb, Adolph, 1903-1974
- Guggenheim, Peggy, 1898-1979
- Krasner, Lee, 1908-1984
- Mark Rothko and His Times Oral History Project
- Newman, Barnett, 1905-1970
- Putzel, Howard, 1898-1945
- Rothko Chapel (Houston, Tex.)
- Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970
- Smith, Tony, 1912-1980

Occupations:

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