



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Kenneth Josephson

Funding for this interview was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

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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

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Kenneth Josephson
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.joseph15
<b>Date:</b>	2015 September 29-30
<b>Extent:</b>	4 Items (sound files (3 hrs., 26 min.); digital, wav) 85 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Creator:</b>	Josephson, Kenneth, 1932- Silverman, Lanny
<b>Language:</b>	English

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## 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.

### Available Formats

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

### Restrictions

This transcript is open for research. Access to the entire recording is restricted. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Kenneth Josephson (1932- ) is a photographer in Chicago, Illinois. Lanny Silverman (1947- ) is a curator at the Chicago Cultural Center in Chicago, Illinois.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview with Kenneth Josephson conducted 2015 September 29-30, by Lanny Silverman, for the Archives of American Art's Chicago Art and Artists: Oral History Project, at Josephson's home and studio in Chicago, Illinois.

## Scope and Contents

Josephson speaks of visiting libraries and museums as a child growing up in Detroit, MI; his undergraduate education at the Rochester Institute of Technology; his photographic influences, including Conceptual and avant-garde photographers; joining the Army at the end of the Korean War; how working as a photographer at Chrysler influenced his style; attending graduate school at the Illinois Institute of Design; his early film artworks; his style of incorporating images within images; showing his work at galleries in New York, including the Light Gallery; his more recent collaborations with his partner, Marilyn Zimmerwoman; his compositional style and aesthetic choices; and censorship in art and photography. Josephson also recalls Beaumont Newhall, Minor White, Ansel Adams, Harry Callahan, Aaron Siskind, Arthur Sinsabaugh, John Szarkowski, and others.

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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:**

Art, American -- Illinois -- Chicago

**Types of Materials:**

Interviews  
Sound recordings

**Names:**

Chicago Art and Artists: Oral History Project  
Chicago's Art-Related Archival Materials: A Terra Foundation Resource

**Occupations:**

Photographers -- Illinois -- Chicago