



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Ivan C. Karp

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Ivan C. Karp
Identifier:	AAA.karp69
Date:	1969 March 12
Creator:	Karp, Ivan C., 1926-2012 (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	1 Sound tape reel (Sound recordings: (2 hours 30 min.); 7 in.) 78 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Ivan C. Karp, 1969 March 12, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Ivan C. Karp, 1969 March 12, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' 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 available on line.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Ivan C. Karp (1926-) is an art dealer and director of the OK Harris Gallery in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Ivan C. Karp conducted 1969 March 12, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art at the Leo Castelli Gallery.

Scope and Contents

Karp discusses the invention of the names "OK Harris" and "Green Gallery"; his work for Leo Castelli including gallery exhibitions, expenses, collectors, critics and staff; the work of Richard Artschwager, Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Rauschenberg, James Rosenquist, Cy Twombly, Gerry Vanderweil, Andy Warhol, and others; The Club; "soft art"; and the art market. He recalls Richard Bellamy, Ileana Sonnabend, Robert C. Scull, and others. Karp speaks of growing up in the boroughs of New York City, his reading and writing interests, commercial film making, his work for the Hansa Gallery and Martha Jackson, summers in Provincetown, Massachusetts, and the art scene in New York City in the late 1950s.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Collectors and collecting -- New York (State) -- New York
- Optical art
- Pop art
- Soft sculpture -- United States

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Artschwager, Richard, 1923-2013
- Bellamy, Richard
- Castelli, Leo
- Club (New York, N.Y.)
- Hansa Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
- Johns, Jasper, 1930-
- Lichtenstein, Roy, 1923-1997
- O.K. Harris Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
- Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925-2008
- Richard Green Gallery (New York, N.Y.)
- Rosenquist, James, 1933-
- Scull, Robert C.
- Sonnabend, Ileana
- Twombly, Cy, 1928-
- Warhol, Andy, 1928-1987

Occupations:

- Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York
- Gallery directors -- New York (State) -- New York