



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Rockwell Kent

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Rockwell Kent
Date:	1969 Feb. 26-27
Identifier:	AAA.kent69
Creator:	Kent, Rockwell, 1882-1971 (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	1 Sound tape reel (Sound recording: (3 hours 30 min.); 7 in.) 40 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .

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 4210 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Transcript: Patrons must use microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

In addition to being a successful painter, printmaker, illustrator, designer, and commercial artist, Kent pursued careers as a writer, professional lecturer, and dairy farmer. He travelled extensively, and was a political activist who supported the causes of organized labor, civil liberties, civil rights, anti-Fascism, and peace and friendship with the Soviet Union.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Rockwell Kent conducted 1969 Feb. 26-27, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art. Kent speaks of his family background; his early interest and talent in art; studying painting with Robert Henri and William Merritt Chase; his early studies and work in architecture; Kenneth Hayes Miller as a teacher; experiences which influenced him and inspired him; his travels and explorations; his work in book design and illustration; mural commissions; the American Artists Group; his political life and public affairs. He recalls Merle Armitage and Carl Zigrosser.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Book design
- Illustration of books
- Illustrators -- New York (State) -- Interviews
- Landscape painters -- New York (State) -- Interviews
- Mural painting and decoration
- Muralists -- New York (State) -- Interviews
- Painters -- New York (State) -- Interviews
- Printmakers -- New York (State) -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- American Artists Group
- Armitage, Merle, 1893-1975
- Art Students League (New York, N.Y.)
- Chase, William Merritt, 1849-1916
- Henri, Robert, 1865-1929
- Miller, Kenneth Hayes, 1876-1952
- Zigrosser, Carl, 1891-