



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Vera Klement

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Vera Klement
Date:	2015 June 12 and 14
Identifier:	AAA.klemen15
Creator:	Klement, Vera, 1929- (Interviewee) Silverman, Lanny (Interviewer)
Extent:	3 Items (Sound recording: 3 sound files (3 hr., 24 min.); digital, wav) 140 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Vera Klement, 2015 June 12 and 14, Transcript

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 available online.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Vera Klement (1929-) is a painter in Chicago, Illinois. Lanny Silverman (1947-) is a curator at the Chicago Cultural Center in Chicago, Illinois.

Scope and Contents

An interview with Vera Klement conducted 2015 June 12 and 14, by Lanny Silverman, for the Archives of American Art's Chicago Art and Artists: Oral History Project, at Klement's home and studio in Chicago, Illinois.

Scope and Contents

Klement speaks of her early childhood in Danzig (now, Gdansk, Poland) on the eve of World War II; her family's immigration to New York; her early experiences with music and art; her decision to become a painter; her interactions within New York's art community of the 1950s; the change in New York's art scene after the emergence of Pop art; her move to Chicago and subsequent difficulties in showing her work; her involvement within the Chicago art community; the founding of the women's artist cooperative, Artemisia; her involvement with the women's movement in the 1970s; teaching at the University of Chicago; her conception of her artwork as representational and apolitical; her literary influences; and her distaste for the contemporary art world. Klement also recalls Dennis Adrian, Dore Ashton, Marianne Deson, Angelo Ippolito, Miyoko Ito, Phyllis Kind, Harold Rosenberg, Ralph Shapey, Theodoros Stamos, and others.

General

Originally recorded as 3 sound files. Duration is 3 hr., 24 min.

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
- Art, American -- New York (State) -- New York
- Pop art
- Women artists
- Women painters
- Women's rights

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Adrian, Dennis, 1937-
- Artemisia Gallery
- Ashton, Dore
- Chicago Art and Artists: Oral History Project
- Chicago's Art-Related Archival Materials: A Terra Foundation Resource
- Deson, Marianne
- Ippolito, Angelo
- Ito, Miyoko, 1918-1983
- Kind, Phyllis, 1933-2018
- Rosenberg, Harold, 1906-1978
- Shapey, Ralph, 1921-2002
- Stamos, Theodoros, 1922-1997
- University of Chicago -- Faculty

Occupations:

- Painters -- Illinois -- Chicago

