



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Lee Krasner

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

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Lee Krasner
<b>Date:</b>	1972
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.krasne72
<b>Creator:</b>	Krasner, Lee, 1908-1984 Holmes, Doloris (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	10 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Lee Krasner, 1972, Transcript</a>

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## 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.

### Location of Originals

Location of original tape unknown.

### Reproduction Note

Item is a transcript.

### Restrictions

Patrons must use transcript.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Lee Krasner (1908-1984) was a painter in Easthampton, New York and married to Jackson Pollock.

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## Scope and Contents

Interview of Lee Krasner conducted in 1972, by Doloris Holmes, for the Archives of American Art "Art World in Turmoil" oral history project.

## Scope and Contents

This interview was conducted with the intention of documenting the Protest Art movement of the 1970's. In this interview, Krasner speaks of her dismay with the lack of recognition that many professional female artists receive; her resistance to joining the Club and the Irascible Eighteen; her experiences with getting exposure as a female artist; her relationship and respect for John Graham; the interest of Betty Parsons in Krasner's work; the mixed compliments received from Hofmann; her relationship with Newman; Her objection to de Kooning's "Woman" series; the Freudian aspect of Abstract Expressionism; the authoritarian/autocratic image of Rothko and Newman; the sexually biased role of the female within the Jewish Faith; the impossibility of separating content and aesthetic value; her female influence upon Pollock; her role in exposing Pollock to Matisse; her ability to network for Pollock (Herbert and Mercedes Matter, Sandy Calder, James Johnson, Sweeney, Hofmann); her ambiguity as to whether she has had the tradition female artist experience due to her association with Pollock.

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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:

- Abstract expressionism
- Art, American
- Jewish artists
- Women artists
- Women painters

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews

### Names:

- Club (New York, N.Y.)
- De Kooning, Willem, 1904-1997
- Graham, John, 1887-1961
- Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966
- Newman, Barnett, 1905-1970
- Parsons, Betty
- Pollock, Jackson, 1912-1956
- Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970

### Occupations:

- Painters -- New York (State) -- East Hampton