



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Stanley Kunitz

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Stanley Kunitz
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.kunitz83
<b>Date:</b>	1983 Dec. 8
<b>Creator:</b>	Kunitz, Stanley, 1905-2006 (Interviewee) Berman, Avis (Interviewer) Mark Rothko and His Times Oral History Project
<b>Extent:</b>	43 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Stanley Kunitz, 1983 Dec. 8, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Stanley Kunitz, 1983 Dec. 8, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This interview was conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's Mark Rothko and his Times oral history project, with funding provided by the Mark Rothko Foundation.

### Acquisition Information

Others interviewed on the project (by various interviewers) include: Sonia Allen, Sally Avery, Ben-Zion, Bernard Braddon, Ernest Briggs, Rhys Caparn, Elaine de Kooning, Herbert Ferber, Esther Gottlieb, Juliette Hays, Sidney Janis, Buffie Johnson, Jacob Kainen, Louis Kaufman, Jack Kufeld, Katharine Kuh, Joseph Liss, Dorothy Miller, Betty Parsons, Wallace Putnam, Rebecca Reis, Maurice Roth, Sidney Schectman, Aaron Siskind, Joseph Solman, Hedda Sterne, Jack Tworkov, Esteban Vicente and Ed Weinstein. Each has been cataloged separately.

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## Biographical / Historical

Stanley Kunitz (1905-2006) was a poet from New York, N.Y.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Stanley Kunitz conducted 1983 Dec. 8, by Avis Berman, for the Archives of American Art's Mark Rothko and His Times oral history project.

## Scope and Contents

Kunitz recalls meeting Mark Rothko in the early 1950s, his later friendship with him, and the changes he observed in Rothko's personality. He mentions their plans for a poetry and art collaboration, eventually abandoned, and describes Rothko's feelings for Russian literature. Kunitz relates anecdotes from their time in Provincetown, remarking on Rothko's dislike for nature and his feelings about religion. He speaks about particular Rothko works and Rothko's intentions for the Foundation.

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## General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 3 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hrs., 12 min.

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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

Types of Materials:

Interviews

Sound recordings

Names:

Mark Rothko and His Times Oral History Project  
Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970