



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Dorothea Lange

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Dorothea Lange
Identifier:	AAA.lange64
Date:	1964 May 22
Creator:	Lange, Dorothea (Interviewee) Doud, Richard Keith (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Extent:	23 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Dorothea Lange, 1964 May 22, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Dorothea Lange, 1964 May 22, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's New Deal and the Arts project, which includes over 400 interviews of artists, administrators, historians, and others involved with the federal government's art programs and the activities of the Farm Security Administration in the 1930s and early 1940s.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Dorothea Lange (1895-1965) was a photographer in California. Lange worked on FSA photograph project during the Depression.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Dorothea Lange conducted 1964 May 22, by Richard Doud, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Lange speaks of her decision of photography as a career; working in commercial photography; the development of her individual style; the organization of the Farm Security Administration and her association

with it; camaraderie among the FSA staff; Roy Stryker's influence and guidance and political abilities; the subjects of photographs and their reactions to being photographed; the people she encountered and her feelings about them, including migratory workers and Dust Bowl farmers; opinions of her colleagues; what made the FSA a success; trends in the field of photography and photojournalism and its future.

Scope and Contents

She recalls Walker Evans, Arthur Rothstein, John Vachon and Paul Vanderbilt.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 51 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Documentary photography -- United States
- Federal aid to the arts
- New Deal art
- Women artists
- Women photographers

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Evans, Walker, 1903-1975
- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
- Rothstein, Arthur, 1915-1985
- Stryker, Roy Emerson, 1893-1975
- United States. Farm Security Administration. Historical Section. Photographs
- Vachon, John, 1914-1975
- Vanderbilt, Paul

Occupations:

- Photographers -- California