



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Joseph Liss

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Joseph Liss
<b>Date:</b>	1982 Aug. 10
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.liss82
<b>Creator:</b>	Liss, Joseph (Interviewee) Ashton, Dore (Interviewer) Mark Rothko and His Times Oral History Project
<b>Extent:</b>	16 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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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, Stanley Kunitz, Dorothy Miller, Betty Parsons, Wallace Putnam, Rebecca Reis, Maurice Roth, Sidney Schectman, Aaron Siskind, Joseph Solman, Hedda Sterne, Jack Tworokov, Esteban Vicente and Ed Weinstein. Each has been cataloged separately.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 4937 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

Transcript: Use requires an appointment.

### Conditions Governing Use

Passage cited from "Afternoon With the De Koonings" book written by Liss: The interviewee has retained all intellectual property rights, including copyright, that they may own.

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## Biographical / Historical

Joseph Liss (1911-1988) was a writer from East Hampton, Long Island and a friend of artist Mark Rothko and other Long Island artists.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Joseph Liss conducted 1982 Aug. 10, by Dore Ashton, for the Archives of American Art's Mark Rothko and His Times oral history project.

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## Scope and Contents

Liss relates anecdotes about Mark Rothko, including ones about a painting Liss bought, a fishing trip with Harold Rosenberg, a portrait of Liss painted by Rothko, and Rothko's visits with Liss in the country. He reads passages from his writings, including an account of why Rosenberg and Rothko ceased to be friends which incorporates Rosenberg's own words.

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## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 43 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  
Rosenberg, Harold, 1906-1978  
Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970