



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Marisol

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# Table of Contents

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

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Marisol
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.mariso68
<b>Date:</b>	1968 Feb. 8
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Sound tape reel (Sound recording; 7 in.) 34 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Creator:</b>	Marisol, 1930-2016 Roberts, Colette, 1910-
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## 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.

### Restrictions

Use requires an appointment.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Marisol (1930- ) is a sculptor in New York, N.Y.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Marisol conducted 1968 Feb. 8, by Colette Roberts, for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

In the interview Marisol speaks of her childhood spent both in Chile and France; the encouragement of her parents and teachers to draw freely; her progression from painting, to drawing, to collage and reliefs; the influence of Europeans, Matisse and Picasso, and American, Rauschenberg; her time spent in museums as a child and the subsequent exposure to DaVinci and Rembrandt; her art education, predominantly in New York at the Art Students League and briefly in Paris at the Ecole des Beaux Art; her association with the Abstract Expressionists at the Club; the contrast of her work to the dream-based Surrealists; her first show for Castelli in 1957; her shows at the '62 and '64 annual exhibitions at the Stable; her more recent exhibitions for the Carnegie and Sidney Janis Gallery of *The Beach* and *The Party*; the origins of her wood drawings as a discovery while drawing lines to be sculpted upon wood; her experience working for the Daily Telegraph and completing portraits of historical figures such as Charles DeGalle; the literary influence of Dostoevski, and more specifically *Crime and Punishment*; her recent apathy for visual entertainments and diversions (like the Ballet). Both in the interview and afterwards in a supplemental biographical addition Roberts and Marisol allude to her resistance to sit for interviews. The artist feels that she doesn't "have much to say."

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## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 1 digital wav file. Duration is 1 hr., 15 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
- Collagists -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Hispanic American women artists
- Painters -- New York (State) -- Interviews
- Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Surrealism
- Women artists -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Art Students League (New York, N.Y.) -- Students
- Club (New York, N.Y.)
- Ecole nationale supérieure des beaux-arts (France) -- Students
- Picasso, Pablo, 1881-1973
- Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925-2008