



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Fred Martin

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

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/>

# Table of Contents

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

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Fred Martin
<b>Date:</b>	1980 Aug. 27-Sept. 19
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.martin80
<b>Creator:</b>	Martin, Fred, 1927- (Interviewee) St. John, Terry (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	202 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Fred Martin, 1980 Aug. 27-Sept. 19, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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 others.

### Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 3417 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

Transcript: Use requires an appointment.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Fred Martin (1927- ) is a painter, teacher, and collagist from Oakland, Calif.

---

## Scope and Contents

An interview of Fred Martin conducted 1980 Aug. 27-Sept. 19, by Terry St. John, for the Archives of American Art.

---

## Scope and Contents

Martin speaks of his childhood and early artistic influences; his education at the University of California, Berkeley; his rebellion as a student; studying under Mark Rothko and Clyfford Still; teaching art in elementary

and high schools; going to work for the Oakland Art Museum; his lack of an identifiable style and its negative impact on his early career; teaching at and becoming director of the San Francisco Art Institute; leaving there and teaching at the University of California, Berkeley; the influence of abstract expressionism on his work; his work in collage; his travels; the influence of "dynamic symmetry"; the current art market.

---

## General

Originally recorded on 8 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 14 digital wav files. Duration is 7 hrs., 9 min.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Abstract expressionism
- Collagists -- California -- Interviews
- Painters -- California -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970
- San Francisco Art Institute
- Still, Clyfford, 1904-1980