



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Agnes Martin

Funding for this interview was provided by the Lannan Foundation. 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. This interview received support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative Pool.

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Agnes Martin
<b>Date:</b>	1989 May 15
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.martin89
<b>Creator:</b>	Martin, Agnes, 1912-2004 (Interviewee) Campbell, Suzan (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	77 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Agnes Martin, 1989 May 15, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a> <a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Agnes Martin, 1989 May 15, Transcript</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' 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 is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

### Restrictions

This interview is open for research. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Agnes Martin (1912-2004) was a painter and filmmaker. She was born in Macklin, Canada, and immigrated to the United States at eighteen years of age. She lived in Washington State, New York City, and New Mexico, including towns of Cuba and Galisteo.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Agnes Martin conducted 1989 May 15, by Suzan Campbell, for the Archives of American Art.

## Scope and Contents

Martin speaks of her family history and early life; her immigration from Canada to the United States; her education; moving from New Mexico to New York City; her discovery of the grid; returning to New Mexico; her writing; nature as inspiration; painting and filmmaking; her writing; her philosophy of art; inspirations; association with other Abstract Expressionists, including Ellsworth Kelly and Barnett Newman; and the themes in her art.

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## General

Originally recorded on 3 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 5 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 38 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
- Art, American
- Filmmakers -- New Mexico -- Interviews
- Women painters

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Occupations:

- Painters -- New Mexico -- Interviews