



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Ralph and Bena Frank Mayer

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-7950  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

## Table of Contents

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

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Bena Frank Mayer and Ralph Mayer
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1964
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.mayer64
<b>Creator:</b>	Mayer, Ralph, 1895-1979 (Interviewee) Phillips, Harlan B. (Harlan Buddington), 1920-1979 (Interviewer) Mayer, Bena Frank, 1898-1991 (Interviewee)
<b>Extent:</b>	76 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Ralph and Bena Frank Mayer, circa 1964, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a> <a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Bena Frank Mayer and Ralph Mayer, 1964, Transcript</a>

---

## 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.

### 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.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Bena Frank Mayer (1898-1991) and her husband, Ralph (1895-1979) were painters and educators in New York, N.Y. Bena Frank Mayer was also a printmaker.

---

## Scope and Contents

An interview of Ralph and Bena Frank Mayer conducted circa 1964, by Harlan Phillips, for the Archives of American Art.

## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hrs., 8 min.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Educators -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Federal aid to the arts
- Painters -- New York (State) -- Interviews
- Printmakers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project