



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Fred McDarrah

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Fred McDarrah
Date:	1971 June 15-July 15
Identifier:	AAA.mcdarr71
Creator:	McDarrah, Fred W., 1926-2007 (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	75 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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.

Biographical / Historical

Fred McDarrah (1926-2007) was a photographer from New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Fred McDarrah conducted 1971 June 15-July 15, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

McDarrah speaks of his early family life and extreme poverty during the Depression period in Brooklyn; family influence; his first photographic efforts in the 1930s; his U.S. Army service; going to photography school at New York University; life in Greenwich Village in the 1940s and 1950s; his involvement with rock and roll music; getting his work into publications; the comparison between the "hippie" and the "beat" cultures; working as a photojournalist for Village Voice; his techniques and equipment; experiences covering public events; his philosophy on photography and its uses. He recalls Bill Littlefield, Philip Pavia, Cyril Nelson, and The Club.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 6 hrs., 25 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Photographers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
Photography -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Club (New York, N.Y.)
Littlefield, William Horace, 1902-1969
Nelson, Cyril I.
Pavia, Philip, 1915-2005