



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Francis Sumner Merritt

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Francis Sumner Merritt
<b>Date:</b>	1979 May 25-June 25
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.merrit79
<b>Creator:</b>	Merritt, Francis Sumner, 1913-2000 (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	61 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Francis Sumner Merritt, 1979 May 25-June 25, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Francis Sumner Merritt, 1979 May 25-June 25, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Francis Sumner Merritt (1913-2000) was a painter, designer, art administrator, and the founder of Haystack Mountain School of Crafts of Deer Isle, Me. He studied at the Vesper George School of Art, the San Diego Academy of Fine Arts, the Massachusetts School of Art, and the Yale Univ. School of Fine Arts. Merritt taught at Bradford Junior College and was head of art department. He died Dec. 27, 2000, at age 87.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Francis Sumner Merritt conducted 1979 May 25-June 25, by Robert F. Brown, for the Archives of American Art.

## Scope and Contents

Merritt speaks of his education at art schools in Boston and at Yale; his career as a painter during the Depression; teaching at the Cranbrook Academy of Art; his tenure at the Flint (Michigan) Institute of Arts, 1947-1951; and the development of the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts at Liberty and then at Deer Isle, Me.

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## General

Originally recorded on 2 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 3 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hrs., 14 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:

- Depressions -- 1929
- Designers -- Maine -- Interviews
- Educators -- Maine -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Cranbrook Academy of Art
- Flint Institute of Arts
- Haystack Mountain School of Crafts

### Occupations:

- Arts administrators -- Maine -- Deer Isle
- Painters -- Maine -- Interviews