



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Jean Milant

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Jean Milant
Identifier:	AAA.milant15
Date:	2015 July 20
Creator:	Milant, Jean, 1943- (Interviewee) Drohojowska-Philp, Hunter (Interviewer)
Extent:	4 Items (Sound recording: 4 sound files (3 hr., 7 min.); digital, wav) 102 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Jean Milant, 2015 July 20, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Jean Milant, 2015 July 20, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is 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 administrators.

Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Biographical / Historical

Jean Robert Milant (1943-) is an art dealer and publisher in Los Angeles, California. Hunter Drohojowska-Philp is an art critic and writer from Beverly Hills, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Jean Milant, conducted 2015 July 20, by Hunter Drohojowska-Philp, for the Archives of American Art at Milant's home in Los Angeles, California.

Scope and Contents

Jean Milant discusses growing up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and his French and German heritage; his introduction to art instruction in high school and further studies at the University of Wisconsin; his trips to

Europe and New York City as an undergraduate art student; his time as a graduate student at the University of New Mexico, and his work at the Tamarind Institute printmaking program and his introduction to Los Angeles; his work at Tamarind with Ed Ruscha, Sam Francis, Ed Moses, and Ken Price, among others; the beginnings of Cirrus Gallery and Cirrus Editions and his search for backers for the two endeavors; his partnership with Terry Inch as a backer for Cirrus. Mr. Milant also describes the decision to move his gallery and printmaking shop to downtown Los Angeles in 1979; the support of Robert Egelston and the collector Donald Marron and other collectors who first subscribed to his print editions; his experiences in France with Minnie de Beauvau-Craon; the gallery and museum scene in Los Angeles in the early '70s and '80s; his efforts to promote Los Angeles as a vibrant center of art, including trips to Europe in the early '70s to show his artists; the creation of Ed Ruscha's prints using food; working with Bruce Nauman and John Baldessari to create prints; the creation of the Los Angeles Visual Arts group of L.A. art dealers; his involvement with the creation of the Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art in 1974; his work with the artist Guy de Cointet and Mr. Cointet's early performances at Cirrus Gallery; the opening of MOCA in 1984; his desire to create a think-tank institute to help create a viable future for art. Mr. Milant also recalls Garo Antreasian, Newton Harrison, June Wayne, Frank Gehry, Robert Irwin, Eugene Sturman, Matsumi Kanemitsu, Ken Tyler, Riko Mizuno, Irving Blum, Gerry Rosen, Robert Overby, David Trowbridge as well as Chris Burden, Greg Card, Karen Carson, Craig Kauffman, Marian Goodman, Alain Rivière, Charles Christopher Hill, Steven Leiber, Viva, Michel Auder, and Jonas Wood, among others.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Study and teaching
Prints -- Technique

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Antreasian, Garo Z., 1922-2018
Auder, Michel
Baldessari, John, 1931-
Blum, Irving, 1930-
Burden, Chris, 1946-
Card, Greg S., 1945-
Carson, Karen, 1943-
Cirrus Editions
Cirrus Gallery
Cointet, Guy de, 1934-1983
Egelston, Robert
Francis, Sam, 1923-1994
Gehry, Frank O., 1929-
Goodman, Marian
Harrison, Newton, 1932-
Hill, Charles Christopher
Inch, Terry
Irwin, Robert, 1928-
Kanemitsu, Matsumi
Kauffman, Craig, 1932-2010

Leiber, Steven
Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art
Los Angeles Visual Arts (Organization)
Marron, Donald B.
Mizuno, Riko
Moses, Ed, 1926-
Museum of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Nauman, Bruce, 1941-
Overby, Robert, 1935-1993
Price, Kenneth, 1935-2012
Rivière, Alain, 1958-
Rosen, Gerry
Ruscha, Edward
Sturman, Eugene
Tamarind Institute
Trowbridge, David, 1945-
Tyler, Kenneth E.
University of New Mexico -- Student
University of Wisconsin
Viva, 1938-
Wayne, June, 1918-2011
Wood, Jonas, 1977-
de Beauvau-Craon, Minnie

Occupations:

Art dealers -- California -- Los Angeles
Publishers -- California -- Los Angeles

Places:

Europe -- description and travel
France -- description and travel
New York (N.Y.) -- Description and Travel