



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Dorothy C. Miller

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

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Dorothy C. Miller
Date:	1970 May 26-1971 Sept. 28
Identifier:	AAA.miller70
Creator:	Miller, Dorothy Canning, 1904-2003 (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	260 Pages (Transcript) 18 Items (sound files (20 hrs., 42 min.); digital, wav)
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.

Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 4210-4211 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Transcript: Available on microfilm.

Biographical / Historical

Dorothy C. Miller (1904-2003) was an art museum curator from New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Dorothy Miller conducted 1970 May 26-1971 Sept. 28, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Miller speaks of her childhood and family background; the beginning of her career in museums; her first trip to Europe; the Depression and its effect on the art world; the establishment of the WPA Federal Art Project; the scandal

over the Diego Rivera mural in Rockefeller Center; getting started with the Museum of Modern Art in its early years; working with Alfred Barr; early exhibitions at the MOMA; meeting Mark Tobey and Morris Graves; meeting Holger Cahill; Cahill's background; Cahill's involvement with the WPA Federal Art Project, and the Project's early years; post-war changes in American art and the post-war years at the MOMA; Shaker design; some of her colleagues at the MOMA.

Scope and Contents

She recalls Duncan Phillips, Rene D'Harnoncourt, Jackson Pollock, Edward M.M. Warburg, Nelson Rockefeller, Mark Rothko, Louise Nevelson, Alexander Calder, Lyonel Feininger, Walker Evans, and Edwin Dickinson.

General

Originally recorded on 10 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 18 digital wav files. Duration is 20 hrs., 42 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Women museum curators

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Barr, Alfred H., Jr., 1902-1981
Cahill, Holger, 1887-1960
Calder, Alexander, 1898-1976
D'Harnoncourt, Rene, 1901-1968
Dickinson, Edwin Walter, 1891-1978
Evans, Walker, 1903-1975
Federal Art Project
Feininger, Lyonel, 1871-1956
Graves, Morris, 1910-2001
Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)
Nevelson, Louise, 1899-1988
Phillips, Duncan, 1886-1966
Pollock, Jackson, 1912-1956
Rivera, Diego, 1886-1957
Rockefeller, Nelson A. (Nelson Aldrich), 1908-1979
Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970
Tobey, Mark
Warburg, Edward M. M.

Occupations:

Art museum curators -- New York (State) -- New York

Functions:

Art museums -- New York (State)