



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Dorothy C. Miller

Funding for the interview was provided by the Mark Rothko Foundation.
Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant
from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

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

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Dorothy C. Miller
Date:	1981 May 14
Identifier:	AAA.miller81
Creator:	Miller, Dorothy Canning, 1904-2003 (Interviewee) Berman, Avis (Interviewer) Mark Rothko and His Times Oral History Project
Extent:	30 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Dorothy C. Miller, 1981 May 14, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Dorothy C. Miller, 1981 May 14, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview was conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's Mark Rothko and his Times oral history project, with funding provided by the Mark Rothko Foundation.

Acquisition Information

Others interviewed on the project (by various interviewers) include: Sonia Allen, Sally Avery, Ben-Zion, Bernard Braddon, Ernest Briggs, Rhys Caparn, Elaine de Kooning, Herbert Ferber, Esther Gottlieb, Juliette Hays, Sidney Janis, Buffie Johnson, Jacob Kainen, Louis Kaufman, Jack Kufeld, Katharine Kuh, Stanley Kunitz, Joseph Liss, Betty Parsons, Wallace Putnam, Rebecca Reis, Maurice Roth, Sidney Schectman, Aaron Siskind, Joseph Solman, Hedda Sterne, Jack Tworokov, Esteban Vicente and Ed Weinstein. Each has been cataloged separately.

Available Formats

Transcript available online.

Restrictions

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

Biographical / Historical

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

Scope and Contents

An interview of Dorothy Canning Miller conducted 1981 May 14, by Avis Berman, for the Archives of American Art's Mark Rothko and His Times oral history project.

Scope and Contents

Miller talks about the first time she, with Alfred Barr, saw Mark Rothko's work in Federation of Modern Painters and Sculptors exhibitions. She remembers her first visit to Rothko's studio and frequent conversations at an Italian restaurant near the studio. Miller recounts incidents involving Rothko and Clyfford Still while she was organizing the show "15 Americans" and others at the Museum of Modern Art. She recalls the relationship between Rothko and Still, their split, her own split with Still, and the psychological changes she noted in Rothko. She recalls Holger Cahill, Alfred Barr, Barnett Newman, Robert Motherwell, Clyfford Still, Howard Putzel, Carla Panicali, de Kooning, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 5 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hrs., 24 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Abstract expressionism
Art museum curators -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Barr, Alfred H., Jr., 1902-1981
Cahill, Holger, 1887-1960
De Kooning, Willem, 1904-1997
Mark Rothko and His Times Oral History Project
Motherwell, Robert
Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)
Newman, Barnett, 1905-1970
Panicali, Carla
Putzel, Howard, 1898-1945
Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970
Still, Clyfford, 1904-1980