



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Lee Mullican

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>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Lee Mullican
Identifier:	AAA.mullic92
Date:	1992 May 22-1993 Mar. 4
Creator:	Mullican, Lee, 1919-1998 (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
Extent:	160 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Lee Mullican, 1992 May 22-1993 Mar. 4, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Lee Mullican, 1992 May 22-1993 Mar. 4, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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 administrators. Funding for this interview was provided by the Lannan Foundation.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Lee Mullican (1919-1998) was a painter from San Francisco and Santa Monica, Calif.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Lee Mullican conducted 1992 May 22-1993 Mar. 4, by Paul Karlstrom for the Archives of American Art, at the artist's home/studio in Santa Monica, Calif.

Scope and Contents

Mullican speaks of his family background, childhood, and his first introductions to art; the influence of abstraction and surrealism in his work; his studies at Abilene College, University of Oklahoma, and the Kansas City Art Institute; his service in WWII; his interest in French painting, theater, opera and ballet;

meeting Jack Stauffacher; the influence of Wolfgang Paalen in Mexico; and the connection between modern and primitive, and tribal art, especially in the American Indians of Mexico. He discusses his arrival in San Francisco and the art world and lifestyle there; the Dynaton group; early years in Los Angeles; his trip and exhibition in Rome; UCLA politics; his relationship to modernism and place in American art; regionalism; and the mystical and transcendental expressed in his work. He recalls Gordon Onslow-Ford, Jack Stauffacher, Peggy Guggenheim, Rachel Rosenthal, Richard Diebenkorn, David Hockney, Ed Moses, Isamu Noguchi, Sibyl Moholy-Nagy, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 8 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 14 digital wav files. Duration is 7 hrs., 4 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, Modern -- 20th century -- California
Dynaton (Group of artists)
Painters -- California -- Santa Monica -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Diebenkorn, Richard, 1922-1993
Guggenheim, Peggy, 1898-
Hockney, David
Moholy-Nagy, Sibyl, 1905-
Moses, Ed, 1926-
Noguchi, Isamu, 1904-1988
Onslow-Ford, Gordon
Paalen, Wolfgang, 1907-
Rosenthal, Rachel, 1926-
Stauffacher, Jack Werner