



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Carl Mydans

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/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Carl Mydans
Date:	1964 Apr. 29
Identifier:	AAA.mydans64
Creator:	Mydans, Carl (Interviewee) Doud, Richard Keith (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Extent:	15 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Carl Mydans, 1964 Apr. 29, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's New Deal and the Arts project, which includes over 400 interviews of artists, administrators, historians, and others involved with the federal government's art programs and the activities of the Farm Security Administration in the 1930s and early 1940s.

Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 3697 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Transcript: Patrons must use microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

Carl Mydans (1907-2004) was a photographer, associated with the Farm Security Administration.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Carl Mydans conducted 1964 Apr. 29, by Richard Doud, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Mydans speaks of his background in photography and photojournalism; joining the Farm Security Administration staff; Roy Stryker as a catalyst for creativity; some of his outstanding experiences with the FSA; styles of different photographers; the significance of the FSA in American history, and how it changed Americans' awareness of other Americans; subjects of his photographs and their treatment of him; the influence of his fellow FSA photographers; technological changes in photography.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 28 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Documentary photography
Photographers -- United States -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Stryker, Roy Emerson, 1893-1975
United States. Farm Security Administration. Historical Section