



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Hans Namuth

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Hans Namuth
Date:	1971 Aug. 12-Sept. 14
Identifier:	AAA.namuth71
Creator:	Namuth, Hans (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	26 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Hans Namuth, 1971 Aug. 12-Sept. 14, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Hans Namuth, 1971 Aug. 12-Sept. 14, 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 others.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Hans Namuth (1915 -1990) was a photographer and a filmmaker from New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Hans Namuth conducted 1971 Aug. 12-Sept. 8, by Paul Cummings, at the artist's studio in New York, N.Y., for the Archives of American Art. Namuth speaks of his youth in Germany; the effects of Nazism on him and his family; living in Paris and Spain after leaving Germany; his first involvement with photography; living in a refugee camp; moving to New York in 1941 and working as a photographer; his activities in military intelligence during World War II; meeting Jackson Pollock in 1949 and making a film about him; and working in architectural photography.

General

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

General

Partially transcribed. August 12 and September 8 sessions are transcribed; September 14 session is not transcribed.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Filmmakers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Photographers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Photography -- New York (State) -- New York

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Pollock, Jackson, 1912-1956