



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Beaumont Newhall

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 Beaumont Newhall
Date:	1965 Jan. 23
Identifier:	AAA.newhal65
Creator:	Newhall, Beaumont, 1908-1993 (Interviewee) Trovato, Joseph S., 1912-1983 (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Extent:	23 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Beaumont Newhall, 1965 Jan. 23, Transcript

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

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.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Beaumont Newhall (1908-1993) was an art administrator and art historian from Rochester, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Beaumont Newhall conducted 1965 Jan. 23, by Joseph Trovato, for the Archives of American Art. Newhall speaks of his education and first jobs in museums; his administration of the WPA Federal Art Project in Massachusetts; Berenice Abbott's photographs of New York; and the Farm Security Administration's photography project. He speaks of early photography and William Henry Fox Talbot; photography and the Armory Show; the 1937 photography exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art and Edward Steichen; and the George Eastman House. Newhall comments on museums accepting photography as art; the amateur photographer versus the artistic photographer; and his view of photography as a discoverer and a "partaker" of nature.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 21 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Federal aid to the arts
- Photography

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Blatas, Arbit
- Federal art project (Mass.)
- George Eastman House
- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
- Steichen, Edward, 1879-1973
- Talbot, William Henry Fox, 1800-1877
- United States. Farm Security Administration. Historical Section

Occupations:

- Art historians -- New York (State) -- Rochester -- Interviews
- Arts administrators -- New York (State) -- Rochester -- Interviews