



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Kenzo Okada

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Kenzo Okada
Date:	1968 November 22
Identifier:	AAA.okada68
Creator:	Okada, Kenzo, 1902-1982 (Interviewee) Selvig, Forrest (Interviewer)
Extent:	44 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Kenzo Okada, 1968 November 22, Transcript

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives of American Art's 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.

Location of Originals

Location of original tape unknown.

Available Formats

Transcript available on line at <http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/oralhistories/transcripts/okada68.htm>

Reproduction Note

Item is a transcript.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Kenzo Okada (1902-1982) was a Japanese American painter based in New York City, New York.

Scope and Contents

Interview of Kenzo Okada conducted 1968 November 22, by Forrest Selvig, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Okada discusses his background; wanting to be a painter since age 15 and his father being against the idea; attending Tokyo Fine Arts University and studying Western art tradition there; going to Paris in 1924 to study on his own; meeting Alberto Giacometti in Paris; returning to Japan in 1927; interest in Western art; exhibiting in Japan; his painting style; coming to the United States in 1950; and appreciating Japan and Japanese culture. Okada mentions Marie Laurencin, Bradley Tomlin, Clyfford Still, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Betty Parsons, Mark Rothko, Nishita (Japanese philosopher), and Mark Tobey.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Asian American art
- Asian American artists
- Asian American painters
- Japanese American art
- Japanese American artists

Types of Materials:

- Interviews

Names:

- Giacometti, Alberto, 1901-1966
- Kuniyoshi, Yasuo, 1889-1953
- Laurencin, Marie, 1883-1956
- Parsons, Betty
- Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970
- Still, Clyfford, 1904-1980
- Tobey, Mark
- Tokyo Geijutsu Daigaku
- Tomlin, Bradley Walker, 1899-1953

Occupations:

- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York