



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Nathan Oliveira

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 Nathan Oliveira
Date:	1978 Aug. 9-1981 Dec. 29
Identifier:	AAA.olivei78
Creator:	Oliveira, Nathan, 1928-2010 (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
Extent:	92 Pages (Transcript, 1978-1980 sessions) 28 Pages (Transcript 1981 session)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Nathan Oliveira, 1978 Aug. 9-1981 Dec. 29, 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.

Available Formats

1978-1980 session transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 3198 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

1978-1980 session; transcript: Transcript available on microfilm.

Biographical / Historical

Nathan Oliveira (1928-2010) was a painter, printmaker, and sculptor from Stanford, Calif.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Nathan Oliveira conducted 1978 Aug. 9-1981 Dec. 29, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Oliveira speaks of his family background and ancestry; his childhood; his education; the development of his interest in art; working as a bookbinder; his inspirations from the old masters; studying with Max Beckmann and Otis Oldfield; his U.S. Army service; working with Richard Diebenkorn; getting established in galleries as a printmaker; teaching printmaking; his European travels; living in Illinois and its effect on his career; moving to California; and meeting and working with Martha Jackson. He recalls Billy Al Bengston, Ivan Albright, and Willem de Kooning, and discusses de Kooning's influence on him.

Scope and Contents

Oliveira also speaks of subject matter in his paintings, and his departure from and his later return to the human figure; the relationship between artist and model; the importance and persistence of the figurative tradition in American art; artists he admires. He recalls Keith Boyle and Frank Lobdell.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound tape reels and 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 5 hrs., 39 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Artists' models -- California -- Interviews
- Figurative art
- Painters -- California -- Interviews
- Printmakers -- California -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Albright, Ivan, 1897-1983
- Beckmann, Max, 1884-1950
- Bengston, Billy Al
- Boyle, Keith
- De Kooning, Willem, 1904-1997
- Diebenkorn, Richard, 1922-1993
- Jackson, Martha Kellogg
- Oldfield, Otis, 1890-1969

Occupations:

- Artists' models