



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with John Ollman

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/>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

---

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with John Ollman
<b>Date:</b>	1990 Mar. 15
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.ollman90
<b>Creator:</b>	Ollman, John E., 1942- (Interviewee) Kirwin, Liza (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	90 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with John Ollman, 1990 Mar. 15, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' 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

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 4778 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

Transcript: Patrons must use microfilm copy.

---

## Biographical / Historical

John E. Ollman (1942- ) is an art dealer from Philadelphia, Pa.

---

## Scope and Contents

An interview of John Ollman conducted 1990 Mar. 15, by Liza Kirwin for the Archives of American Art Philadelphia Project.

---

## Scope and Contents

Ollman speaks of his studies at the Philadelphia College of Art and at Indiana University before becoming director of the Janet Fleisher Gallery; the gallery's change of focus towards American Art, specifically the

work of folk and self-taught artists, and visionary artists. He discusses the changes in collecting over the past twenty years; collectors, such as Bert Hemphill; trends in collecting; artists whose work he has sold; other galleries with which he has worked, including the Phyllis Kind and Cavin Morris Galleries.

---

## General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hrs., 34 min.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Art -- Collectors and collecting -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
- Art, American
- Folk art
- Self-taught artists -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Cavin Morris Gallery
- Hemphill, Herbert Waide
- Janet Fleisher Gallery (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Phyllis Kind Gallery

### Occupations:

- Art dealers -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia