



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Interview with John Ollman

Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Interview with John Ollman
<b>Date:</b>	1989 Aug. 10
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.ollmjohn
<b>Creator:</b>	Ollman, John E., 1942- Hartigan, Lynda Roscoe (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Sound cassettes (Sound recording) 79 Pages (Transcript: (on partial microfilm reel))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated 1990 by John Ollman.

### 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Art dealer; Philadelphia, Pa.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of John Ollman conducted by Lynda Hartigan for the Archives of American Art Philadelphia Project. Ollman discusses his studies at Indiana University and his connections with the Folklore Department, before moving to Philadelphia. He speaks of his tenure as director of the Janet Fleisher Gallery, including the gallery's early history as the Little Gallery, and the changes he instituted including the name and focus;

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## Scope and Contents

the exhibitions mounted of African, Oceanic, pre-Columbian, folk art, and the art of 20th century self-taught artists; the growing interest in the work of self-taught artists; an exhibit at the Philadelphia College of Art entitled "Transmitters: The Isolate Artist in America"; the market in Philadelphia and nationally for the work of self-taught artists; his work with Kathy Lenox of the Phyllis Kind Gallery; Bert Hemphill's collection and

Hemphill's effect on the folk art field in the United States; the work of Bill Traylor, Martin Ramirez, and other self-taught artists; dealers and collectors he has been associated with.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

Art, American  
Folk art

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Names:

Hemphill, Herbert Waide  
Janet Fleisher Gallery (Philadelphia, Pa.)  
Lenox, Kathy  
Phyllis Kind Gallery  
Ramirez, Martin, 1885-1960  
Traylor, Bill, 1854-1947

### Occupations:

Art dealers -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia