



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Catherine Opie

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.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Catherine Opie
Identifier:	AAA.opie12
Date:	2012 August 13-27
Extent:	7 Items (Sound recording: 7 sound files (5 hr., 17 min.); digital, wav) 112 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Opie, Catherine, 1961- Drohojowska-Philp, Hunter
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is 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 administrators.

Available Formats

Transcript available online.

Restrictions

For information on how to access this interview contact Reference Services.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Catherine Opie (1961-) is an artist and professor in Los Angeles, California. Hunter Drohojowska-Philp is a writer and art historian in Los Angeles, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Catherine Opie conducted 2012 August 13-27, by Hunter Drohojowska-Philp, for the Archives of American Art, at Opie's home and studio in Los Angeles, California.

Scope and Contents

Opie discusses her childhood in Sandusky, Ohio, moving to California, and introduction to photography; her life in San Francisco and its role in her formulation of sexuality and identity; the importance of identity within her work, especially that of the queer community; the role of architecture and her landscape paintings as metaphor for the queer community and the search for identity; the role of reconceptualization in her work, leading to the ever-changing nature of her works, including comparisons between her portraiture and her landscape photography; her influences and her moniker of the "American photographer" Opie also recalls her partner, painter Julie Burleigh; gallery owners Stuart and Shaun Regen; members of her community and subjects of her portraiture, and others.

General

Originally recorded as 7 digital sound files. Duration is 5 hr., 17 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Gay artists -- California -- San Francisco -- Interviews
Photographers -- California -- Los Angeles -- Interviews
Women artists -- California -- Los Angeles -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Burleigh, Julie
Regen, Shaun Caley
Regen, Stuart, 1959-1998

Geographic Names:

California -- San Francisco -- Description and Travel