



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with George Earl Ortman

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# 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 George Earl Ortman
<b>Date:</b>	1963 Sept. 19-Nov. 5
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.ortman63
<b>Creator:</b>	Ortman, George, 1926- (Interviewee) Baker, Richard Brown (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	211 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## 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

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 3612 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

Transcript: Patrons must use microfilm copy.

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## Biographical / Historical

George Earl Ortman (1926- ) is a painter, sculptor, and printmaker from Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of George Earl Ortman conducted 1963 Sept. 19-Nov. 5, by Richard Brown Baker, for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

Ortman speaks of critics' reviews of his work; his reactions to the early abstract expressionists; his family background and early experiences; his education; the California environment and its influence on him; his U.S. Navy service; the art scene in San Francisco in the 1940s; other artists he was acquainted with; coming to New York; influences on contemporary artists; pop art; establishing a reputation as a printmaker; studying under William Hayter; his time spent in France; development of his style; problems of making a living in

art; his work in theatrical design; realism versus abstraction; his teaching career; exhibits he has had. He recalls Eleanor Ward, Howard Wise, Willem de Kooning, Nathan Oliveira, Gandy Brodie, Hans Hofmann, and Joan Mitchell.

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## General

Originally recorded on 4 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 52 min.

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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:

Printmakers -- Michigan -- Interviews  
Sculptors -- Michigan -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Names:

Brodie, Gandy, 1925-1975  
De Kooning, Willem, 1904-1997  
Hayter, Stanley William, 1901-1988  
Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966  
Mitchell, Joan, 1926-1992  
Oliveira, Nathan, 1928-2010  
Ward, Eleanor, 1912-1984  
Wise, Howard

### Occupations:

Painters -- Michigan -- Interviews