



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with John Outterbridge

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with John Outterbridge
<b>Date:</b>	1973 January 3
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.outter73
<b>Creator:</b>	Outterbridge, John, 1933-2020 Bassing, Allen, 1932- (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	13 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with John Outterbridge, 1973 January 3, Transcript</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' Oral History Program, started in 1959 to document the history of the visual arts in the United States, primarily through interviews with artists, historians, dealers, critics and others.

### Location of Originals

Item is a transcript. Location of original audio recording is unknown.

### Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

### Restrictions

This transcript is open for research. No audio exists. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

John Outterbridge (1933-2020) was an art administrator, painter, and sculptor from Los Angeles, California.

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## Scope and Contents

Interview of John W. Outterbridge conducted 1973 January 3, by Allen Bassing, for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

Outterbridge speaks of his family background and how that influenced him to lean toward the arts; attending Agriculture & Technical University and majoring in engineering even though he wanted to become an artist; joining the Army in order to get the G.I. Bill so he could afford school; painting during his three-year stint in the service, and how his company commander admired his work and got him a studio; attending the Chicago Academy of Art, then the American Academy of Art after leaving the military; moving to Los Angeles to pursue a career as an artist full-time; quitting painting and deciding to focus on sculpture; working at the Pasadena Art Museum, and how it disturbed him that there weren't any Black artists being represented in the shows he was installing there; getting involved with the Compton Communicative Arts Academy just as it was starting; and the present situation of the Compton Communicative Arts Academy and where he sees it going. He recalls Andy Warhol, Peter Alexander, Richard Serra, Robert Rauschenberg, Mark di Suvero, John Coplans, Judson Powell, Noel Puerefoy, Charles Dickson, Bobby Gilmore, and many others.

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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:

- African American artists
- African American military personnel
- African American painters
- African American sculptors

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews

### Names:

- Alexander, Peter, 1939-
- American Academy of the Fine Arts -- Students
- Chicago Academy of Fine Arts -- Students
- Compton Communicative Arts Academy
- Coplans, John
- Di Suvero, Mark, 1933-
- Dickson, Charles
- Gilmore, Robert
- Pasadena Art Museum
- Powell, Judson
- Puerefoy, Noel
- Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925-2008
- Sera, Richard
- Warhol, Andy, 1928-1987

### Occupations:

- Arts administrators -- California -- Los Angeles
- Painters -- California -- Los Angeles
- Sculptors -- California -- Los Angeles