



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Gordon Parks

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Gordon Parks
Identifier:	AAA.parks64
Date:	1964 Dec. 30
Creator:	Parks, Gordon, 1912-2006 Doud, Richard Keith (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Extent:	19 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Gordon Parks, 1964 Dec. 30, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Gordon Parks, 1964 Dec. 30, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's New Deal and the Arts project, which includes over 400 interviews of artists, administrators, historians, and others involved with the federal government's art programs and the activities of the Farm Security Administration in the 1930s and early 1940s.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Gordon Parks (1912-2006) was a filmmaker, author, photographer, and composer from New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Gordon Parks conducted 1964 Dec. 30, by Richard Doud, for the Archives of American Art, in New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

Parks speaks of his background; his early interest in photography; influences on him; his early career as a fashion photographer; joining the Farm Security Administration; his early impressions of the FSA; Roy

Stryker's influence and guidance; how being Black and the experience of racism influenced his ability to relate to his subjects; memorable people he met during the FSA years; his post-FSA career, including his novels and his work for LIFE; and his opinions about the FSA's impact on people and on photography.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 1 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 1 min.

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 photographers
- Art and race
- Documentary photography
- Photography

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
- Stryker, Roy Emerson, 1893-1975
- United States. Farm Security Administration

Occupations:

- Authors -- New York (State) -- New York
- Composers -- New York (State) -- New York
- Filmmakers -- New York (State) -- New York
- Photographers -- New York (State) -- New York