



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Betty Parsons

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Betty Parsons
Identifier:	AAA.parson69
Date:	1969 June 4-9
Extent:	44 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Parsons, Betty Cummings, Paul
Language:	English

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.

Biographical / Historical

Betty Parsons (1900-1982) was a painter and art dealer from New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Betty Parsons conducted 1969 June 4-9, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art. Parsons speaks of her family background; her years in Paris; living in California for four years; teaching sculpture and drawing; the Wakefield Gallery; the establishment of her own gallery, and some of her clients and artists; a pre-Columbian show at her gallery; the New York gallery scene; her own collection; her affiliation with Arshile Gorky and John Graham; the importance of The Club; and the influence of critics and art magazines. She recalls Kenzo Okada, Barnett Newman and Sidney Janis.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hrs., 7 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Betty Parsons Gallery
Club (New York, N.Y.)
Gorky, Arshile, 1904-1948
Graham, John, 1887-1961
Janis, Sidney, 1896-1989
Newman, Barnett, 1905-1970
Okada, Kenzo, 1902-1982
Wakefield Gallery

Functions:

Art galleries, Commercial -- New York (State) -- New York