



# Smithsonian

## *Archives of American Art*

### Oral history interview with Betty Parsons

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## Collection Overview

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|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b>      | Archives of American Art  |
| <b>Title:</b>           | Oral history interview with Betty Parsons   |
| <b>Date:</b>            | 1981 June 11  |
| <b>Identifier:</b>      | AAA.parson81  |
| <b>Creator:</b>         | Parsons, Betty (Interviewee)<br>Silk, Gerald (Interviewer)<br>Mark Rothko and His Times Oral History Project  |
| <b>Extent:</b>          | 20 Pages (Transcript)   |
| <b>Language:</b>        | English .   |
| <b>Digital Content:</b> | <a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Betty Parsons, 1981 June 11, Transcript</a><br><a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Betty Parsons, 1981 June 11, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a> |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This interview was conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's Mark Rothko and his Times oral history project, with funding provided by the Mark Rothko Foundation.

### Acquisition Information

Others interviewed on the project (by various interviewers) include: Sonia Allen, Sally Avery, Ben-Zion, Bernard Braddon, Ernest Briggs, Rhys Caparn, Elaine de Kooning, Herbert Ferber, Esther Gottlieb, Juliette Hays, Sidney Janis, Buffie Johnson, Jacob Kainen, Louis Kaufman, Jack Kufeld, Katharine Kuh, Stanley Kunitz, Joseph Liss, Dorothy Miller, Wallace Putnam, Rebecca Reis, Maurice Roth, Sidney Schectman, Aaron Siskind, Joseph Solman, Hedda Sterne, Jack Tworkov, Esteban Vicente and Ed Weinstein. Each has been cataloged separately.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Betty Parsons (1900-1982) was an art dealer and gallery owner from New York, N.Y.; operated the Betty Parsons Gallery.

## Scope and Contents

An interview of Betty Parsons conducted 1981 June 11, by Gerald Silk, for the Archives of American Art's Mark Rothko and His Times oral history project.

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## Scope and Contents

Parsons remembers being introduced to Mark Rothko by Peggy Guggenheim and visiting his studio. She describes the relationships among the various artists represented by her gallery. Parsons comments on the state of the art world at the time of the interview, discusses the role of critics, and speaks of her own art work.

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## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound cassette. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 38 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:

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

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Betty Parsons Gallery
- Mark Rothko and His Times Oral History Project
- Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970