



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Viola Patterson

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Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Viola Patterson
Date:	1982 Oct. 22-29
Identifier:	AAA.patter82
Creator:	Patterson, Viola, 1898-1984 (Interviewee) Kingsbury, Martha, 1941- (Interviewer)
Extent:	57 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Viola Patterson, 1982 Oct. 22-29, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Viola Patterson, 1982 Oct. 22-29, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' Northwest Oral History Project, begun in 1982 to document the Northwest artistic community through interviews with painters, sculptors, craftsmen, educators, curators, and others, in Oregon, Washington and Montana.

Location of Originals

Transcript also available at the University of Washington, Manuscripts Collection, and at the Oregon Historical Society.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Viola Patterson (1898-1984) was a painter from Seattle, Wash.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Viola Patterson conducted 1982 Oct. 22-29, by Martha Kingsbury, for the Archives of American Art's Northwest Oral History Project, in the artist's home in Seattle, Wash.

Scope and Contents

Patterson speaks of her education; family background; her early interest in art; studying at the University of Washington art department; the influence of Japanese artists; teaching art to children; her husband, Ambrose Patterson, and his life and career; and working on murals with Jose Clement Orozco and Diego Rivera. She recalls Alexander Archipenko. Patterson was a member of the Seattle area progressive artists' collective known as the "Group of Twelve."

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 7 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hrs., 33 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art, American -- Northwestern States
- Art, Modern -- Northwestern States
- Artists -- Northwestern States -- Interviews
- Women artists
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Archipenko, Alexander, 1887-1964
- Group of Twelve (Seattle, Wash.)
- Orozco, José Clemente, 1883-1949
- Patterson, Ambrose, 1877-1966
- Rivera, Diego, 1886-1957

Occupations:

- Painters -- Washington (State) -- Seattle