



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with James Penney

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Oral history interview with James Penney |
| Date: | 1964 May 19 |
| Identifier: | AAA.penney64 |
| Creator: | Penney, James, 1910-1982 (Interviewee) Trovato, Joseph S., 1912-1983 (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project |
| Extent: | 19 Pages (Transcript) |
| Language: | English . |

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.

Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 3419 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Transcript: Patrons must use microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

James Penney (1910-1982) was a painter, mural painter, and educator in Clinton, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of James Penney conducted 1964 May 19, by Joseph S. Trovato, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Penney speaks of his experiences as a mural painter for the WPA Federal Art Project; painting murals for schools and hospitals; the administration of the FAP; his background and education; coming to New York

City during the Depression; the influence of the Mexican and Italian muralists; and important collections which include his work.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 12 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Federal aid to the arts
- Mural painting and decoration
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Federal Art Project (N.Y.)
- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project