



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Otto Piene

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Otto Piene
Identifier:	AAA.piene88
Date:	1988 Aug. 4-1990 Feb. 22
Extent:	7 Items (sound cassettes (9 hr., 52 min.)) 122 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Piene, Otto, 1928- Brown, Robert F.
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.

Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Biographical / Historical

Otto Piene (1928-) is a painter and art administrator from Cambridge, Mass.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Otto Piene conducted 1988 Aug. 4-1990 Feb. 22, by Robert F. Brown, for the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, in Cambridge, MA.

Scope and Contents

Piene speaks of his childhood in Westphalia, Germany; his World War II military service; the decision to become an artist; training in Dusseldorf, 1949-1952; the founding of Group Zero with Heinz Mack in Dusseldorf, 1957-1966; visits to the United States in the 1960s and some of his early work and exhibitions; his work as director of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies at MIT, beginning in 1974;

some of his light and Sky Art projects, including Sky Art Conferences; and support for art and technology projects and education in the US and in Europe. Piene also recalls Heinz Mack, Günter Meisner, György Kepes, Howard Wise, Stan VanDerBeek, Charlotte Moorman and others.

General

Originally recorded on 7 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 13 digital wav files. Duration is 9 hr., 52 min.

General

First cassette begins with some distortion, lasting approximately one minute. Side B of cassette 2 was recorded in three parts due to tape defect in original, with no loss of content. Cassette 6 only recorded on side A.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, American

Types of Materials:

Interviews

Sound recordings

Names:

Center for Advanced Visual Studies

Group Zero

Mack, Heinz, 1931-

Occupations:

Arts administrators -- Massachusetts -- Cambridge -- Interviews

Painters -- Massachusetts -- Cambridge -- Interviews