



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with William H. Pierson

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

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

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with William H. Pierson
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.pierso81
<b>Date:</b>	1981 Mar. 11-1982 Jan. 14
<b>Creator:</b>	Pierson, William H. (William Harvey), 1911-2008 (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	8 Items (sound files; digital, wav file) 128 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with William H. Pierson, 1981 Mar. 11-1982 Jan. 14, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with William H. Pierson, 1981 Mar. 11-1982 Jan. 14, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

---

## 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

William H. Pierson (1911-2008) was an art historian and educator from Williamstown, Mass.

---

## Scope and Contents

An interview with William H. Pierson conducted 1981 Mar. 11-1982 Jan. 14, by Robert F. Brown, for the Archives of American Art.

---

## Scope and Contents

Pierson speaks of his education at Yale Art School; becoming a drawing instructor at Yale; his graduate work at New York University; his World War II naval service in radar research; his doctoral studies at Yale on New England industrial architecture; teaching studio art and art history at William College, Williamstown, Mass.

## General

Originally recorded on 4 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 8 digital wav files. Duration is 7 hr., 39 min.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Occupations:

- Art historians -- Massachusetts -- Interviews
- Art teachers -- Massachusetts -- Interviews