



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Merlin F. Pollock

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Merlin F. Pollock
<b>Date:</b>	1979 July 30 and 1980 July 30
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.polloc79
<b>Creator:</b>	Pollock, Merlin F., 1905-1996 (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	5 Items (sound files; digital, wav file) 65 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Merlin F. Pollock, 1979 July 30 and 1980 July 30, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Merlin F. Pollock, 1979 July 30 and 1980 July 30, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Merlin F. Pollock (1905-1996) was a painter and teacher, Chicago, Ill.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview with Merlin F. Pollock conducted 1979 July 30 and 1980 July 30, by Robert Brown, for the Archives of American Art. Pollock speaks of his training at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Fontainebleau, France; his work as instructor of mural painting at the Art Institute of Chicago, 1935-1943; his paintings of Alaska commissioned by the government in 1937 and his work as supervisor of mural painting for the Illinois WPA, 1940-1943. He also discusses Chicago artists and his own murals for the government.

## General

Originally recorded on 3 tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 5 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 40 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:

Arts administrators -- Illinois -- Interviews  
Mural painting and decoration, American -- Illinois -- Chicago  
Muralists -- United States -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Names:

Art Institute of Chicago  
Federal Art Project (Ill.)

### Occupations:

Painters -- United States -- Interviews