



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Leo Rabkin

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/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Leo Rabkin
<b>Date:</b>	1968 Dec. 4
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.rabkin68
<b>Creator:</b>	Rabkin, Leo (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	97 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Leo Rabkin, 1968 Dec. 4, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Leo Rabkin (1919-2015) was a painter and sculptor from New York, N.Y.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Leo Rabkin conducted 1968 Dec. 4, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art. Rabkin speaks of his youth in Cincinnati in a Russian-Jewish family; his early study of music; teaching; his watercolor techniques; prints on plastic; the importance of the box in his life; his concern with light; his collections of wood furniture and folk art. He recalls William Baziotis, and Ad Reinhardt, and discusses his involvement with the American Abstract Artists group.

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## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 14 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:

Painters -- New York (State) -- Interviews  
Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews  
Sculptors -- United States -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

Names:

American Abstract Artists  
Baziotes, William, 1912-1963  
Reinhardt, Ad, 1913-1967