



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Video Interviews with Paul Ryan, Frank Gillette, and Ira Schneider

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Video Interviews with Paul Ryan, Frank Gillette, and Ira Schneider
Date:	circa 1992
Identifier:	AAA.raincorp
Creator:	Giancola, John Ryan, Paul, 1943-
Extent:	7.1 Gigabytes
Language:	English .
Summary:	The three video interviews with Paul Ryan, Frank Gillette, and Ira Schneider measure 7.10 gigabytes and date to 1992. Conducted by John Giancola, a financial supporter of the Raindance Corporation, the interviews cover the timeline and evolving ethos of the organization.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2010 by Frank Giancola.

Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art are the Paul Ryan papers, circa 1931-2009.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Emma Eubank in 2023.

Preferred Citation

Video interviews with Paul Ryan, Frank Gillette, and Ira Schneider, circa 1992. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Researchers interested in accessing born-digital records in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Paul Ryan (1943-2013), Frank Gillette (1941-), and Ira Schneider (1939-2022) were video artists and founding members of the Raindance Corporation, now the Raindance Foundation. The three artists met through mutual professional connections in New York City in the late 1960s. Operating out of an apartment, these and other founding members created the Raindance Corporation in 1969. Using the medium of video, the founders aimed to contrast the secretive tone of their contemporary political climate by producing films of the everyday for the alternative television movement, using techniques like subject interaction and audience feedback. Frank Gillette and Ira Schneider produced the corporation's first notable piece, *Wipe Cycle* in 1969. Raindance is known for documenting the first Earth Day in 1970. After five successful years, during which time Raindance published several issues of its journal *Radical Software*, the organization began initiatives to support the next generation of video artists, such as publishing one of the first readers on video art and providing free access to technology and editing software. Raindance Foundation is currently located on Park Avenue, New York City.

Scope and Contents

The three video interviews with Paul Ryan, Frank Gillette, and Ira Schneider measure 7.10 gigabytes and date to 1992. Conducted by John Giancola, a financial supporter of the Raindance Corporation, the interviews cover the timeline and evolving ethos of the organization.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Video art

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Video recordings

Names:

Gillette, Frank, 1941-
Raindance Corporation
Schneider, Ira

Occupations:

Video artists -- New York (State) -- Interviews

Container Listing

Series 1: Video Interviews with Paul Ryan, Frank Gillette, and Ira Schneider, 1992

7.1 Gigabytes (ER0001-ER0003)

Scope and Contents: The three video interviews with Paul Ryan, Frank Gillette, and Ira Schneider, conducted by John Giancola, cover the timeline and evolving ethos of the organization.

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|---------------|--|
| Folder ER0001 | Interview with Paul Ryan by John Giancola, Digital Video Recording, 1992
2.42 Gigabytes (1 computer file)
Notes: Paul Ryan comments on the initial meetings of the founders, the organization's relationship to Watergate and the "vulnerability and responsibility" that Raindance members held for their subjects. |
| Folder ER0002 | Interview with Frank Gillette by John Giancola, Digital Video Recording, 1992
1.54 Gigabytes (1 computer file)
Notes: Frank Gillette comments on Raindance's funding, its attempts to push back against visual media decentralization, and his separation from Raindance's later years. |
| Folder ER0003 | Interview with Ira Schneider by John Giancola, Digital Video Recording, 1992
3.13 Gigabytes (2 computer files)
Notes: Ira Schneider discusses his early introduction to film, the alternative television movement, and the creation of Raindance's journal <i>Radical Software</i> . The interview often cuts and often does not show the interviewee. |

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