



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Mel Ramos

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Mel Ramos
Date:	1981 May 15
Identifier:	AAA.ramos81
Creator:	Ramos, Mel, 1935-2018 (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
Extent:	49 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Mel Ramos, 1981 May 15, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Mel Ramos, 1981 May 15, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is 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.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Mel Ramos (1935-) is a painter and teacher in Oakland, Calif.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Mel Ramos conducted 1981 May 15, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art. Ramos speaks of the human figure as subject matter; contemporary iconography; the continuity of themes throughout art history; his interest in celebrities; his female nudes; his response to feminist objections to his work; the influence of Willem de Kooning, Salvador Dali, George Miyasaki, Nathan Oliveira and Wayne Thiebaud; Leta, his wife and model; his use of photographs; photo-realism; his work as part of the "painterly tradition."

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 45 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Philosophy
- Hispanic American artists
- Nude in art
- Painters -- California -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings