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Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with V. V. Rankine

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Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with V. V. Rankine
Identifier:	AAA.rankin90
Date:	1990 Mar. 2-22
Extent:	34 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Rankine, V. V., 1920-2004 Kirwin, Liza
Language:	English .

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.

Biographical / Historical

V.V. Rankine (1920-2004) was a painter and sculptor from Washington, D.C. Variable forms of the artist's name are notably E. R. (Elvine Richard) Rankine, Vivian Scott Rankine, and her married name, Mrs. Paul Scott.

Scope and Contents

An interview of V. V. Rankine conducted 1990 Mar. 2-22, by Liza Kirwin, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Rankine discusses the evolution of her nickname, V.V.; discovering her dyslexia; growing up in Boston; auditioning for a part in, "The Philadelphia Story"; her art studies with Amedee Ozenfant from 1944 to 1946; her studies at Black Mountain College with Josef Albers and Willem De Kooning in 1947; her friendship with Morris Louis and watching him work; living with her brother-in-law Arshile Gorky, in New York City; her first one-woman show at the David Herbert Gallery in New York in 1962; exhibiting at the Betty Parsons Gallery in New York and at the Jefferson Place Gallery in Washington, D.C.; Robert Richman and the Institute of Contemporary Arts; the relationship between her painting and her sculpture; favorite shapes and materials; and her summer home in East Hampton and artist friends there. Rankine

also recalls Robert Rauschenberg, Jack Youngerman, Manoucher Yektai, Betty Parsons, Ibram Lassaw, Buckminster Fuller, Elaine De Kooning, Arthur Penn, Richard Leopold, John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Ken Noland, Morris Louis, Ray Johnson, Kenneth Snelson, David Hare, Frederick Kiesler, Raphael Soyer, Moses Soyer, Jean Renault, Agnes Gorky, Esther Magruder, James Johnson Sweeney, Jim Brooks, John Graham, Phillip Guston, Duncan Phillips, Theresa Helburn, Augustine Duncan, Tom Downing, Gene Davis, Alice Denney, Nesta Dorrance, Kevin Merrill, Sam Gilliam, Dylan Thomas, Kay Halle, Kit Kennedy, Naum Gabo, President Lyndon B. Johnson, Anne Truitt, Wretha Nelson, Franz Bader, Louise Nevelson, Andy Warhol, Jackson Pollock, Bonnie Newman, Alexander Russo, Walt Sheridan, Gilbert Kinney, Saul Sherman, Steve Pace, Lee Krasner, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 5 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hrs., 53 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, American
Sculptors -- Washington (D.C.) -- Interviews
Women artists -- Washington (D.C.)

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Albers, Josef
Bader, Franz, 1903-1994
Betty Parsons Gallery
Black Mountain College (Black Mountain, N.C.)
Brooks, James, 1906-1992
Callahan, Harry M.
Cunningham, Merce
David Herbert Gallery
Davis, Gene, 1920-1985
De Kooning, Elaine
De Kooning, Willem, 1904-1997
Denney, Alice
Dorrance, Nesta
Downing, Thomas, 1928-1985
Duncan, Augustin
Fuller, R. Buckminster (Richard Buckminster), 1895-1983
Gabo, Naum, 1890-1977
Gilliam, Sam, 1933-
Gorky, Agnes
Gorky, Arshile, 1904-1948

Graham, John, 1887-1961
Guston, Philip, 1913-1980
Halle, Kay
Hare, David, 1917-1992
Helburn, Theresa, 1887-1959
Institute of Contemporary Arts (Washington, D.C.)
Jefferson Place Gallery
Johnson, Ray, 1927-1995
Kennedy, Kit
Kiesler, Frederick
Kinney, Gilbert H.
Krasner, Lee, 1908-1984
Lassaw, Ibram, 1913-2003
Leopold, Richard
Louis, Morris, 1912-1962
Magruder, Esther
Merrill, Kevin
Nelson, Wretha
Nevelson, Louise, 1899-1988
Newman, Bonnie
Noland, Kenneth, 1924-2010
Ozenfant, Amédée, 1886-1966
Pace, Stephen, 1918-2010
Parsons, Betty
Penn, Arthur, 1922-
Phillips, Duncan, 1886-1966
Pollock, Jackson, 1912-1956
Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925-2008
Renault, Jean
Richman, Robert
Russo, Alexander
Sheridan, Walt
Sherman, Saul
Snelson, Kenneth, 1927-2016
Soyer, Moses, 1899-1974
Soyer, Raphael, 1899-1987
Sweeney, James Johnson, 1900-
Thomas, Dylan, 1914-1953
Truitt, Anne, 1921-2004
Warhol, Andy, 1928-1987
Yektai, Manoucher, 1922-
Youngerman, Jack, 1926-2020

Occupations:

Painters -- Washington (D.C.) -- Interviews