Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Esther Robles

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Esther Robles
Date:	1981 August 24-31
Identifier:	AAA.robles81
Creator:	Robles, Esther (Interviewee) Bowman, Ruth, 1923- (Interviewer)
Extent:	125 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Esther Robles, 1981 August 24-31, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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.

Restrictions

Use requires an appointment.

Biographical / Historical

Ester Robles (1907-2001) was a gallery director from Los Angeles, Calif.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Esther Robles conducted 1981 August 24-31, by Ruth Bowman, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Robles speaks of her family background; early art training; opening her own gallery in the 1940s; exhibitions at the gallery and artists who exhibited; the art community in Los Angeles and some of the problems in being a dealer there; her dedication to showing a variety of artists; working on the U.S. Treasury Department's Art Advisory Panel; and the closing of her gallery. She recalls Stanton Macdonald-Wright. Also present is Robles' husband, Robert.

General

Originally recorded on 7 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 13 digital wav files. Duration is 6 hr., 13 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Macdonald-Wright, Stanton, 1890-1973

Occupations:

Gallery directors -- California -- Los Angeles