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Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Anne Rorimer

This interview is part of the Elizabeth Murray Oral History of Women in the Visual Arts Project, funded by the A G Foundation.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Anne Rorimer
Date:	2010 November 15-16
Identifier:	AAA.rorime10
Creator:	Rorimer, Anne (Interviewee) Richards, Judith Olch (Interviewer)
Extent:	147 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Anne Rorimer, 2010 November 15-16, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Anne Rorimer, 2010 November 15-16, 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 administrators.

Biographical / Historical

Anne Rorimer (1944-) is a curator and art historian in Chicago, Illinois. Judith Olch Richards (1947-) is a former executive director of iCI in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Anne Rorimer conducted 2010 November 15-16, by Judith Olch Richards, for the Archives of American Art's Elizabeth Murray Oral History of Women in the Visual Arts project, at Rorimer's home, in Chicago, Illinois.

Scope and Contents

Rorimer speaks of her family background; her early life and education in New York City; her father, James Rorimer, and his influence as director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; college life at Bryn Mawr; how she became interested in modern art; her internship at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London after college; her master's degree thesis on Tony Smith; her job as a curator at the Albright-Knox Gallery and then at the Art Institute of Chicago; memorable exhibitions at the AIC throughout the 1970s and early 1980s, including

the annual "American Exhibition," "Europe in the Seventies: Aspects of Recent Art," (1977), and "Idea and Image in Recent Art" (1974); her close relationship with Anne D'Harnoncourt; how she left the AIC in 1984 to write, "New Art in the '60s and 70s: Redefining Reality," (2001); her role in acquisitions of contemporary art at the AIC; her thoughts on art education; her work with collectors; the process of getting her book published and reactions to it; her curatorial projects in the 1980s and early 1990s that focused on conceptual art; her relationship with artists like Michael Asher and Daniel Buren; her extensive book collection; her thoughts on being a freelance curator and writer. She recalls Whitney Stoddard, Robert Beverly Hale, Theodoros Stamos, Leo Castelli, Henry Geldzahler, Anne D'Harnoncourt, Renee Marcuse, Bates Lowry, Tony Smith, Marcia Tucker, A. James Speyer, Bruce Nauman, Lawrence Weiner, Vito Acconci, William Wegman, Robert Morris, Lucy R. Lippard, Katharine Kuh, Sol Lewitt, John Maxon, Eva Hesse, Muriel Newman, Judith Kirschner, Dan Graham, Benjamin Buchloh, and Marcel Broodthaers.

General

Originally recorded on 4 memory cards. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 5 hr., 36 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Collectors and collecting
- Art, Modern -- 20th century
- Conceptual art
- Curators -- Illinois -- Chicago -- Interviews
- Women art historians
- Women authors

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Acconci, Vito, 1940-
- Albright-Knox Art Gallery
- Art Institute of Chicago -- Faculty
- Asher, Michael
- Broodthaers, Marcel
- Bryn Mawr College -- Students
- Buchloh, B. H. D.
- Buren, Daniel
- Castelli, Leo
- D'Harnoncourt, Anne, 1943-2008
- Elizabeth Murray Oral History of Women in the Visual Arts Project
- Geldzahler, Henry
- Graham, Dan, 1942-
- Hale, Robert Beverly, 1901-1985
- Hesse, Eva, 1936-1970
- Kuh, Katharine
- LeWitt, Sol, 1928-2007

Lippard, Lucy R.
Lowry, Bates, 1923-
Maxon, John, 1916-
Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.) -- Employees
Morris, Robert, 1931-2018
Nauman, Bruce, 1941-
Newman, Muriel Kallis Steinberg
Rorimer, James J. (James Joseph), 1905-1966
Smith, Tony, 1912-1980
Speyer, A. James
Stamos, Theodoros, 1922-1997
Tucker, Marcia
Victoria and Albert Museum
Wegman, William
Weiner, Lawrence

Occupations:

Art historians -- Illinois -- Chicago -- Interviews
Authors -- Illinois -- Chicago