



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Rachel Rosenthal

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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Rachel Rosenthal
<b>Date:</b>	1989 September 2-3
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.rosent89
<b>Creator:</b>	Rosenthal, Rachel, 1926- (Interviewee) Roth, Moira (Interviewer) Women in the Arts in Southern California Oral History Project
<b>Extent:</b>	120 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Rachel Rosenthal, 1989 September 2-3, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Rachel Rosenthal, 1989 September 2-3, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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. Funding for this interview was provided by the Margery and Harry Kahn Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund of New York.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Rachel Rosenthal (1926- ) is a performance artist from California.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Rachel Rosenthal conducted 1989 September 2-3, by Moira Roth, for the Archives of American Art, Women in the Arts in Southern California Oral History Project, in Los Angeles, Calif. Rosenthal recounts growing up in Paris; her family; their flight from Paris in 1940; living in Brazil; moving to New York in 1941; her choice to go into theatre; involvement with Robert Rauschenberg, John Cage, Merce Cunningham, and Jasper Johns; dancing with Cunningham's Jr. Co.; early work in sculpture; moving to Los Angeles in 1955; working at the Pasadena Playhouse; the start of the Circle Workshop; King Moody and Instant Theatre; return to visual art in 1971; the 1972 Cal Arts conference on women artists; involvement with Womanspace and the feminist movement; interest in performance and its conceptual aspects; performance

pieces; workshops; the founding of DBD; and her most recent performance and tours. She recalls Josine Ianco-Starrels, Barbara Smith, Betye Saar, June Wayne, Judy Chicago, and Mimi Jacobs. Also included is a 2 p. addendum prepared by Rosenthal, 1993, which briefly summarizes events in her life since the interview.

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## General

Originally recorded on 4 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 8 digital wav files. Duration is 6 hr., 26 min.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Artists and the theater
- Feminism and art
- Women artists
- Women performance artists

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Women in the Arts in Southern California Oral History Project

### Occupations:

- Performance artists -- California