



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Ralph Rosenthal

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Ralph Rosenthal
Date:	1997 February 10-April 7
Identifier:	AAA.rosent97
Creator:	Rosenthal, Ralph, 1912-2003 (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
Extent:	65 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Ralph Rosenthal, 1997 February 10-April 7, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Ralph Rosenthal, 1997 February 10-April 7, 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

Ralph Rosenthal (1912-2003) was a sculptor from Boston, Mass.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Ralph Rosenthal conducted 1997 February 10-April 7, by Robert F. Brown, for the Archives of American Art, at Rosenthal's home, in Brookline, Mass.

Scope and Contents

Rosenthal discusses his childhood in the South End of Boston; first art training at age of 10 under Bill Tate, Dudley Pratt, and Anthony DiBona; attending the Boston public schools' Saturday art classes at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, headed by Alma LeBrecht, Blanche Brink, and Alice Morse, 1924-29; his years at the School of the MFA (1929-35) and the dominant influence there of Philip Hale; his further training in education at Boston University (Ed.M., 1936); his early teaching career; receiving a Carnegie Fellowship in 1938 to study at the Fogg Museum,

Harvard University; studying ceramics at Alfred University in 1940; and his founding with Herbert Kahn in 1941 of ROKA, a ceramics supply company.

Scope and Contents

Teaching in the Boston public schools, 1936-1976, rising from teacher of sculpture to supervisor of art for the entire system in 1966; his work in sculpture, painting, drawing, and ceramics; and former students at the various places he has taught.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 27 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Study and teaching -- Massachusetts -- Boston
- Ceramicists -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- Interviews
- Decorative arts
- Sculptors -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Alfred University -- Students
- Boston University -- Students
- Hale, Philip Leslie, 1865-1931
- Harvard University -- Students
- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. School

Occupations:

- Art students -- Massachusetts
- Art teachers -- Massachusetts -- Boston -- Interviews