



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Arthur Rothstein

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	1
Scope and Contents	1
Names and Subjects	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Arthur Rothstein
Date:	1964 May 25
Identifier:	AAA.rothst64
Creator:	Rothstein, Arthur, 1915-1985 (Interviewee) Doud, Richard Keith (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Extent:	31 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Arthur Rothstein, 1964 May 25, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Arthur Rothstein, 1964 May 25, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's New Deal and the Arts project, which includes over 400 interviews of artists, administrators, historians, and others involved with the federal government's art programs and the activities of the Farm Security Administration in the 1930s and early 1940s.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Arthur Rothstein (1915-1985) was a photographer from New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Arthur Rothstein conducted in New York, N.Y., 1964 May 25, by Richard Doud, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Rothstein speaks of the development of his interest in photography as a hobby while in pre-medical school during the Depression; meeting Roy Stryker and his early impressions of Stryker; the Resettlement Administration and its growth into the Farm Security Administration (FSA); the educational experience of working under Stryker's guidance; the influence of Ben Shahn and Walker Evans; the traveling experience and its influence on him; early assignments; developing as a photographer; documenting the Dust Bowl; the "skull" series and the controversy surrounding it; usage of the FSA works; the FSA's contribution to Rothstein's life and personal development; and going to work for LOOK magazine. He recalls Carl Mydans and Russell Lee.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 11 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Documentary photography -- United States
Photographers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Evans, Walker, 1903-1975
Lee, Russell, 1903-1986
Mydans, Carl
New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Shahn, Ben, 1898-1969
Stryker, Roy Emerson, 1893-1975
United States. Farm Security Administration. Historical Section. Photographs