



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Michele Russo

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Michele Russo
Identifier:	AAA.russo83
Date:	1983 August 29
Creator:	Russo, Michele, 1909-2004 (Interviewee) Van Cleve, Jane (Interviewer)
Extent:	49 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Michele Russo, 1983 August 29, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Michele Russo, 1983 August 29, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' Northwest Oral History Project, begun in 1982 to document the Northwest artistic community through interviews with painters, sculptors, craftsmen, educators, curators, and others, in Oregon, Washington and Montana.

Location of Originals

Transcript also available at the University of Washington, Manuscripts Collection, and at the Oregon Historical Society.

Biographical / Historical

Michele Russo (1909-2004) was a painter from Portland, Or.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Michele Russo conducted 1983 August 29, by Jane Van Cleve, at the artist's studio in Portland, Or., for the Archives of American Art's Northwest Oral History Project. Russo speaks of his youth and educational background; attending Yale University Art School; his participation in social activism; working on WPA projects; the development of his interest in painting; the lack of a gallery system on the West Coast; themes that recur in his work; the fire at the Fountain Gallery; the pressures on contemporary artists; and West Coast art styles.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 5 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 42 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art, American -- Northwestern States
- Art, Modern -- Northwestern States
- Artists -- Northwestern States -- Interviews
- Painters -- Oregon -- Portland -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- United States. Works Progress Administration