



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Charles H. Sawyer

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Charles H. Sawyer
Identifier:	AAA.sawyer64
Date:	1964
Extent:	14 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Sawyer, Charles Henry, 1906-2005 Ehrlich, Heyward New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

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 is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Biographical / Historical

Charles Henry Sawyer (1906-2005) was a museum director in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Charles Henry Sawyer conducted in 1964, by Heyward Ehrlich, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Sawyer speaks of how he first got involved in art after being offered a job teaching art and operating a museum in Andover by a family friend; how he became involved with the Federal Art Project; the early stages of the Project, and the difficulties they encountered, including the primary motivation of the

Project, deciding where the work was to be assigned, and other administrative problems; the changes that occurred as the Federal Arts Project developed; the artists involved with the Project, such as Karl Knaths and Jack Levine; the shows that were put on by the Project; the end of the Federal Art Project; and his thoughts on the project in retrospect. Sawyer recalls Francis Taylor, Karl Knaths, Jack Levine, Howard Gibbs, John Stuart Curry, Herbert Waters, Karl Zerbe, Howard Cook, Hail Woodworth, and many others.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 1 digital wav file. Duration is 1 hr., 3 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Federal aid to the arts
Museum directors -- Michigan -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Cook, Howard Norton, 1901-1980
Curry, John Steuart, 1897-1946
Gibbs, Howard Manning, 1904-1970
Knaths, Karl, 1891-1971
Levine, Jack, 1915-2010
New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Taylor, Francis Henry, 1903-1957
Waters, Herbert
Woodworth, Hail
Zerbe, Karl, 1903-1972