



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with David Von Schlegell

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Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with David Von Schlegell
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.schleg67
<b>Date:</b>	1967 June 5
<b>Creator:</b>	Von Schlegell, David, 1920-1992 (Interviewee)
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Sound cassette (analog) 30 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with David Von Schlegell, 1967 June 5, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with David Von Schlegell, 1967 June 5, 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.

### Available Formats

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

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## Biographical / Historical

Interviewee David von Schlegell (1920-1992) was a sculptor, painter, and educator in New Haven, Connecticut. Interviewer Dorothy Seckler (1910-1994) was an art historian.

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## Scope and Contents

Interview of David Von Schlegell, conducted by Dorothy Gees Seckler for the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, in New York on June 5, 1967.

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## Scope and Contents

Von Schlegell speaks of growing up in St. Louis; his father, who was also a painter; training in Ogunquit, ME and with the Art Students League in New York; entering World War II as an Air Force pilot; the decision to take up sculpture; his artistic preferences and influences; his use of materials and methods of working;

his impressions of Minimalism; and comparisons between sculpture and architecture. He also recalls David Smith, Utagawa Kuniyoshi, Willem de Kooning, Mark Rothko, Mark di Suvero, Robert Morris, and others.

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## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound cassette. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 29 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:

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Occupations:

- Painters -- Connecticut -- New Haven
- Sculptors -- Connecticut