



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Fritz Scholder

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.

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/>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Fritz Scholder
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.schold95
<b>Date:</b>	1995 March 3-30
<b>Extent:</b>	100 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Creator:</b>	Scholder, Fritz, 1937-2005 Karlstrom, Paul J.
<b>Language:</b>	English .

---

## 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 available online.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Fritz Scholder (1937-2005) was a painter and sculptor from Scottsdale, Ariz.

---

## Scope and Contents

An interview of Fritz Scholder conducted 1995 March 3-30, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art.

## Scope and Contents

Scholder discusses his family background and growing up in parallel worlds of Anglo and Indian cultures and the frustration of western versus tribal life; his education in Lawrence, Kan. and the University of Wisconsin; moving to California; his father's job as head of Indian relocation; studying at the Indian art program at the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and the Indian Art Institute in Santa Fe, N.M.; his views on Indians in general and the difficulty of operating in the mainstream art world; his travels and search for adventure in Europe and Egypt; the importance of magic and the occult in his work; myths as a basis for human experience; art as an agent of social change; objections of Indian groups to his work; and his experience as an Indian role model while not part of the movement. He recalls Robert B. Green, Wayne Thiebaud, Ralph Lauren, Vincent Price, Georgia O'Keeffe, Charles Loloma, Agnes Martin, Elaine Horowitch, and Leonard Baskin.

---

## General

Originally recorded on 7 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 12 digital wav files. Duration is 6 hr., 11 min.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Indians of North America -- Southwest, New -- Art
- Painters -- Arizona -- Scottsdale -- Interviews
- Painters -- Southwest, New -- Interviews
- Sculptors -- Arizona -- Scottsdale -- Interviews
- Sculptors -- Southwest, New -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Baskin, Leonard, 1922-2000
- Green, Robert B.
- Horowitch, Elaine
- Howe, Oscar, 1915-1983
- Lauren, Ralph
- Loloma, Charles, 1921-
- Martin, Agnes, 1912-2004
- O'Keeffe, Georgia , 1887-1986
- Price, Vincent, 1911-1993
- Thiebaud, Wayne