



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Karl Schrag

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Karl Schrag
Date:	1970 October 14-20
Identifier:	AAA.schrag70
Creator:	Schrag, Karl (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	45 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Karl Schrag, 1970 October 14-20, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Karl Schrag, 1970 October 14-20, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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 others.

Restrictions

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

Biographical / Historical

Karl Schrag (1912-1995) was a painter and printmaker from New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

Interview of Karl Schrag conducted 1970 October 14-20, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art. Schrag speaks of his childhood in Germany; how his parents were nervous about him becoming an artist; going to various art schools; studying with Bissiere; his first exhibition in Brussels; moving to America because of the political situation in Europe; enrolling in the Art Students League; getting involved with Atelier 17; how the mid-1940s were crucial in his development; American artists he found interesting; his thoughts on the Abstract Expressionists; how he started teaching; joining Tamarind workshop; his first retrospective, the Ford Foundation-A.F.A Show; being on the Fulbright jury; how his pictures relate to each other; his technique; and becoming the Director of Atelier 17. He recalls Andre L'Hote, Roger Bissiere, Harry Sternberg, Anton Refregier, William Kienbusch, Fred Farr, Carroll

Cloar, John Sloan, Maurice Becker, Stanley William Hayter, Yves Tanguy, Bohuslav Horak, Robert Broner, Margaret Lowenbraun, and many others.

General

Tape 2 is mostly blank.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound tape reels. Reformatted in 2010 as 8 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 25 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Abstract expressionism
- Art, American
- Painters -- New York (State) -- Interviews
- Printmakers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Art Students League (New York, N.Y.) -- Students
- Atelier 17
- Becker, Maurice, 1889-1975
- Bissière, Roger, 1888-1964
- Broner, Robert, 1922-
- Cloar, Carroll
- Farr, Fred, 1914-1973
- Hayter, Stanley William, 1901-1988
- Horak, Bohuslav, 1914-2004
- Kienbusch, William, 1914-1980
- Lhote, André, 1885-1962
- Refregier, Anton, 1905-
- Sloan, John, 1871-1951
- Sternberg, Harry, 1904-2001
- Tanguy, Yves, 1900-1955