



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Charles Searles

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Charles Searles
Identifier:	AAA.searle91
Date:	1991 June 13
Creator:	Searles, Charles Robert, 1937-2004 (Interviewee) Veloric, Cynthia (Interviewer)
Extent:	149 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Charles Searles, 1991 June 13, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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: 35mm microfilm reel 4779 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Biographical / Historical

Charles Robert Searles (1937-2004) was a sculptor, painter and muralist in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Charles Searles conducted 1991 June 13, by Cynthia Veloric, for the Archives of American Art Philadelphia Project.

Scope and Contents

Searles discusses his early life in Philadelphia; military service; discovering African sculpture; attending the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts; being included in the 1969 exhibit "New Black Artists"; traveling to Europe and Africa on a Cresson Fellowship from the PAFA; his experiences in Nigeria; exhibiting and

teaching in Philadelphia, moving to New York City; his work in various media; subject matter; interest in dance and music; participating in Recherché; and being represented by the Sande Webster Gallery in Philadelphia.

General

Originally recorded on 4 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 52 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- African American art -- African influences
- African American artists
- Recherché (Group)

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Sande Webster Gallery

Occupations:

- Muralists -- New York (State) -- New York
- Muralists -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
- Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York
- Sculptors -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia