



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Peter Howard Selz

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.

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## Collection Overview

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|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b>      | Archives of American Art   |
| <b>Title:</b>           | Oral history interview with Peter Howard Selz  |
| <b>Date:</b>            | 1982 July 28-October 12  |
| <b>Identifier:</b>      | AAA.selz82   |
| <b>Creator:</b>         | Selz, Peter Howard, 1919-2019 (Interviewee)<br>Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)  |
| <b>Extent:</b>          | 80 Pages (Transcript)  |
| <b>Language:</b>        | English .  |
| <b>Digital Content:</b> | <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Peter Howard Selz, 1982 July 28-October 12, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a> |

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## 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.

### Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 3199 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

Transcript: Use requires an appointment.

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## Biographical / Historical

Peter Howard Selz (1919-2019 ) was a curator and art historian from Berkeley, California.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Peter Howard Selz conducted 1982 July 28-1982 October 12, by Paul J. Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art.

## Scope and Contents

Selz speaks of his early interest in art; his immigration to the United States in 1935; meeting Alfred Stieglitz; his career as an art historian and how it developed; exhibitions he organized; art and its relationship to politics; developments in contemporary American art and the study of art history; the Mark Rothko estate trial; and his current work. He recalls Marsden Hartley, Rene Magritte, Sam Francis, and Jules Pascin.

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## General

Originally recorded on 6 sound cassette. Reformatted in 2010 as 9 digital wav files. Duration is 4 hr., 31 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

### Names:

- Francis, Sam, 1923-1994
- Hartley, Marsden, 1877-1943
- Magritte, René, 1898-1967
- Pascin, Jules, 1885-1930
- Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970
- Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946

### Occupations:

- Art historians -- California -- Berkeley -- Interviews