



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Louis Siegriest

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.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Louis Siegriest
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.siegri78
<b>Date:</b>	1978 June 21
<b>Extent:</b>	30 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Creator:</b>	Siegriest, 1899-1989 Karlstrom, Paul J. St. John, Terry
<b>Language:</b>	English

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' 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.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Louis Siegriest (1899-1989) was a painter from Oakland, California.

---

## Scope and Contents

An interview of Louis Siegriest conducted 1978 June 21, by Terry St. John and Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art.

---

## Scope and Contents

Siegriest speaks of his background; studying with Frank Van Sloun at the Mark Hopkins School; the Society of Six and its members, Seldon Gile, Bernard Von Eichman, Maurice Logan, William Clapp, and August Gay; living in Milwaukee and working in commercial art; returning to San Francisco and pursuing landscape painting; working for the WPA under Rene D'Harnoncourt; doing camouflage work with the U.S. Army in World War II; a controversy about and cancellation of an exhibit of his work at the De Young Museum; collage in the 1950s; his travels; the Bay area art scene; his associations with younger artists; his recent work.

## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hrs., 15 min.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Painters -- California -- Oakland -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

Names:

Clapp, William Henry, 1879-1954  
D'Hamoncourt, Rene, 1901-1968  
Gay, August François, 1890-1948  
Gile, Selden Connor, 1877-1947  
Logan, Maurice, 1886-1977  
Society of Six  
Van Sloun, Frank J., 1879-1938  
Von Eichman, Bernard J., 1899-1970