Oral history interview with Aaron Siskind

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Scope and Contents

An interview of Aaron Siskind conducted 1982 September 28-October 2, by Barbara Shikler, for the Archives of American Art's Mark Rothko and His Times oral history project.

Scope and Contents

Siskind recalls his childhood in New York and his early interest in poetry and later photography. He describes the evolution of his own work, the role of various influences upon his work, and the meanings that can be assigned to his work. He discusses the abstract expressionist elements of his photographs and recalls his involvement with painters, including Mark Rothko. He speaks of photographing Rothko's paintings, and describes Rothko's personality. He recalls Barney Newman, Adolph Gottlieb, Paul Strand, Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning, Joe Solomon, Robert Motherwell, Clyfford Still, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 7 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:
  Abstract expressionism  
  Photographers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:
  Interviews  
  Sound recordings

Names:
  De Kooning, Willem, 1904-1997  
  Gottlieb, Adolph, 1903-1974  
  Kline, Franz, 1910-1962  
  Mark Rothko and His Times Oral History Project  
  Motherwell, Robert  
  Newman, Barnett, 1905-1970  
  Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970  
  Solomon, Joe  
  Still, Clyfford, 1904-1980  
  Strand, Paul, 1890-1976