



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Helen Sloan Interview, circa 1950, 1991, in the Archives of American Art

Jennifer E. Neal

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Archives of American Art
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Helen Sloan interview
Date:	circa 1950 1991
Identifier:	AAA.sloahelen
Creator:	Marshall, Laurie Sloan, Helen Farr, 1911-2005
Extent:	0.8 Linear feet
Language:	English .
Summary:	This small collection of a video interview conducted by Laurie Marshall with Helen Sloan, widow of artist John Sloan, measures 0.8 linear feet and dates from circa 1950 and 1991. The bulk of the collection consists of video and audio recordings of the interview, a transcript of the interview, and a rough transfer of a black and white 16 mm film about John Sloan from the circa 1950s. The interview was conducted in preparation for a documentary on John Sloan, "John Sloan's New York". The full documentary was never produced.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2018 by Laurie Marshall.

Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jennifer E. Neal.

Preferred Citation

Helen Sloan interview, circa 1950, 1991. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center. Archival audiovisual recordings must be digitized for research access. Researchers may access digitized audiovisual materials in the Archives' Washington, D.C. or New York, N.Y. Research Centers by appointment.

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Biographical / Historical

Laurie Marshall is a documentary filmmaker and director in New York, New York, who specializes in art and art history. Helen Farr Sloan was a philanthropist, painter, and educator, and was married to artist, John Sloan, from 1945 until his death in 1951.

Helen Sloan had a lifelong dedication to art and in 1996 established the John Sloan Trust to disperse works by John Sloan and support the artistic program of the Delaware Art Museum. John Sloan, one of the founders and members of the Ashcan School, was an American painter and etcher. He was a landscapist and portraitist, but is best known for his depictions of cities and their inhabitants during the early 20th century, often capturing the essence of his New York City neighborhood.

Scope and Contents

This small collection of a video interview conducted by Laurie Marshall with Helen Sloan, widow of artist John Sloan, measures 0.8 linear feet and dates from circa 1950 and 1991. The bulk of the collection consists of video and audio recordings of the interview, a transcript of the interview, and a rough transfer of a black and white 16 mm film about John Sloan. The interview was conducted in preparation for a documentary on John Sloan, "John Sloan's New York". Although full documentary was never produced, a 3:38 demonstration from the interview was produced on June 24, 1992.

The interview offers insight mostly to John Sloan's artistic style and development, but also gives a glimpse into his marriage to his first wife, Anna Maria (Dolly) Wall, and into his relationship with Helen Sloan. Materials include three audio cassettes, five Beta Master tapes, five VHS tapes, a typed master transcript, a transcript copy with reel notations, and one rough transfer of a short black and white 16mm film about John Sloan from circa 1950 on VHS.

Arrangement

Due to the small size of this collection the papers are arranged as one series.

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
- Video recordings

Names:

- Sloan, John, 1871-1951

Occupations:

- Filmmakers -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
- Philanthropists -- New York (State) -- New York

Container Listing

Series 1: Interviews, 1991

0.8 Linear feet (Box 1-2)

Scope and Contents: This series contains Laurie Marshall's interview of Helen Farr Sloan for a documentary about artist, John Sloan, that was never produced. The interview offers insight mostly to John Sloan's artistic style and development, but also gives a glimpse into his marriage to his first wife, Anna Maria (Dolly) Wall, and into his relationship with Helen Sloan. Materials include three audio cassettes, five Beta Master tapes, five VHS tapes, a typed master transcript, a transcript copy with reel notations, and one rough transfer of a short black and white 16mm film about John Sloan from circa 1950 on VHS.

Box 1, Item 1 Helen Sloan interview about John Sloan, 1991
5 Videocassettes (Betacam) (original, tapes are numbered reels 1-5)

Box 2, Item 1 Helen Sloan interview about John Sloan, 1991
5 Videocassettes (VHS) (copies, tapes are numbered reels 1-5)
3 Sound cassettes (tapes are numbered reels 1-3)

Box 2, Item 2 Transcript of Helen Sloan interview, 1991

Box 1, Item 2 John Sloan black and white film, circa 1950
1 Videocassettes (VHS) (label reads "Rough Transfer from 16mm Original;"
original film not found in collection)

Box 2, Item 3 John Sloan artwork, 1991
1 Videocassettes (VHS) (label reads "WRS Camera Stand with Visual T.C.
#6")

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