



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Joseph Solman

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.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Joseph Solman
Identifier:	AAA.solman81
Date:	1981 May 6-8
Creator:	Solman, Joseph, 1909-2008 (Interviewee) Berman, Avis (Interviewer) Mark Rothko and His Times Oral History Project
Extent:	56 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Joseph Solman, 1981 May 6-8, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Joseph Solman, 1981 May 6-8, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview was conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's Mark Rothko and his Times oral history project, with funding provided by the Mark Rothko Foundation.

Acquisition Information

Others interviewed on the project (by various interviewers) include: Sonia Allen, Sally Avery, Ben-Zion, Bernard Braddon, Ernest Briggs, Rhys Caparn, Elaine de Kooning, Herbert Ferber, Esther Gottlieb, Juliette Hays, Sidney Janis, Buffie Johnson, Jacob Kainen, Louis Kaufman, Jack Kufeld, Katharine Kuh, Stanley Kunitz, Joseph Liss, Dorothy Miller, Betty Parsons, Wallace Putnam, Rebecca Reis, Maurice Roth, Sidney Schectman, Aaron Siskind, Hedda Sterne, Jack Tworok, Esteban Vicente and Ed Weinstein. Each has been cataloged separately.

Available Formats

Transcript available online.

Available Formats

Funding provided by the Mark Rothko Foundation.

Restrictions

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Biographical / Historical

Joseph Solman (1909-2008) was a painter and educator from New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Joseph Solman conducted 1981 May 6-8, by Avis Berman, for the Archives of American Art's Mark Rothko and His Times oral history project.

Scope and Contents

Solman recalls his youth in Jamaica, Long Island, and his studies at the National Academy of Design. He talks about the art world of the 1930s and 1940s, including the camaraderies formed by participating in the WPA and the activities of various galleries, including Gallery Secession. Solmon remembers Mark Rothko and the members, meetings and exhibitions of The Ten. He speaks of his work on Art Front magazine, his own art work and teaching, and his personal art collection. He recalls Byron Browne, Ilya Bolotowsky, Herman Rose, Milton Avery, Adolf Gottlieb, Arshile Gorky, De Hirsch Margules, Eugene Atget, Elizabeth McCausland, Berenice Abbott, John Graham, Earl Kerkam, Ralph Rosenborg, Yankel Kufeld, Ben Zion, Hans Mueller, Eric Esenberger, Boris Aronson, Lou Harris, Karl Knaths, Lou Schanker, Stuart Davis, Alice Neel, Dorothy Koppelman, Joan Miro, Pat Codyre, Joseph Brummer, Jacob Kainen, Jack Tworokov, and many others.

General

Originally recorded 4 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 8 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 41 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Abstract expressionism
- Painters -- Massachusetts -- Interviews
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Philadelphia Ten (Group of artists)

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Gallery Secession (New York, N.Y.)
- Mark Rothko and His Times Oral History Project
- Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970

Preferred Titles:

- Art front*