



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Victor D. Spark

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/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Victor D. Spark
Date:	1975 August 5
Identifier:	AAA.spark75
Creator:	Spark, Victor D. (Victor David), 1898-1991 (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	3 Items (Sound recording: 3 sound files (1 hr., 59 min.); digital, wav) 55 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Victor D. Spark, 1975 August 5, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Victor D. Spark, 1975 August 5, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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

Biographical / Historical

Victor D. Spark (1898-1991) was an art dealer from New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

Interview of Victor D. Spark, conducted August 5, 1975, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, at Spark's New York City apartment.

Scope and Contents

Spark speaks of his early schooling at Townsend Harris Hall and NYU; his experience in the Marine Corps during World War II; working in his father's hotel business; the economic difficulties for art dealers during the Great Depression; apprenticing in galleries and working as a small art dealer; changes in the mid-century

American art market; the differences between the art market for modern and contemporary art and that of older art. Spark also recalls Maxim Karolik, Edith Halpert, the gallerists Duveen, Knoedler, Wildenstein, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 3 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 59 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Economic aspects
- Art, American
- Depressions -- 1929
- World War, 1939-1945

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Duveen, Albert
- Duveen, Joseph Duveen, Baron, 1869-1939
- Duveen-Graham (Gallery)
- Halpert, Edith Gregor, 1900-1970
- Karolik, Maxim
- Knoedler, Roland F., 1856-1932
- M. Knoedler & Co.
- New York University -- Students
- United States. Marine Corps
- Wildenstein Galleries
- Wildenstein, Felix, 1883-1952

Occupations:

- Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York