



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Francis Speight

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Francis Speight
Identifier:	AAA.speigh87
Date:	1987 April 4-5
Creator:	Speight, Francis, 1896-1989 (Interviewee) Blakeslee, Sarah Jane, 1912- Sellin, David (Interviewer)
Extent:	118 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Francis Speight, 1987 April 4-5, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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

Francis Speight (1896-1989) was a painter from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Born in North Carolina.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Francis Speight conducted 1987 April 4-5, by David Sellin, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Speight speaks of his family background; early aspirations; his studies at the Corcoran School of Art and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts; the faculty and administration at the Academy including Arthur B. Carles, Hugh Breckenridge, Henry McCarter, Daniel Garber, and Hobson Pittman; his scholarships and fellowships; teaching at the Academy; the Academy's summer school at Chester Springs; painting in Manayunk; and his experiences as a juror. Speight's wife Sarah Blakeslee is also present during a portion of the interview and describes her studies at Chester Springs.

General

Originally recorded 5 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 10 digital wav files. Duration is 6 hr., 40 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, American
Painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Breckenridge, Hugh H. (Hugh Henry), 1870-1937
Carles, Arthur B., 1882-1952
Garber, Daniel, 1880-
McCarter, Henry, 1866-1942
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
Pittman, Hobson Lafayette, 1899 or 1900-1972
Sartain, Harriet, 1873-1957