



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with John Spencer

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with John Spencer
Identifier:	AAA.spence94
Date:	1994 September 1
Extent:	2 Items (sound cassettes (1 hr., 23 min.); analog.) 41 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Spencer, John, 1911-1996 Karlstrom, Paul J.
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is 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 administrators.

Available Formats

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

Restrictions

This transcript is open for research. Access to the entire audio recording is restricted. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

John Spencer was a painter from Pasadena, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview with John Spencer conducted 1994 September 1, by Paul J. Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Spencer discusses his work assisting Dean Cornwell on the Los Angeles Central Library murals between 1927-1933; his subsequent relationship with Cornwell; and his experience as a young artist in Southern California in the 1930s.

General

Originally recorded 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 3 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 23 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, American -- California, Southern
Art, Modern -- 20th century -- California, Southern
Mural painting and decoration -- 20th century -- California -- Los Angeles
Mural painting and decoration, American
Muralists -- California -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Cornwell, Dean, 1892-1960

Geographic Names:

Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Buildings, structures, etc