



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Michael St. Clair

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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Michael St. Clair
<b>Date:</b>	1994 March 14 and April 28
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.stclai94
<b>Creator:</b>	St. Clair, Michael, 1912-1999 (Interviewee) Stavitsky, Gail, 1954- (Interviewer) Driscoll, John Paul (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	44 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Michael St. Clair, 1994 March 14 and April 28, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Michael St. Clair, 1994 March 14 and April 28, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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. Funding for this interview was provided by the Art Dealers Association of America.

### Available Formats

Transcript available online.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Michael St. Clair (1912-1999) was an art dealer of New York, N.Y.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Michael St. Clair conducted 1994 March 14- 1994 April 28, by Gail Stavitsky and John Driscoll, for the Archives of American Art.

## Scope and Contents

St. Clair briefly discusses his art training at the Kansas City Institute of Art and at the Art Students League and compares the teaching styles of Thomas Hart Benton and George Grosz. He talks about his work as the director of the Oklahoma (City) Art Center and designing window displays for Macy's and other department stores in New York City. Finally, he reviews his career at Babcock Galleries, focusing his discussion on his acquisition of the work of Marsden Hartley, Childe Hassam, John Kensett, and Thomas Eakins, among others.

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## General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 42 min.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art students -- Kansas -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

Names:

Babcock Galleries  
Kansas City Institute of Art  
Oklahoma Art Center

Occupations:

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