



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Hedda Sterne

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Hedda Sterne
Identifier:	AAA.sterne81
Date:	1981 December 17
Creator:	Sterne, Hedda, 1910-2011 (Interviewee) Tuchman, Phyllis (Interviewer) Mark Rothko and His Times Oral History Project
Extent:	27 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Hedda Sterne, 1981 December 17, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Hedda Sterne, 1981 December 17, 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, 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, Aaron Siskind, Joseph Solman, Jack Tworkov, Esteban Vicente and Ed Weinstein. Each has been cataloged separately.

Restrictions

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

Biographical / Historical

Hedda Sterne (1910-2011) was a painter from New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Hedda Sterne conducted 1981 December 17, by Phyllis Tuchman, for the Archives of American Art's Mark Rothko and His Times oral history project.

Scope and Contents

Sterne remembers Mark Rothko's personality and relations with other artists. She recalls her involvement with a roundtable discussion in 1950, and describes seeing Rothko shortly before his death. Sterne goes on to speak about her childhood in Romania, art education in Paris and Vienna, and emigration to America in 1941. She describes the New York gallery scene of the 1940s and 1950s, the evolution of her work through the years, and her painting habits. She recalls Peggy Guggenheim, Clyfford Still, Milton Avery, Ad Reinhardt, Barney Newman, Clement Greenberg, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 3 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 19 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Abstract expressionism
- Women artists
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Avery, Milton, 1885-1965
- Greenberg, Clement, 1909-1994
- Guggenheim, Peggy, 1898-
- Mark Rothko and His Times Oral History Project
- Newman, Barnett, 1905-1970
- Reinhardt, Ad, 1913-1967
- Rothko, Mark, 1903-1970
- Still, Clyfford, 1904-1980

Occupations:

- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York