



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Charles R. Strong

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	1
Scope and Contents	1
Names and Subjects	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Charles R. Strong
Date:	1998 March 14-30
Identifier:	AAA.strong98
Creator:	Strong, Charles, 1938- (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
Extent:	58 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Charles R. Strong, 1998 March 14-30, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Charles R. Strong, 1998 March 14-30, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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 is provided by The Martin Foundation.

Available Formats

Transcript available on line

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Charles Strong (1938-) is a curator, painter, and graphic artist of San Francisco, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Charles Strong conducted 1998 March 14 and 30, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art, in Karlstrom's home, San Francisco, California.

Scope and Contents

Strong discusses his background and early years growing up in Greeley, Colorado; his interest in California and abstract expressionism leading him to enroll at San Francisco Art Institute; his experience at SFAI, including teachers, students, and the independence to develop his own direction; New York vs. San Francisco styles and the myth of west coast abstraction imitating New York; his reasons for staying in California; main influences in his art; his admiration for the Old Master artists; the resolution of the conflict between control and intuition on his own work; the differences between northern and southern California abstraction, and the central role of Bay Area abstraction in the west; and his early work. The interview concludes with Strong's accounts of his approach and goals, his imagery, and his ongoing desires to get at what he sees as the "essence" of Abstract Expressionism.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 49 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, Modern -- 20th century -- California -- San Francisco Bay Area
Artists -- California -- San Francisco -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings