



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Elaine Sturtevant

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.

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

Table of Contents

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

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Elaine Sturtevant
Identifier:	AAA.sturte07
Date:	2007 July 25-26
Extent:	71 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Sturtevant, Elaine Hainley, Bruce Lobel, Michael
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.

Biographical / Historical

Elaine Sturtevant (1924-2014) was a multi-media artist in Paris, France and New York, N.Y. Bruce Hainley is a writer from Los Angeles, California. Michael Lobel is an art historian from New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Elaine Sturtevant conducted 2007 July 25-26, by Bruce Hainley and Michael Lobel, for the Archives of American Art, at the Archives of American Art, in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

Sturtevant speaks of her exhibitions, Raw Power at Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac in Paris 2007; Cold Fear at the Anthony Reynolds Gallery in London, 2006; Brutal Truth at the Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany, 2004; America America at Galerie J in Paris in 1966; Sturtevant at the Bianchini Gallery in New York in 1965; and others. She also talks about her work Hate Kill Falsity, 2006; the process of installing shows to present a totality of work instead of individual pieces; the concept of "copy" and its misattributions in her art; her interest in opening minds and engendering thinking; her master's degree in language and interest in the writings of Gilles Deleuze and Michel Foucault; possessing confidence in

her work to continue creating amidst years of misunderstanding and criticism; Abstract Expressionism and Pop art as catalysts in developing the philosophical concept of her work; frustration at being asked personal questions about the artists she was associated with; the reception of her art in Europe; using video as a medium to articulate visibility; and welcoming different interpretations of her work. Sturtevant also recalls Thaddaeus Ropac, Anthony Reynolds, Udo Kittelmann, Anselm Kiefer, Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Andy Warhol, Hans-Ulrich Obrist, Beatrix Ruf, Claude Givaudan, Claes Oldenburg, Marcel Duchamp, Paul Maenz, Joseph Kosuth, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 5 sound discs. Reformatted in 2010 as 9 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 3 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Abstract expressionism
- Multimedia (Art)
- Pop art
- Video art
- Women artists

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Anthony Reynolds Gallery
- Bianchini Gallery
- Deleuze, Gilles, 1925-1995
- Duchamp, Marcel, 1887-1968
- Foucault, Michel, 1926-1984
- Galerie J
- Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac (Salzburg, Austria)
- Givaudan, Claude
- Johns, Jasper, 1930-
- Kiefer, Anselm, 1945-
- Kittleman, Udo
- Kosuth, Joseph.
- Maenz, Paul
- Museum für Moderne Kunst (Frankfurt am Main, Germany)
- Obrist, Hans Ulrich
- Oldenburg, Claes, 1929-
- Rauschenberg, Robert, 1925-2008
- Reynolds, Anthony
- Ropac, Thaddäus J.
- Ruf, Beatrix
- Warhol, Andy, 1928-1987

