



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Chuzo Tamotzu

Archives of American Art
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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
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Chuzo Tamotzu
Identifier:	AAA.tamots64
Date:	1964 September 3
Creator:	Tamotsu, Chūzō, 1888-1975 (Interviewee) Loomis, Sylvia Glidden (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
Extent:	11 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Chuzo Tamotzu, 1964 September 3, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's New Deal and the Arts project, which includes over 400 interviews of artists, administrators, historians, and others involved with the federal government's art programs and the activities of the Farm Security Administration in the 1930s and early 1940s.

Biographical / Historical

Chuzo Tamotzu (1888-1975) was a Japanese American painter based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Tamotzu was born in Japan and came to the United States in 1920. He moved to Santa Fe in 1948.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Chuzo Tamotzu (Tamotsu) conducted 1964 September 3 by Sylvia Loomis for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Tamotzu discusses studying Occidental, Oriental art in Japan; traveling to Korea, Manchuria and China, South Sea Islands, Singapore, then Europe for a year; coming to New York in 1920; his involvement with An American Group; Juliana Force recruiting him for the Federal Art Project; being on the Easel Project and also on the Graphic Art Project; the Works Projects Administration; given "pink-slip" on the Project since he was not a U.S. citizen; stint in the U.S. Army, Office of Strategic Service doing propaganda paintings for psychological war material for the Japanese Army and soldiers; settling in Santa Fe, N.M.; Oriental painting;

and Artist Equity Association. Tamotzu mentions Beatrice Mandelman, Louis Ribak, Robert Philip, Stuart Eddy, Frederick Knight, and Olive Rush.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 1 digital wav file. Duration is 40 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art, Oriental.
- Arts, Japanese -- Western influences
- Asian American art
- Asian American artists
- Asian American painters
- Federal aid to the arts
- Japanese American art
- Japanese American artists
- Painting, Asian
- Painting, Japanese

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- An American Group (Organization)
- Artists Equity Association
- Eddy, Stuart
- Federal Art Project
- Force, Juliana, 1876-1948
- Knight, Frederic C., 1898-1979
- Mandelman, Beatrice
- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
- Philipp, Robert, 1895-1981
- Ribak, Louis, 1902-1979
- Rush, Olive, 1873-1966

Occupations:

- Painters -- New Mexico -- Santa Fe