



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Edward B. Thomas

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Edward B. Thomas
Identifier:	AAA.thomas83
Date:	1983 April 28-May 10
Creator:	Thomas, Edward B., 1920-1984 (Interviewee) Olbrantz, John (Interviewer)
Extent:	84 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Edward B. Thomas, 1983 April 28-May 10, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Edward B. Thomas, 1983 April 28-May 10, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' Northwest Oral History Project, begun in 1982 to document the Northwest artistic community through interviews with painters, sculptors, craftsmen, educators, curators, and others, in Oregon, Washington and Montana.

Location of Originals

Transcript also available at the University of Washington, Manuscripts Collection, and at the Oregon Historical Society.

Biographical / Historical

Edward B. Thomas (1920-1984) was an educator and museum curator from Seattle, Washington.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Edward B. Thomas conducted 1983 April 28-May 10, by John Olbrantz, at the artist's home in Seattle, Washington, for the Archives of American Art's Northwest Oral History Project. Thomas speaks of his family background and early art experiences; his education at the University of Washington; printmaking and its role in Northwest art; his role as education director at the Seattle Art Museum; the development of the museum under Richard E. Fuller; contributors to the museum; the impact of the 1962 World's Fair; the Northwest art scene; exhibitions at the museum; interaction with the Henry Gallery and other museums; and his future plans. He recalls Guy Anderson, Kenneth Callahan, Morris Graves, and Mark Tobey.

General

Originally recorded on 6 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 12 digital wav files. Duration is 6 hr., 9 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art, American -- Northwestern States
- Art, Modern -- Northwestern States
- Educators -- Washington (State) -- Seattle -- Interviews
- Prints -- 20th century -- Northwestern States

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Anderson, Guy, 1906-1998
- Callahan, Kenneth, 1905-1986
- Graves, Morris, 1910-
- Henry Art Gallery
- Seattle Art Museum
- Tobey, Mark

Functions:

- Art museums -- Washington (State) -- Seattle