



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with William Thon

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with William Thon
Date:	1992 December 15-16
Identifier:	AAA.thon92
Creator:	Thon, William, 1906-2000 (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
Extent:	52 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with William Thon, 1992 December 15-16, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with William Thon, 1992 December 15-16, 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 provided by John W. Payson.

Available Formats

Transcript available on line

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

William Thon (1906-2000) was a painter from New York, N.Y. and Port Clyde, Maine. Studied at the Art Students League. Served as a trustee and artist in residence at the American Academy in Rome.

Scope and Contents

An interview of William Thon conducted 1992 December 15-16, by Robert Brown for the Archives of American Art, at the artist's home at Port Clyde, Maine. Thon discusses his childhood and education; early exhibitions; service in the Navy during World War II; being represented by Midtown Galleries from 1943 on; his dealers Alan and Mary Gruskin; moving to Maine; the importance to his art of Europe and his time spent at the American Academy in Rome; his painting technique; and his watercolors.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 5 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Painting, Modern -- 20th century
- Watercolor painting, American -- 20th century
- Watercolorists -- Maine -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- American Academy in Rome
- Gruskin, Alan D. (Alan Daniel), 1904-1970
- Gruskin, Mary J.
- Midtown Galleries (New York, N.Y.)

Occupations:

- Painters -- Maine -- Interviews