



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Margaret Tomkins

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.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Margaret Tomkins
<b>Date:</b>	1984 June 6
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.tomkin84
<b>Creator:</b>	Tomkins, Margaret, 1916- (Interviewee) Guenther, Bruce (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	39 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Margaret Tomkins, 1984 June 6, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Margaret Tomkins, 1984 June 6, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

---

## 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.

### Available Formats

Transcript available on line.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Margaret Tomkins (1916-2002) was a painter from Seattle, Washington.

---

## Scope and Contents

An interview of Margaret Tomkins conducted 1984 June 6, by Bruce Guenther, for the Archives of American Art's Northwest Oral History Project at the artist's studio in Seattle, Washington.

---

## Scope and Contents

Tomkins speaks of her childhood in Los Angeles; her education; the art collections in the Los Angeles area; the importance of the WPA project; the founding (with her husband James Fitzgerald) of the Artists Gallery in Seattle in 1958; being a woman artist and a working mother; finishing Fitzgerald's work after his death; her current work; and the influence of abstract expressionism.

---

## General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 3 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 21 min.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Abstract expressionism
- Art, Modern -- Northwestern States
- Artists -- Northwestern States -- Interviews
- Women artists
- Women painters

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Artists Gallery (Seattle, Wash.)
- FitzGerald, James, 1910-

### Occupations:

- Painters -- Washington (State) -- Seattle