



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with John Vachon

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with John Vachon
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.vachon64
<b>Date:</b>	1964 April 28
<b>Creator:</b>	Vachon, John, 1914-1975 (Interviewee) Doud, Richard Keith (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
<b>Extent:</b>	18 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with John Vachon, 1964 April 28, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with John Vachon, 1964 April 28, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This interview 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.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

John Vachon (1914-1975) was a photographer from New York, N.Y. Vachon worked under Roy Stryker on the Farm Security Administration's Photography project. Also worked for LOOK magazine.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of John Vachon conducted 1964 April 28, by Richard Doud, for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

Vachon speaks of how he started on the Farm Security Administration project; getting started as an FSA photographer; helping to organize the photograph file; early assignments as a photographer; the influence

of Walker Evans; making decisions about the subject matter of the photographs; the growth of the FSA project; the difference between being a photographer for LOOK magazine and for the FSA; his philosophy of photography; and his most memorable experiences with the FSA. He recalls Roy Stryker.

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## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 1 digital wav file. Duration is 1 hr., 3 min.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

Documentary photography  
Photographers -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Names:

New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project  
Stryker, Roy Emerson, 1893-1975  
United States. Farm Security Administration. Historical Section