



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Elayne H. Varian

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

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Elayne H. Varian
Date:	1975 May 2
Identifier:	AAA.varian75
Creator:	Varian, Elayne H. Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
Extent:	2 Items (sound file (2 hr., 5 min); digital, wav file) 53 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Elayne H. Varian, 1975 May 2, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Elayne H. Varian, 1975 May 2, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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 others.

Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Biographical / Historical

Elayne H. Varian (1913-1987) was an art administrator and art historian from Orlando, Florida.

Scope and Contents

Interview of Elayne Varian, conducted by Paul Cummings for the Archives of American Art, at the Finch College Museum of Art, New York, NY, on May 2, 1975 and May 9, 1975.

Scope and Contents

Varian speaks of her education at the University of Chicago and the Chicago Bauhaus/IIT Institute of Design; working at Duveen's as an art dealer; teaching courses at Finch on museology; ways she found funding for the Finch College Museum of Art; and the exhibitions she organized at Finch, including Art and Process,

Destruction Art, Art and Jewelry, Italian Visual Poetry, Art Nouveau, Documentation, and Troubles in Ireland .
Varian also recalls Edward Fowles; Brian O'Doherty; Robert Indiana; Robert Smithson; George Kuchar; Sol
LeWitt; Ralph Ortiz; Walter Gutman; Les Levine, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 5 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Study and teaching -- Florida -- Orlando
Art, American

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Occupations:

Art historians -- Florida -- Orlando -- Interviews
Arts administrators -- Florida -- Orlando