



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Tony Vevers

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Tony Vevers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.vevers98
<b>Date:</b>	1998 July 9-August 25
<b>Creator:</b>	Vevers, Tony (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Sound cassettes (Sound recording (2 hr., 49 min.); analog) 58 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Tony Vevers, 1998 July 9-August 25, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Tony Vevers, 1998 July 9-August 25, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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.

### Available Formats

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

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## Biographical / Historical

Tony Vevers (1926-2008) was a painter from Provincetown, Massachusetts.

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## Scope and Contents

Interview of Tony Vevers, conducted on August 25, 1998, by Robert F. Brown for the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

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## Scope and Contents

Vevers speaks of being sent by his parents to the United States in 1940; secondary schooling in Madison, Connecticut and at the Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Connecticut (1944); serving in the U.S. Army infantry in Europe, 1944-1946; attending Yale University on the GI Bill and graduating with a BA in painting and drawing,

1950; further art training in Florence, Italy and at the Hans Hofmann School, NYC (1950-1953); his marriage to Elspeth Halvorsen, fellow artist, 1953; his studies in Italy; the unexciting nature of contemporary Italian art; contemporary art in Paris, where Picasso impressed him but work of Hans Hartung and (Marie Elena) Vieira da Silva did not; studying with Hans Hofmann; working at the non-profit City Center Gallery, which was designed to give younger artists exposure through juried exhibitions; and living in poverty in NYC and Provincetown until 1963. Vevers also recalls Tom Blagden, Alfred Stieglitz, Deane Keller, Rudolph Zallinger, Claes Oldenburg, Stephen Pace, Lawrence Calcagno, Hans Hofmann, Milton Avery, Adolph Gottlieb, Jack Levine, Franz Kline, Louise Nevelson, Max Weber, Richard Lippold, and others.

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## General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 49 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:

- Art -- Study and teaching -- Italy
- Art, French -- 20th century
- Art, Italian -- 20th century
- Art, Modern
- Painters -- Massachusetts -- Provincetown -- Interviews
- Poverty
- World War, 1939-1945 -- United States

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Avery, Milton, 1885-1965
- Blagden, Tom
- Calcagno, Lawrence, 1913-
- City Center Gallery
- Gottlieb, Adolph, 1903-1974
- Halvorsen, Elspeth
- Hans Hofmann School (New York, New York)
- Hartung, Hans, 1904-1989
- Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966
- Keller, Deane, 1901-1992
- Kline, Franz, 1910-1962
- Levine, Jack, 1915-2010
- Lippold, Richard, 1915-2002
- Nevelson, Louise, 1899-1988
- Oldenburg, Claes, 1929-
- Operation Pied Piper
- Pace, Stephen, 1918-2010
- Picasso, Pablo, 1881-1973
- Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946

United States -- Montgomery G.I. Bill  
United States. Army  
Vieira da Silva, 1908-  
Weber, Max, 1881-1961  
Yale University -- Students  
Zallinger, Rudolph F.

Occupations:

Art teachers -- Interviews

Places:

Provincetown (Mass.)