



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with S. Morton Vose

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.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with S. Morton Vose
Identifier:	AAA.voses86
Date:	1986 July 24-1987 April 28
Creator:	Vose, S. Morton (Seth Morton), 1909-2007 (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
Extent:	87 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with S. Morton Vose, 1986 July 24-1987 April 28, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with S. Morton Vose, 1986 July 24-1987 April 28, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These interviews are part of the Archives' 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.

Restrictions

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

Biographical / Historical

Seth Morton Vose (1909-2007) was an art dealer and art historian from Brookline, Massachusetts.

Scope and Contents

An interview of S. Morton Vose conducted 1986 July 24-1987 April 28, by Robert F. Brown, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Vose speaks of the pervasive effect of his family's art gallery upon his life; studying languages at Harvard College; his affiliation with the gallery from 1927 on; the increasing emphasis on American painting during his career at the Vose Gallery, and the gradual de-emphasis on European work. He reminisces about some Vose Gallery clients, especially Maxim Karolik, and some art dealers; he discusses a traveling exhibition

he was involved in; he speaks of the gallery's relations with prominent museum personnel, such as William Reinhold Valentiner and E.P. Richardson. Vose also discusses the pitfalls of appraising art collections, his father's last years, and the firm's move, and his recent work on a dictionary of American painters. He recalls William Morris Hunt, Thomas Robinson, Leopold Seyffert, Catherine Morris Wright, Maxim Karolik, Elizabeth Paxton, Paul Sample, John Whorf, Hermann Dudley Murphy, Winslow Homer, James Fitzgerald, Arthur Healey, and many others.

General

Originally recorded on 4 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 8 digital wav files. Duration is 5 hr., 25 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Homer, Winslow, 1836-1910
- Hunt, William Morris, 1824-1879
- Karolik, Maxim
- Murphy, Hermann Dudley, 1867-1945
- Paxton, Elizabeth Okie
- Richardson, Edgar Preston, 1902-1985
- Robinson, Thomas V., 1938-
- Sample, Paul, 1896-1974
- Seyffert, Leopold
- Valentiner, Wilhelm Reinhold, 1880-1958
- Vose Galleries of Boston
- Whorf, John, 1903-1959

Occupations:

- Art dealers -- Massachusetts -- Brookline
- Art historians -- Massachusetts -- Brookline