



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with William Walker

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with William Walker
Identifier:	AAA.walker91
Date:	1991 June 12-14
Creator:	Walker, William, 1927- (Interviewee) Sorell, V. A. (Victor A) (Interviewer)
Extent:	111 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with William Walker, 1991 June 12-14, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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.

Reproduction Note

Duplicate copy of transcript available at the Art Institute of Chicago Ryerson/Burnham Libraries.

Biographical / Historical

William Walker (1927-) is an Afroican American mural painter from Chicago, Illinois.

Scope and Contents

An interview of William Walker conducted 1991 June 12-14, by Victor Sorell, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Walker discusses his childhood in Birmingham, Alabama and Chicago, Illinois; painting murals in Memphis; the Chicago Mural Group, the Wall of Respect in Chicago, the Wall of Dignity in Detroit and other murals; subject matter and use of black historical figures such as Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and Elijah Muhammad; use of narrative; public response to the murals; and artists he worked with including Eugene Edaw, Mark Rogovin, John Weber and Mitchell Caton.

General

Originally recorded 3 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 4 hr., 8 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- African American artists
- African American painters
- Art, Modern -- 20th century -- Illinois -- Chicago
- Public art -- United States

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Occupations:

- Muralists -- Illinois -- Chicago