



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Abraham Walkowitz

Archives of American Art
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Abraham Walkowitz
Date:	1958 December 8-22
Identifier:	AAA.walkow58
Creator:	Walkowitz, Abraham, 1880-1965 (Interviewee) Cowdrey, Mary Bartlett, 1910-1974 (Interviewer) Lerner, Abram (Interviewer)
Extent:	66 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Abraham Walkowitz, 1958 December 8-22, Transcript

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is 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.

Available Formats

Transcript available on line at <http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/oralhistories/transcripts/walker65.htm>

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Abraham Walkowitz (1880-1965) was a painter in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Abraham Walkowitz conducted by Abram Lerner and Mary Bartlett Cowdrey for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Walkowitz discusses his childhood and schooling; travelling abroad; influence of Claude Monet exhibit; his book, "Artists of Walkowitz: 100 Portraits"; Paul Cezanne's death; meeting artists in Europe; his 1908 exhibition of modern art at the Julius Haas Gallery, New York; getting Max Weber a show at the Haas Gallery; Steiglitz and his "291" Gallery; the Armory Show, especially the roles of Arthur B. Davies, Walt Kuhn, and Walter Pach; reactions to *Nude Descending a Staircase*; the Society of Independent Artists; thoughts on criticism of his work; his relationship with the critic Peyton Boswell; the importance in his work of dancer Isadora Duncan; opinions on American art, modern art, art schools, students and patrons; good art versus bad art; and the role of critics. Among others he recalls are Lizzie Bliss, William Merritt Chase, Kenyon Cox, The Eight, Jacob Epstein, Childe Hassam, and Georgia O'Keeffe.

General

Sound has been lost on tape reels; reels discarded.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art, American
- Art, Modern -- 20th century
- Eight (Group of American artists)
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- "291" (Gallery)
- Armory Show (1913: New York, N.Y.)
- Bliss, Lizzie P. (Lizzie Plummer), 1864-1931
- Boswell, Peyton, 1904-
- Chase, William Merritt, 1849-1916
- Cox, Kenyon, 1856-1919
- Cézanne, Paul, 1839-1906
- Davies, Arthur B. (Arthur Bowen), 1862-1928
- Duncan, Isadora, 1877-1927
- Epstein, Jacob, Sir, 1880-1959
- Hassam, Childe, 1859-1935
- Kuhn, Walt, 1877-1949
- Monet, Claude, 1840-1926
- O'Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986
- Pach, Walter, 1883-1958
- Society of Independent Artists (New York, N.Y.)
- Weber, Max, 1881-1961

Occupations:

Art critics