



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with James W. Washington, Jr

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with James W. Washington, Jr
Date:	1987 June 29
Identifier:	AAA.washin87
Creator:	Washington, James W., 1911-2000 (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
Extent:	90 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with James W. Washington, Jr, 1987 June 29, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with James W. Washington, Jr, 1987 June 29, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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 the Archives of American Art's website. Audio may be available by request pending review and approval by the Archives.

Biographical / Historical

James W. Washington (1911-2000) was a painter, sculptor of Seattle, Washington.

Scope and Contents

An interview of James W. Washington conducted 1987 June 29, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Washington discusses his early life in the South; effects of discrimination and the formation of a world view; art as the embodiment of spiritual truth; concept of the Absolute in art; role of the imagination; discovering form in material

as basis of sculpture; training and contacts in Seattle; Mark Tobey and Morris Graves; role of Mexico in his shift to sculpture; and philosophy and its realization in sculpture.

General

Originally recorded on 5 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 9 digital wav files. Duration is 4 hrs., 32 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
Painters -- Washington (State) -- Seattle -- Interviews
Sculptors -- Washington (State) -- Seattle -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Graves, Morris, 1910-2001
Tobey, Mark