



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Jeanne L. Wasserman

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Jeanne L. Wasserman
Date:	1993-1994
Identifier:	AAA.wasser93
Creator:	Wasserman, Jeanne L. (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
Extent:	5 Items (sound cassettes (7 hrs., 30 min.); analog.) 125 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Jeanne L. Wasserman, 1993-1994, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Jeanne L. Wasserman, 1993-1994, 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.

Available Formats

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

Biographical / Historical

Jeanne L. Wasserman, (1915-2006) was a museum curator and art collector from Boston, Massachusetts.

Scope and Contents

Interview of Jeanne L. Wasserman, conducted by Robert F. Brown for the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, in Cambridge, MA from January 28, 1993-July 19, 1994.

Scope and Contents

Wasserman speaks of her parents' cultural interests; first becoming interested in sculpture after visiting a Rodin exhibition in Paris with her family; visiting art galleries and studying painting in New York City as a young woman; her education at Fieldston and Radcliffe; trying to get a job in New York after college; working in advertising; meeting her husband, Max, and building a business with him; beginning to collect art; putting together a collection for the condominium project, 180 Beacon; the opening of 180 Beacon; working on a condominium project in the Virgin Islands; curating sculpture exhibitions at the Fogg Museum and at Wellesley; writing the catalogue for a Daumier exhibition at the Fogg; serving on the board of the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; organizing forums on contemporary art with the Council of the Arts at MIT; becoming involved with Harvard's Institute for Learning in Retirement; and notable purchases of work by Daumier, Rodin, Degas, Giacometti, de Chirico, Nicolas Schöffer, Henry Moore, and others. Wasserman also recalls Alfred Stieglitz, Peppino Mangravite, Elie Nadelman, Hyman Swetsoff, Joseph Hirshhorn, Erica Brausen, René and Charles Gimpel, Louise Nevelson, Niki de Saint Phalle, Jean Tinguely, Robert Indiana, Claes Oldenburg, Denise René, Yaacov Agam, George Rickey, George Segal, David Ross, Milena Kalinovska, Jacques de Caso, Yulla Lipchitz, Vera List, Jim Cuno, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 5 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 10 digital wav files. Duration is 7 hrs., 12 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Collectors and collecting -- Massachusetts -- Interviews
Art museum curators -- Massachusetts -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Agam, Yaacov, 1928-
Beale, Arthur
Cook, Christopher Capen, 1932-
Coolidge, John, 1913-1995
Fogg Art Museum
Hyde, Andrew C. (Andrew Cornwall), 1941-
Indiana, Robert, 1928-2018
Institute of Contemporary Art (Boston, Mass.)
Mangravite, Peppino, 1896-
Massachusetts Institute of Technology -- Art collections
Messer, Thomas M.
Oldenburg, Claes, 1929-
Plaut, James S. (James Sachs), 1912-1996
Prokopoff, Stephen S.

Rickey, George
Ross, David A., 1949-
Saint-Phalle, Niki de, 1930-2002
Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946
Thurman, Sue M., 1927-2012
Tinguely, Jean, 1925-
Wasserman, Max, 1913-1986

Functions:

Art museums -- Massachusetts