



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Todd Webb

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Todd Webb
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.webb90
<b>Date:</b>	1990 September 4-1992 May 22
<b>Creator:</b>	Webb, Todd (Interviewee) Brown, Robert F. (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	57 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Todd Webb, 1990 September 4-1992 May 22, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Todd Webb (1905-2000) was a photographer and writer from Bath, Maine. Born Charles Clayton Webb III, in Detroit, Michigan, in 1905. Studied with Ansel Adams.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Todd Webb conducted 1990 September 4-1992 May 22, by Robert F. Brown, for the Archives of American Art. Webb speaks of his childhood in Detroit and Ontario, Canada; friendship with photographer Harry Callahan and the influence of a course by Ansel Adams on them both; service as a Navy photographer in World War II; development of a close friendship with Alfred Stieglitz and Georgia O'Keeffe during the late 1940s; photographic assignments with FORTUNE magazine for Standard Oil Company under Roy Stryker, and in England and France under Rene Leonhardt, a photo agency; writing and photographic essays on the American West; assignments in 1960s for the United Nations; sale, in the 1970s, of negatives and work to date to the collector George Reinhart; residence in Maine; and his frequent travels.

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## General

Originally recorded on 3 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 5 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hrs., 32 min.

## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

Documentary photography  
Photographers -- Maine -- Interviews  
Photography, Artistic

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Names:

Adams, Ansel, 1902-1984  
Callahan, Harry M.  
O'Keeffe, Georgia , 1887-1986  
Stieglitz, Alfred, 1864-1946