



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Roswell Weidner

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-7950
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

Table of Contents

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

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Roswell Weidner
Date:	1989 July 20-27
Identifier:	AAA.weidne89
Creator:	Weidner, Roswell, 1911-1999 (Interviewee) Pacini, Marina (Interviewer)
Extent:	134 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Audio: Oral history interview with Roswell Weidner, 1989 July 20-27, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

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.

Available Formats

Transcript: 35mm microfilm reel 4780 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Transcript: Patrons must use microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

Roswell T. Weidner (1911-1999) was a painter and educator from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Roswell Weidner conducted 1989 July 20-27, by Marina Pacini, for the Archives of American Art Philadelphia Project. Weidner discusses his early life, education, and art training at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, first at the school at Chester Springs, and later at the main school in Philadelphia. He discusses the programs at both schools, and recalls some of the faculty members, including Roy Nuse, Albert Laessle, George Harding, Joseph Pierson, Francis Speight, Daniel Garber, and Henry McCarter. He discusses the courses, exhibitions, and the competitions for traveling scholarships. He also discusses his study at the Barnes Foundation with Violette De Mazia and Angelo Pinto. After leaving the Academy, he joined the National Youth Administration and then transferred to the WPA with the Museum Extension, the

Painting Project and the Print Project. He speaks of his work for each of these programs, their administration, and some of the individuals involved including Dox Thrash. He recalls Mary Curran and the efforts made by Albert Barnes to have her removed as head of the Painting Project. Weidner discusses his fifty years as a teacher at the Academy, beginning in 1939, and the changes in the institution since then, including the introduction of printmaking, the growth of abstraction, the hiring of women and black instructors, and other changes. He speaks of his wife, Marilyn Kemp Weidner, a paper conservator, and the development of her practice, as well as his own future work.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 6 digital wav files. Duration is 4 hr.; 18 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art -- Study and teaching -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Art, American
Educators -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia -- Interviews
Painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Barnes Foundation
Curran, Mary
De Mazia, Violette, 1899-
Garber, Daniel, 1880-
Harding, George, 1882-1959
Laessle, Albert, 1877-1954
McCarter, Henry, 1866-1942
Nuse, Roy Cleveland, b. 1885
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
Pierson, Joseph
Pinto, Angelo, 1908-1994
Speight, Francis, 1896-1989
Thrash, Dox, 1892-1965
United States. National Youth Administration
United States. Work Projects Administration
United States. Works Progress Administration
Weidner, Marilyn Kemp, 1928-