



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with James Lesesne Wells

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	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	1
Scope and Contents	1
Names and Subjects	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with James Lesesne Wells
Date:	1989 November 16
Identifier:	AAA.wells89
Creator:	Wells, James Lesesne (1902-1993) (Interviewee) Powell, Richard J., 1953- (Interviewer) Reynolds, Jock (Interviewer)
Extent:	2 Items (sound cassettes) 30 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with James Lesesne Wells, 1989 November 16, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with James Lesesne Wells, 1989 November 16, 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 others.

Available Formats

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

Restrictions

This transcript is open for research. Access to the entire recording is restricted. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

James Lesesne Wells (1902-1993) was a printmaker from Washington, D.C.

Scope and Contents

An interview with James Lesesne Wells conducted 1989 November 16, by Jock Reynolds and Richard Powell, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Wells speaks of his early childhood in Atlanta, Georgia and Florida; his education; his interest in drawing; symbolic storytelling; mythological subject matter; and African influence.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 45 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- African American art -- African influences
- African American artists
- African American printmakers

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Occupations:

- Printmakers -- Washington (D.C.)