



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Tom Wesselmann

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Tom Wesselmann
Date:	1984 January 3-February 8
Identifier:	AAA.wessel84
Creator:	Wesselmann, Tom, 1931-2004 (Interviewee) Sandler, Irving, 1925- (Interviewer)
Extent:	196 Pages (Transcript (Partial transcript online)) 1 Item (sound file (5 min., 12 sec.) Audio excerpt; digital)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Tom Wesselmann, 1984 January 3-February 8, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Tom Wesselmann, 1984 January 3-February 8, 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.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Tom Wesselmann (1931-2004) was a painter from New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Tom Wesselmann conducted 1984 January 3-1984 February 8, by Irving Sandler, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Wesselmann speaks of his family, childhood and education; his U.S. Army service; his early interest in art and drawing; the influence of humor; going to the Cooper Union School on the GI bill; artists who influenced him in his early career; experiences which changed him; early experiments with collage; his first awareness of pop art; collage technique; his affiliation with the Tanager Gallery; his early nudes; eroticism in his paintings; politics and art. He recalls Alex Katz and Jim Dine.

General

Originally recorded on 4 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 8 digital wav files. Duration is 5 hr., 37 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Collage
- Collagists -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Nude in art
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
- Pop art

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Dine, Jim, 1935-
- Katz, Alex, 1927-
- Tanager Gallery (New York, N.Y.)