



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Frederick Weston

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Frederick Weston
Identifier:	AAA.weston16
Date:	2016 August 31-September 5
Extent:	4 Items (sound files (5 hrs., 28 min.); digital, wav) 130 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Weston, Frederick, 1946- Kerr, Theodore
Language:	English

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

Interviewer Frederick Weston (1946-) is a multimedia artist in New York, N.Y. Interviewee Theodore Kerr (1979-) is a writer and organizer in New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview with Frederick Weston, conducted 2016 August 31 and September 5, by Theodore Kerr, for the Archives of American Art's Visual Arts and the AIDS Epidemic: An Oral History Project, at Weston's home in New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

Weston speaks of his childhood in Detroit; early understandings of his gender; attending Ferris State University in Michigan; moving to New York in 1973; New York nightclub culture before the AIDS crisis;

studying at FIT and working in the fashion industry; beginning to consider himself an artist in the late 1990s after years of collage work in street settings; being diagnosed with HIV in the mid-1990s; imbuing his art with his personal experience; his body of work in photography, installations, and poetry; his health care and regiment since being diagnosed with HIV; evolutions in his personal outlook since being diagnosed; the trajectory of his sex life from adolescence; moving into his current apartment in Chelsea; and reflections on America's racial situation. Weston also recalls Claude Payne, Apollonia, Billy Blair, Stephanie Crawford, Franz Renard Smith, Dr. Joseph Sonnabend, Bruce Benderson, and others.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

AIDS (Disease) and the arts
African American artists
Artists -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews
Multimedia (Art)

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Visual Arts and the AIDS Epidemic: An Oral History Project