



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Ian McKibbin White

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Ian McKibbin White
<b>Date:</b>	1980 November 24-1981 January 9
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.white80
<b>Creator:</b>	White, Ian McKibbin, 1929- (Interviewee) Howe, Thomas Carr, 1904-1994 (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	126 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Ian McKibbin White, 1980 November 24-1981 January 9, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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: 35mm microfilm reel 3199 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

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## Biographical / Historical

Ian McKibbin White (1929-) is a museum administrator of Honolulu, Hawaii. White was the longtime director of Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Ian McKibbin White conducted 1980 November 24-1981 January 9, by Thomas Carr Howe, for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

White speaks of his education; U.S. Navy service, 1952-1955; travel, his museum career including work at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, the Brooklyn Museum, the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum at Bowdoin College, and the California Palace of the Legion of Honor; the merger of the California Palace of the Legion of Honor and the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum into the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; the funeral

of Alma de Bretteville Spreckels; Thomas Carr Howe as his mentor; FAMSF's "blockbuster exhibitions"; membership organizations; development of the American collection; fiscal problems and museum staff. He recalls David Levine, Jack McGregor, Aaron Shikler and others.

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## General

Originally recorded on 5 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 10 digital wav files. Duration is 5 hr., 16 min.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- California Palace of the Legion of Honor
- Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco
- Howe, Thomas Carr, 1904-1994
- Levine, David, 1926-2009
- M.H. de Young Memorial Museum
- McGregor, Jack
- Shikler, Aaron, 1922-
- Spreckels, Alma de Bretteville, 1881-1968

### Occupations:

- Arts administrators -- California -- San Francisco -- Interviews

### Functions:

- Art museums -- California -- San Francisco