



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with William T. Wiley

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with William T. Wiley
Date:	1997 October 8-November 20
Identifier:	AAA.wiley97
Creator:	Wiley, William T., 1937-2021 (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
Extent:	221 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with William T. Wiley, 1997 October 8-November 20, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with William T. Wiley, 1997 October 8-November 20, 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 administrators.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

William T. Wiley (1937-2021) was a painter and helped found the funk art movement. He was also an educator at U.C. Davis. Wiley lived and worked in the San Francisco Bay area.

Scope and Contents

An interview of William T. Wiley conducted 1997 October 8-November 20, by Paul J. Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art, in Woodacre, California.

Scope and Contents

Wiley discusses the importance of the rural setting of his Marin County studio/home and his corresponding lifestyle to his world view and its reflection in his art. He describes his itinerant youth and experience at the San Francisco Art Institute, and his teaching years at UC Davis, which had attracted a faculty that included Robert Arenson and Wayne Thiebaud. Among the graduate students was Bruce Nauman, who he discusses in length and credited with influencing some of his own ideas at the time. He also acknowledges the influence of the assemblage movement through relationships with George Herms and Bruce Conner.

The final session addressed the communal nature of the Bay Area art scene and the differences between East and West Coast art worlds. The interview ends with a discussion of Wiley's iconography and motifs frequently encountered in his works and how their changing meaning are intended to encourage thoughts on visual and verbal complexities as reflections of shifting perception and experience.

General

Originally recorded on 8 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 15 digital wav files. Duration is 7 hrs., 32 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Art, Modern -- 20th century -- California -- San Francisco Bay Area
Funk
Painters -- California -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Nauman, Bruce, 1941-