



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Sonia Wolfson

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.

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Sonia Wolfson
<b>Date:</b>	1990 August 19
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.wolfo90
<b>Creator:</b>	Wolfson, Sonia, 1903-1997 (Interviewee) Fort, Ilene Susan (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	3 Items (sound cassettes) 38 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Sonia Wolfson, 1990 August 19, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Sonia Wolfson, 1990 August 19, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## 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.

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## Biographical / Historical

Sonia Wolfson (1903-1997) was an art critic from Los Angeles, California.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Sonia Wolfson conducted 1990 August 19, by Ilene Fort, for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

Wolfson speaks of her childhood in New York; moving to California in the 1980s; writing for California Graphic and Game and Gossip; traveling to view various art collections in San Francisco, Chicago, Cleveland, Toledo, Washington D.C., and Europe; working as a secretary for three days at Columbia Studio; working as a writer and art critic for Stendhal Art Galleries in Los Angeles; taking a job for 20th Century Fox as a unit

publicist in 1933 during the Depression. Wolfson discusses several of the actors she worked with, including Jane Withers, Darryl Zanuck, George Arliss, and Winfield Sheehan; she reminisces about writing about the 1925-26 Pan-American Exhibition in Los Angeles.

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## General

Originally recorded on 3 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 5 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 9 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:

### Subjects:

Art, Modern -- 20th century -- California, Southern  
Women art critics

### Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

### Occupations:

Art critics -- California -- Los Angeles -- Interviews