



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Tyrus Wong

Archives of American Art  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Tyrus Wong
<b>Date:</b>	1965 January 30
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.wong65
<b>Creator:</b>	Wong, Tyrus (Interviewee) McGlynn, Betty Hoag (Interviewer) New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
<b>Extent:</b>	28 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Tyrus Wong, 1965 January 30, Transcript</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Conducted as part of the Archives of American Art's New Deal and the Arts project, which includes over 400 interviews of artists, administrators, historians, and others involved with the federal government's art programs and the activities of the Farm Security Administration in the 1930s and early 1940s.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Tyrus Wong (1910-2016) was a Chinese American painter, designer, illustrator, and printmaker based in California.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Tyrus Wong conducted 1965 January 30, by Betty Hoag, for the Archives of American Art.

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## Scope and Contents

Wong discusses making a film for grade schools and UCLA, which was produced by Eliot O'Hara, where he demonstrated Oriental painting techniques and Joe Jones demonstrated American techniques; working as an illustrator for Republic Studio; designing pottery plates for Greenfield Pottery, Gabriel Pottery in Pasadena; illustrations for the Western Art Review magazine; covers for the Los Angeles Times Home Section 1954

& 1955; text and illustrations for Watercolor Portraits, 1949; designing ads for various magazines; and doing watercolors, lithographs, and murals for the WPA, including the Santa Monica Library. Wong recalls Surasawa, Dorothy Jeakins, Nick Berganti, Hideo Dati, Benjy Ocobo, Carl Winter, Stanton Macdonald-Wright, Jerre Murry, Steven LaVerne Dunwell, George Stanley, Gordon Newell, and Frank Buck.

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## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 48 min.

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## General

Only the second half of this interview was successfully recorded.

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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:

- Asian American art
- Asian American artists
- Asian American illustrators
- Asian American painters
- Asian American printmakers
- Chinese American art
- Chinese American artists
- Federal aid to the arts
- Painting, Asian

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Buck, Frank E. (Frank Eugene), 1889 or 90-1959
- Jeakins, Dorothy
- Jones, Joe, 1909-1963
- Macdonald-Wright, Stanton, 1890-1973
- Murry, Jerre, 1904-1973
- New Deal and the Arts Oral History Project
- Newell, Gordon
- O'Hara, Eliot, 1890-1969
- Stanley, George M., 1903-
- Winter, Carl, 1906 Jan. 10-

### Occupations:

- Designers -- California
- Painters -- California
- Printmakers -- California
- Sculptors -- California

