



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Milford Zornes

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Milford Zornes
Date:	1999 July 18-September 5
Identifier:	AAA.zornes99
Creator:	Zornes, James Milford, 1908-2008 (Interviewee) Anderson, Susan M. (Susan Mary) (Interviewer)
Extent:	152 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Milford Zornes, 1999 July 18-September 5, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Milford Zornes, 1999 July 18-September 5, 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. Funding for this interview provided by Orange County Museum of Art Historical Collections Council

Available Formats

Transcript available online

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

James Milford Zornes (1908-2008) was a painter from Claremont, California. Zornes is one of the leading artists of the California School, a West Coast watercolor movement that arose during the Depression era.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Milford Zornes conducted 1999 July 18-September 5, by Susan M. Anderson, for the Archives of American Art, in Zornes' studio/home, Claremont, California.

Scope and Contents

Beginning with his childhood in Oklahoma, this interview recounts the formative influences on Mr. Zornes' development as an artist, including his close relationship with Millard Sheets at Pomona College. He discussed the impact of the Mexican muralist Jose Clemente Orozco on his work and on other artists of the California School as well as the importance of nature. He recalled his prolific work on federally-funded art projects such as the PWAP and his mural commission for the Claremont Post Office. Mr. Zornes discussed the impact that WWII had on the California School in general and his particular experience on the China-Burma-India front as one of forty-two official US army artists. He described his long career as a teacher in various educational institutions as well as in outdoor painting workshops conducted around the world. Finally, Mr. Zornes discussed his struggle with macular degeneration and the subsequent change in his working methods due to his recent blindness.

General

Originally recorded on 12 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 22 digital wav files. Duration is 11 hrs., 2 min.

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