

Guide to the Paul Cadmus interview collection C0005

Paul Cadmus interview collection

1979-1980



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

C0005

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/4

Unit Date

1979-1980

Mixed Materials

1 (box)

Mixed Materials

2 (box)

Language

English .

Abstract

This collection contains U-matic 3/4" video cassettes of interviews of Paul Cadmus.

Creator

Sutherland, David

Extent

2.5 Linear Feet 2 boxes

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions

The videos in this collection are open to viewing by the public but cannot be quoted or excerpted without written permission from the family of Paul Cadmus.

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by David Sutherland.

Processing Information

Processed by Special Collections Research Center staff. EAD markup completed by Eron Ackerman and Jordan Patty in August 2009.

Preferred Citation

Paul Cadmus interview collection, C0005, Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries.

Biographical Note

Born in 1904, Paul Cadmus was an American artist, best known for his paintings and drawings of nude male figures. His works combined elements of eroticism and social critique to produce a style often called magic realism.

Cadmus studied in New York at the National Academy of Design (1919-1926) and at the Art Students League (1928). He travelled in Italy from 1931 to 1933 with the painter Jared French (b. 1905), who would become his friend and lover and would convince Cadmus to stop working in commercial art so that he may devote his career entirely to fine art.

Cadmus' deep admiration for Italian Renaissance painting, skilled draughtsmanship, and classical composition led him to learn paint with egg tempera, a medium associated with Classical Greek icons. Cadmus' social concerns informed his often critical view of contemporary life, as in *Sailors and Floosies* (1938; New York, Whitney). Sexually ambiguous themes, which were often satirical and affectionate, pervade works such as *Bar Italia* (1952-1955; Washington, DC, National Museum of American Art).

In 1934 Cadmus painted *The Fleet's In!* while working for the Public Works of Art Project of the WPA. Depicting carousing sailors, women, and a homosexual couple, *The Fleet's In!* became the subject of a public outcry and was removed from exhibition at the Corcoran Gallery. The publicity from the scandal helped to launch his career.

Cadmus lived with his companion of 35 years, Jon Anderson, who was a subject of many of his works. In 1999, just five days before his 95th birthday, he died of old age at his home in Weston, Connecticut.

Scope and Content

This collection contains U-matic 3/4" video cassettes of interviews of Paul Cadmus.

Related Material

The Special Collections Research Center holds other collections related to art and artists.

Keywords

Video recordings

Painting

Homosexuality and art

Oral histories

Magic realism (Art) -- United States

Cadmus, Paul, 1904-1999

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

An electronic box inventory is unavailable. Please contact speccoll@gmu.edu for more information.

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/5677

Scope and Contents note