

Williams College Oral History Project Interview with John Brooks

December 8, 2004

Interview Length: 72 pages

John Brooks (b. 1935) was the Associate Director of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute from 1968 until his retirement in 2000.

In his interview with Charles Alberti, Brooks talks about his education in art history and early career in museums, and how he came to the Clark as Assistant to the Director, George Heard Hamilton. He discusses trends in museum exhibits and the expense of putting up an exhibit. He describes at length designing and building the expansion of the Clark; the museum's relationship to the town; Hamilton's successor, David Brooke, and later Brooke's successor, Micheal Conforti. He talks about important figures at the Clark, including Raphael Fernandez, Steve Kern, and Williams presidents Frank Oakley and Morty Schapiro.

Brooks also discusses starting the education programs at the Clark, for children as well as adults; Clark Family Days; the Board of Trustees of the Clark; and the museum's relationship with the College.

The transcript of this interview and the accompanying audio file (if available) may be accessed only in the Archives/Chapin Reading Room.