



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Robert Arneson

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Robert Arneson
Date:	1981 August 14-15
Identifier:	AAA.arneso81
Creator:	Arneson, Robert, 1930-1992 (Interviewee) Jones, Mady (Interviewer)
Extent:	96 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Robert Arneson, 1981 August 14-15, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Robert Arneson, 1981 August 14-15, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These interviews are 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 others.

Available Formats

Transcript available online.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Robert Arneson (1930-1992) is a ceramic sculptor from Benicia, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Robert Arneson conducted 1981 August 14-15, by Mady Jones, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Arneson speaks of his family background, teaching himself to draw by copying comic strips, his early interest in commercial art and discovering ceramics. He discusses, teaching ceramics to high school students, his philosophy of teaching; and the influence of Peter Voulkos and the shift toward abstract expressionism and Pop art. He reminisces about the first exhibit of his work; getting established in galleries; teaching ceramics at the University of California, Davis; his major exhibitions; and museum purchases of his work.

General

Originally recorded on 5 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 10 digital wav files. Duration is 5 hr., 11 min.

General

Sound quality is poor.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Abstract expressionism
- Ceramicists -- California -- Interviews
- Sculptors -- California -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Thiebaud, Wayne
- Voulkos, Peter, 1924-2002
- Wildenhain, Marguerite

Occupations:

- Art teachers -- California -- Interviews