



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Barbara Bloom

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Barbara Bloom
Date:	2012 October 18-2013 January 31
Identifier:	AAA.bloom12
Creator:	Bloom, Barbara, 1951- (Interviewee) McElhinney, James Lancel, 1952- (Interviewer)
Extent:	9 Items (Sound recording: 9 sound files (6 hr., 12 min.); digital, wav) 132 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Barbara Bloom, 2012 October 18-2013 January 31, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Barbara Bloom, 2012 October 18-2013 January 31, 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.

Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Biographical / Historical

Barbara Bloom (1951-) is a photographer, designer, and installation artist in New York, New York. James McElhinney (1952-) is an artist and professor in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Barbara Bloom conducted 2012 October-2013 January 31, by James McElhinney, for the Archives of American Art, at Bloom's home and studio, in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

Bloom speaks of growing up in Brentwood, California; her first experience with art; her childhood and exposure to creativity; the influence of art and philosophy; going to museums as a kid; living in Monte

Factor and then Los Angeles; her creative process, influences, and life as an artist; art mentors and art lessons with Cathy Herman; traveling with her family; her mom being an actress; attending Bennington College in Vermont, the 1960s, the and collage aesthetic; attending CalArt; the changes in art education at the university level; drugs use; Fluxus; John Cage and attending 4'33; living in Europe and specifically Netherlands, Germany, and Holland; books and love of reading; her daughter; the post-studio era; film and meta-movies; making "The Diamond Lane;" images and objects' connection to meanings; The Gaze; undressing the wall; Homage to Jean Seberg, Godard, Berlin; East Germany; being agnostic and Jewish; Venice Biennale; collectors; cycle of shows; MFA programs; The Tip of the Iceberg; surgeries; hospital visit, personal training, and recovery; The Seven Deadly Sins; her father; Tellus Magazine; Judaism; fabrications and drawings; archives; relationship between the artist and the viewer; her husband; 010011.net; recent show; and As It Were, So To Speak. Bloom also recalls Monte and Betty Factor, Ed Kienholz, Ron Kappe, Robbie Robe, Ray Kappe, Matt Mullican, Eric Orr, Robert Irwin, Doug Wheeler, Total: digital recordings; Claire Steinman, Rosemarie Trockel, Ash Grove, James Lee Byars, Frances Rey, Sidney Tillim, Norman O. Brown, Paul Cotton, Paul Brock, Buckminster Fuller, John Baldessari, Nam June Paik, Dick Higgins, Alison Knowles, Serge Tcherepnin, Simone Forte, Charlemagne Palestine, La Monte Young, David Salle, Eric Fischl, Marcel Broodthaers, Susan Sontag, Tim Maul, Caroline Tisdale, Marcel Duchamp, Laura Mulvey, John Berger, Oscar Wilde, Ed Ruscha, Isabella Kacprzak, Octavio Paz, Leo Castelli, Allen Ruppersberg, Jay Gorney, Claudia Gould, Susan Bronstein, Donald Judd, Robert DuGrenier, Pistoletto, Anthony Coleman, Mel Bochner, and Ken Saylor.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Collectors and collecting
- Art -- Study and teaching
- Fluxus (Group of artists)
- Judaism
- Women artists
- Women designers
- Women photographers

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Baldessari, John, 1931-
- Bennington College -- Students
- Berger, John
- Biennale di Venezia
- Brock, Paul
- Broodthaers, Marcel
- Byars, James Lee
- California Institute of the Arts -- Students
- Castelli, Leo
- Cotton, Paul, 1939-
- Duchamp, Marcel, 1887-1968
- Fischl, Eric, 1948-
- Fuller, R. Buckminster (Richard Buckminster), 1895-1983
- Gorney, Jay, 1896-1990

Gould, Claudia, (Art museum curator)
Higgins, Dick, 1938-1998
Irwin, Robert, 1928-
Kappe, Ray, 1927-
Kienholz, Edward, 1927-
Knowles, Alison, 1933-
Mullican, Matt, 1951-
Mulvey, Laura
Orr, Eric, 1939-1998
Paik, Nam June, 1932-
Palestine, Charlemagne
Paz, Octavio, 1914-
Ruppersberg, Allen, 1944-
Ruscha, Edward
Salle, David, 1952-
Sontag, Susan, 1933-2004
Tcherepnin, Serge
Tillim, Sidney, 1925-
Trockel, Rosemarie, 1952-
Wheeler, Doug, 1939-
Wilde, Oscar, 1854-1900
Young, La Monte

Occupations:

Designers -- New York (State) -- New York
Installation artists -- New York (State) -- New York
Photographers -- New York (State) -- New York

Places:

Europe -- description and travel
Germany (East) -- Description and Travel
Germany -- description and travel
Holland -- Description and Travel
Netherlands -- description and travel