



Smithsonian
Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Cynthia Bringle

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Cynthia Bringle
Identifier:	AAA.bringl92
Date:	1992 January 22
Extent:	51 Pages (Transcript)
Creator:	Bringle, Cynthia, 1939- Kirwin, Liza
Language:	English

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 available on line at <http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/oralhistories/transcripts/bringl92.htm>

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Cynthia Bringle (1939-) is a potter, in Penland, N.C.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Cynthia Bringle conducted 1992 January 22, by Liza Kirwin, for the Archives of American Art.

Scope and Contents

Bringle discusses her childhood and education in Memphis, Tennessee; her admiration for Memphis artist Dorothy Sturm; meeting Francis Merritt, the director of the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, and his assistant William (Bill) Brown; attending Haystack in Liberty, Maine in 1960 as a scholarship student; her graduate studies in ceramics at Alfred University; attending a Shoji Hamada workshop in Seattle in 1963; building the first gas kiln at the Penland School of Crafts in Penland, North Carolina; teaching at Penland; establishing a pottery studio in Tennessee; Brown's management style as the director of Penland from 1962 to 1983, and conflicts with the Board of Trustees that led to his resignation; Verne Stanford's tenure as director of Penland from 1984 to 1989; Hunter Kariher's role as the director of Penland after Stanford's resignation; and Penland in comparison with other craft schools including Haystack, Arrowmont, and Anderson Ranch. She recalls Lucy Morgan (the founder of Penland), Bonnie Ford (Penland administrator), Jane Brown, Joy Stanford, Harvey Littleton, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound tape cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 3 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 20 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Artisans -- Interviews
- Ceramicists -- Interviews
- Decorative arts
- Handicraft -- Study and teaching -- United States
- Pottery -- Study and teaching -- United States.
- Women artists

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Alfred University -- Students
- Anderson Ranch
- Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts
- Brown, Jane Brennan, 1931-
- Brown, William J. (William Joseph), 1923-1992
- Ford, Bonnie Willis, 1907-1976
- Haystack Mountain School of Crafts -- Students
- Kariher, Hunter
- Morgan, Lucy, 1889-1981
- Penland School of Handicrafts
- Stanford, Joy

Stanford, Verne

Occupations:

Art school directors -- North Carolina