



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Nancy Brooks Brody

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Nancy Brooks Brody
Date:	2018 January 12-28
Identifier:	AAA.brody18
Creator:	Brody, Nancy Brooks (Interviewee) Kitto, Svetlana, 1980- (Interviewer)
Extent:	9 Items (Sound recording: 9 sound files (6 hr., 54 min.); digital, wav) 106 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Nancy Brooks Brody, 2018 January 12-28, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Nancy Brooks Brody, 2018 January 12-28, 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

Nancy Brooks Brody (1962-) is an artist who works in painting, drawing and sculpture in New York, New York. Svetlana Kitto (1980-) is a writer and oral historian in Brooklyn, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview with Nancy Brooks Brody conducted 2018 January 12-28, by Svetlana Kitto, for the Archives of American Art's Visual Arts and the AIDS Epidemic: An Oral History Project, at Brody's home and studio in Brooklyn, New York.

Scope and Contents

Brody speaks of her childhood in Manhattan; her Eastern European ancestry and spending time with her grandmother and great-aunt in New Jersey; early experiences of art-making; early expressions of her gender identity and sexuality; formative childhood and adolescent experiences at summer camp; early memories of Fire Island; various living arrangements, social settings, and jobs as a young adult in Manhattan; her relationship with Jean-Michel Basquiat; attending the High School of Music & Art and the School of Visual Arts; the rise of Lower East Side art galleries in the 1980s; her first exhibitions, at New Math Gallery and elsewhere; her involvement in ACT UP; her involvement in fierce pussy; witnessing widespread death and bodily decay during the AIDS crisis; the illness and deaths of her very close friends David Knudswig, David Switzer, David Nelson, and Tony Feher; her practice of art-making during the AIDS epidemic; working for the Forest Service on Mount St. Helens from 1993 to 1996; working for Circus Amok upon her return to New York; her activism during the George W. Bush era; her memories of September 11, 2001; fierce pussy's series of retrospectives and new work beginning in 2008; her current activism for universal healthcare; and her most recent art-making and exhibition experiences. Brody also recalls Don Tinling, Adele Bertei, Ivonne Casas, Jonathan Schneider, Erika Belle, Madonna, Zoe Leonard, John Lurie, Hannah Wilke, Greer Lankton, Jennifer Bartlett, Jennifer Miller, Joy Episalla, Carrie Yamaoka, Hoai Montaug, Edwige Belmore, Donald Mouton, Andrea Rosen, Kim Pierce, Sarah Johnson, Barbara Hughes, Jonathan Berger, Andrea Blum, Avram Finkelstein, and others.

System Details

Recorded on Tascam DR-100MKII R00329.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- AIDS (Disease) and the arts
- Artists (LGBTQ)
- Lesbian artists
- Women artists
- Women painters
- Women sculptors

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Visual Arts and the AIDS Epidemic: An Oral History Project

Occupations:

- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
- Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York