



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Karen Carson

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Karen Carson
Identifier:	AAA.carson03
Date:	2003 December 4
Creator:	Carson, Karen, 1943- Ayres, Anne, 1936- (Interviewer)
Extent:	30 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Karen Carson, 2003 December 4, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Karen Carson, 2003 December 4, 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 available on line.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Karen Carson (1943-) is a painter from Venice, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Karen Carson conducted 2003 December 4, by Anne Ayres, for the Archives of American Art, in Carson's studio in Venice, California.

Scope and Contents

Carson discusses her most recent works on paper and fabric; her early "Zipper" pieces; her early 1970s "Bed" series; her background and her parents' support of her art interests; the influence of Norwegian decorative folk art on her work; feminism and feminist art and her exclusion from various large feminist exhibitions of the 1990s; living in New York contrasting with Los Angeles; the evolution of her painting style from the "Tondos" to the more recent use of vinyl banners and light boxes; her teaching philosophy; the difference between regionalism and provincialism; her friendship with writer Dave Hickey; and other topics.

General

Originally recorded on 2 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 8 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Philosophy
- Painting -- Technique
- Women artists
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Occupations:

- Painters -- California