



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Judy Chicago

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Judy Chicago
Identifier:	AAA.chicag09
Date:	2009 August 7-8
Creator:	Chicago, Judy, 1939- (Interviewee) Richards, Judith Olch (Interviewer)
Extent:	74 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Judy Chicago, 2009 August 7-8, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Judy Chicago, 2009 August 7-8, 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.

Biographical / Historical

Interviewee Judy Chicago (1939-) is a feminist artist and author who lives and works in Belen, New Mexico. Interviewer Judith Olch Richards (1947-) is former executive director of iCI in New York, New York.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Judy Chicago conducted 2009 August 7 and 8, by Judith Olch Richards, for the Archives of American Art, at Chicago's home and studio, in Belen, New Mexico.

Scope and Contents

Chicago speaks of her work since the late 1980s, having previously discussed her early life and works; printmaking projects with various print studios around the country; giving archived documents to important museums; creating a foundation with her husband Donald Woodman to protect the legacy of their art; the non-profit organization she started in 1978, Through the Flower; her studio practices and her most practiced techniques; keeping a regular schedule; her interest in collaborative projects such as The Dinner Party [1974-1979], the Birth Project [1980-1985], the Holocaust Project [1985-1993] and Resolutions: A

Stitch in Time [1994-2000]; working with various textile and glass artists; feeling a kin with other female artists, like Nikki de Saint Phalle and Marisol Escobar; the responsibility she feels to share underrepresented information; her enjoyment of the process of making art and the hope that she creates art that is not bound by time; her relationships with galleries though the years including the ACA Galleries in New York and LewAllen Contemporary in Santa Fe; her intention in making art was not create proactive or controversial art; various teaching positions; her interest in combining text and images in works like Song of Songs [1997-1999]; her more current interest in glass; experimenting with the techniques of casting and etching to achieve her desired images; her want to change institutional policies that underrepresent women artists in museums and the absence of images of women by women artists. Chicago also recalls Henry Hopkins, Mary Ross Taylor, Susannah Rodee, John Bullard, Jack Lemon, Alice Neel, Edward Lucie-Smith, John Copeland, Harold Rosenberg, Carolee Schneemann, Jeffery Bergen, Audrey Flack, Joan Semmel, Nancy Youdelman, David McFadden, Viki Thomson Wylder, Tom Pruitt, Arlene LewAllen, Flo Perkins, Norman and Ruth Dobbins, Karen LaMonte, Lu Jie and others.

General

Originally recorded on 4 compact discs. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 3 hr., 40 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Technique
- Feminism and art
- Women artists
- Women authors
- Women painters
- Women performance artists
- Women sculptors

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- ACA Galleries
- Bergen, Jeffrey, 1955-
- Bullard, E. John(Edgar John), 1942-
- Copeland, John
- Dobbins, Norman
- Dobbins, Ruth
- Flack, Audrey
- Hopkins, Henry, 1928-2009
- LaMonte, Karen, 1967-
- Lemon, Jack
- LewAllen Contemporary (Gallery)
- LewAllen, Arlene
- Lu, Jie, 1958-
- Lucie-Smith, Edward

Marisol, 1930-2016
McFadden, David Revere
Neel, Alice, 1900-1984
Perkins, Flo
Pruitt, Tom
Rodee, Susannah
Rosenberg, Harold, 1906-1978
Saint-Phalle, Niki de, 1930-2002
Schneemann, Carolee, 1939-
Simmel, Joan, 1932-
Taylor, Mary, 1947-
Thompson, Viki D., 1947-
Woodman, Donald
Youdelman, Nancy, 1948-

Occupations:

Educators -- California -- Los Angeles
Glass artists
Installation artists -- California -- Los Angeles
Painters -- California -- Los Angeles
Performance artists -- California -- Los Angeles
Sculptors -- California -- Los Angeles

Functions:

Artists' studios -- New Mexico