



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Lia Cook

Funding for this interview was provided by the Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America. Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Lia Cook
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.cook06
<b>Date:</b>	2006 August 22-29
<b>Extent:</b>	36 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Creator:</b>	Cook, Lia, 1942- Baizerman, Suzanne Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## 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.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Lia Cook (1942- ) is a textile painter of Berkeley, California. Suzanne Baizerman (1942- ) is an independent curator of Alameda, California.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Lia Cook conducted 2006 August 22-29, by Suzanne Baizerman, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, in the artist's studio, in Berkeley, California.

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## Scope and Contents

Cook speaks of her childhood in California; studying political science at University of California, Berkeley; being strongly influenced by the textiles of Mexican cultures; studying weaving at Konstfack University College of Arts, Crafts and Design and Handarbetets Vänner in Stockholm, Sweden; attending graduate school at Berkeley under Ed Rossbach; a strong interest in photography; teaching experiences at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts; participating in the Lausanne International Biennial of Tapestry in Switzerland; the impact of the digital Jacquard loom on the development of her work; travels throughout Europe and Japan; commission work; experiences with Allrich Gallery, Hadler/Rodriguez Gallery, and Perimeter Gallery; series Fabric Landscape, Material Pleasure, Point of Touch, Presence/Absence, and Anatomy of a Portrait; her involvement with American Craft Council, European Textile Network, and College Art Association; and the importance of teaching in her life. Cook also recalls Gyongy Laky, Nance O'Banion, Deborah Rappaport, Sheila Hicks, Magdalena Abakanowicz, Peter and Ritzi Jacobi, and others.

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## General

Originally recorded as 4 sound discs. Reformatted in 2010 as 11 digital wav files. Duration is 2 hr., 23 min.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Study and teaching
- Decorative arts
- Looms
- Photography
- Political science -- Study and teaching
- Textile fabrics -- Mexico
- Weaving -- Equipment and supplies
- Weaving -- Study and teaching
- Women artists

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Abakanowicz, Magdalena
- Allrich Gallery
- American Craft Council
- College Art Association of America
- European Textile Network
- Hadler Galleries
- Handarbetets vanner (Society)
- Haystack Mountain School of Crafts -- Faculty
- Hicks, Sheila, 1934-

Jacobi, Peter, 1935-  
Jacobi, Ritzi, 1941-  
Konstfack (Stockholm, Sweden)  
Laky, Gyöngy, 1944-  
Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America  
O'Banion, Nance  
Perimeter Gallery  
Rappaport, Deborah  
Rossbach, Ed  
University of California, Berkeley -- Students

Geographic Names:

Europe -- description and travel  
Japan -- Description and Travel