



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Eleanor Dickinson

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.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Eleanor Dickinson
Date:	2000 October 25
Identifier:	AAA.dickin00
Creator:	Dickinson, Eleanor, 1931- (Interviewee) Karlstrom, Paul J. (Interviewer)
Extent:	22 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Eleanor Dickinson, 2000 October 25, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Eleanor Dickinson, 2000 October 25, 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

Eleanor Dickinson (1931-2017) was a painter, graphic, video artist and instructor in San Francisco, Calif. Teacher of life drawing at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, for many years, Dickinson was known for her figurative drawing and involvement with her students and models as individuals.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Eleanor Dickinson conducted 2000 October 25, by Paul Karlstrom, for the Archives of American Art, in Dickinson's studio/home, in San Francisco, California.

Scope and Contents

Dickinson discusses her relationship to and use of the human figure in her art. She explains her "interest in the ecstatic"; her identification with her subjects; being completely involved with the personality of the model and the "performance" in the studio; how her finished works often look more like the artist than like the model; her 1975 show at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in which the life-class was moved into a museum gallery to share the experience with museum visitors; her view that the artist participates in the lives and actions of her subjects through empathy and the artist's role as a mirror to society, reflecting and recording who and what we are.

General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 48 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Women artists
- Women educators
- Women painters

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Occupations:

- Educators -- California -- San Francisco
- Graphic artists -- California -- San Francisco
- Painters -- California -- San Francisco
- Video artists -- California -- San Francisco