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Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Jack Earl

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.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Jack Earl
Date:	2007 June 19-20
Identifier:	AAA.earl07
Creator:	Earl, Jack (Interviewee) Milosch, Jane (Interviewer) Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Extent:	5 Items (Sound recording: 5 sound files (4 hr., 32 min.); digital; 2 5/8 in.)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Jack Earl, 2007 June 19-20, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Jack Earl, 2007 June 19-20, 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

Jack Earl (1934-) is a ceramic artist from Lakeview, Ohio. Jane Milosch is a curator from Silver Spring, Maryland.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Jack Earl conducted 2007 June 19-20, by Jane Milosch, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at the artist's home and studio, in Lakeview, Ohio.

Scope and Contents

Earl speaks of his childhood in Uniopolis, Ohio; using his father's tools in the garage to make toys; developing a long-lasting friendship with his high school art teacher; studying art at Bluffton College and learning to make

pottery; learning to read in college and getting a minor in English; getting married while in college; graduating from Bluffton College and getting a job teaching at a local high school; teaching high school art for ten years in New Bremen, Ohio; attending a graduate program at Ohio State University and earning a Master's in Ceramic Art; being influenced by professor Paul Bogatay while in graduate school; working at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center over one winter break; teaching at Toledo School of Art and Design following graduation from Ohio State University; learning to make European porcelain; beginning to apply oil paint to his ceramic pieces; copying imagery from European masterpieces; feeling uninspired by Virginia culture after moving there to teach at Virginia Commonwealth University; moving back to Ohio and enjoying the proximity of his children and grandchildren there; his belief that his artwork reflects his life; the greater market for ceramic artwork now compared to when he began working; continuing ceramic tradition by incorporating humor into his work; the importance of his family and Ohio culture to his work; writing a book with Karen Keland to promote crafts, especially ceramics; being much more interested in making things than in his teaching; the versatility of clay as a material; and his work habits. Earl recalls Darvin Lugenbuhl, Paul Bogatay, Carlton Atherton, Edgar Littlefield, Gene Friley, Margaret Fetzer, Howard Kottler, Robert Arneson, Tom LaDousa, Norm Schuman, Peter Voukos, Paul Smith, Karen Keland, Tom Kerrigan, Ralph Bacerra, Richard Shaw, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 3 sound discs. Reformatted in 2010 as 5 digital wav files. Duration is 4 hr., 32 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Ceramicists -- Ohio -- Interviews
Decorative arts

Types of Materials:

Interviews
Sound recordings

Names:

Arneson, Robert, 1930-1992
Atherton, Carlton
Bacerra, Ralph, 1938-2008
Bluffton College (Bluffton, Ohio) -- Students
Bogatay, Paul
Fetzer, Margaret
Friley, Gene
John Michael Kohler Arts Center
Keland, Karen
Kerrigan, Tom
Kottler, Howard, 1930-1989
LaDousa, Tom
Littlefield, Edgar
Lugenbuhl, Darvin
Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Schuman, Norm

Shaw, Richard, 1941 Sept. 12-
Smith, Paul J.
The Ohio State University -- Students
Toledo School of Art and Design -- Faculty
Virginia Commonwealth University -- Faculty
Voulkos, Peter, 1924-2002

Places:

Ohio -- Description and Travel