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Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Carol Eckert

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 Carol Eckert
Date:	2007 June 18-19
Identifier:	AAA.eckert07
Creator:	Eckert, Carol (Interviewee) Lauria, Jo (Interviewer) Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Extent:	48 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Carol Eckert, 2007 June 18-19, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Carol Eckert, 2007 June 18-19, 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 is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Biographical / Historical

Carol Eckert (1945-) is a fiber artist from Tempe, Arizona. Jo Lauria is a curator and arts wrtier from Los Angeles, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Carol Eckert conducted June 18-19, 2007 by Jo Lauria, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, in the artist's home and studio in Tempe, Arizona.

Scope and Contents

Eckert speaks of moving from North Carolina to New York during her childhood; her interest in making things as a child; her love of reading and a particular interest in mythology, legends, and fairy tales; choosing to pursue painting as an art major at Arizona State University; working as a substitute teacher after graduation; teaching herself the needle arts; and teaching painting and drawing classes at a local community arts center.

Scope and Contents

She also discusses experimenting with clay; the process that guides her work; the influence of her painting training on her color and composition choices; her marriage to furniture maker Tom Eckert; the development of the basketry field over the past decades; participating in exhibitions and shows; teaching workshops at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts; the cross-cultural animal symbolism present in her pieces; the working environment in her studio; the importance of craft publications; the development in her own work towards larger pieces; her commitment to the longevity and preservation of her work; and upcoming exhibitions.

Scope and Contents

Eckert recalls Steven Covey, Barbara Rose Okun, Jane Sauer, Sandy Blaine, Lillian Elliot, Joanne Segal Branford, John Garrett, John McQueen, Leon Niehues, Norma Minkowitz, Sarah and David Lieberman, Janet Koplos, Marcia Docter, Doug and Dale Anderson, Karen Johnson Boyd, Rudy Turk, Marcia Manhart, Joanne Rapp, and others.

General

Originally recorded 3 sound discs. Reformatted in 2010 as 4 digital wav files. Duration is 2 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 -- Study and teaching
- Decorative arts
- Women artists
- Women textile artists

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Anderson, Dale, 1944-
- Anderson, Doug, 1943-
- Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts -- Faculty

Blaine, Sandy
Boyd, Karen Johnson
Branford, Joanne Segal, 1933-1994
Covey, Steven
Docter, Marcia
Eckert, Tom, 1942-
Elliot, Lillian
Garrett, John
Haystack Mountain School of Crafts -- Faculty
Koplos, Janet
Lieberman, David
Lieberman, Sarah
Manhart, Marcia, 1943-
McQueen, John, 1943-
Minkowitz, Norma M., 1937-
Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Niehues, Leon
Okun, Barbara Rose
Rapp, Joanne
Sauer, Jane, 1937-
Turk, Rudy H.

Occupations:

Fiber artists -- Arizona

Functions:

Artists' studios