



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Howard Finster

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical .....	1
Scope and Contents .....	1
Names and Subjects .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Howard Finster
<b>Date:</b>	1984 June 11
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.finste84
<b>Creator:</b>	Finster, Howard, 1916-2001 (Interviewee) Kirwin, Liza (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Sound cassettes (Sound recording; analog) 60 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Howard Finster, 1984 June 11, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Howard Finster, 1984 June 11, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' 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 others.

### Available Formats

Transcript available on line.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Howard Finster (1916-2001) was a self-taught visionary artist and minister from Georgia. Full name: William Howard Finster.

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## Scope and Contents

An interview of Howard Finster conducted 1984 June 11, by Liza Kirwin, for the Archives of American Art at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Contents

Finster speaks of his early childhood; his earliest vision; working as a preacher and a repairman; the construction of his GARDEN OF PARADISE; his mission in life; dealers and exhibitions; and his Chapel of the World's Folk Art Church, Inc.

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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 and religion -- Georgia
- Folk art
- Self-taught artists -- Georgia -- Interviews

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Occupations:

- Folk artists -- Georgia -- Interviews