



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Mary Frank

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

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Mary Frank
Identifier:	AAA.frank10
Date:	2010 Jan. 10- Feb. 3
Creator:	Frank, Mary, 1933- (Interviewee) Richards, Judith Olch (Interviewer)
Extent:	8 Items (Sound recording: 8 memory cards (6 hr., 43 min.); secure digital; 1.25 in.) 135 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Mary Frank, 2010 Jan. 10- Feb. 3, Transcript

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

Interviewee Mary Frank (1933-) is a figurative sculptor and painter in New York, N.Y. She is married to musicologist Leo Treitler. Interviewer Judith Olch Richards (1947-) is former Executive director of iCI in New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

An interview interview with Mary Frank conducted 2010 Jan. 10, 11, and Feb. 3, by Judith Olch Richards, for the Archives of American Art, at Frank's home and studio, in New York, N.Y.

Scope and Contents

Ms. Frank speaks of her childhood in England and her evacuation to Brooklyn during WWII; her initial intention of becoming a professional dancer and studying with the Martha Graham Dance Company; her marriage and travels with photographer Robert Frank; the difficulties of women teaching art; teaching methods; her time at The New School and Queens College; western and non-Western influences; mushroom hunting; solar cookers; her works in clay, sculpture, painting, drawing, monoprint, and triptych installations;

her relationships with the galleries Zabriskie, Midtown Payton and DC Moore; Frank also recalls Willem de Kooning, Ruben Nakian, Allan Kaprow, Marjorie Ponce Israel, Joe Chaikin, Paul Cadmus, Henrietta Mantooth Bagley, Joan Snyder, Elanor Munro, Jean-Louise Bourgeois, and others.

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
- Women artists
- Women ceramicists
- Women painters
- Women sculptors

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Cadmus, Paul, 1904-1999
- De Kooning, Willem, 1904-1997
- Kaprow, Allan
- Martha Graham Dance Company
- Nakian, Reuben, 1897-1986
- New School for Social Research (New York, N.Y.) -- Faculty
- Queens College (New York, N.Y.)
- Snyder, Joan, 1940-
- Zabriskie Gallery

Occupations:

- Ceramicists -- New York (State) -- New York
- Painters -- New York (State) -- New York
- Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York