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Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Lisa Gralnick

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 Lisa Gralnick
Date:	2007 October 29-30
Identifier:	AAA.gralni07
Creator:	Gralnick, Lisa, 1956- (Interviewee) Riedel, Mija, 1958- (Interviewer) Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Extent:	12 Items (Sound recording: 12 sound files (7 hr., 4 min.); digital, wav) 111 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Lisa Gralnick, 2007 October 29-30, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Lisa Gralnick, 2007 October 29-30, 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

Lisa Gralnick (1956-) is a metalsmith and professor from Madison, Wisconsin. Mija Riedel (1958-) is a curator and writer from San Francisco, California.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Lisa Gralnick conducted 2007 October 29-30, by Mija Riedel, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at Gralnik's home, in Madison, Wisconsin.

Scope and Contents

Gralnick speaks of her father's illness; taking a jewelry-making class as a teenager; the honors college at Kent State; her master's thesis and the Cosmogonic Cycle; teaching enameling at Kent State to support

her studio art; the metals program at Parsons School of Design; a black rubber house in upstate New York; creating structures out of black plastic; her introduction to computers; working with gold; drawing inspiration from physics and machinery; her fascination with dentistry tools; being a hands-on learner; satisfaction from the labor of art; working with metal; her methodological form of teaching; teaching a graduate class and focusing on body parts; the relationship between ambition and hard work; teaching in an art department as opposed to a craft department; her recent reliquary and jewelry work; poetic and musical influences; showing abstraction and emotion in her work; the creation of The Gold Standard pieces. Gralnick also recalls Mary Ann Scherr, Gary Bengier Matzdorf, Jannis Kounellis, Alan Lightman, Myra Mimplitsch Gray, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 4 sound discs. Reformatted in 2010 as 12 digital wav files. Duration is 7 hr., 4 min.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Decorative arts
- Jewelry making
- Metal-work
- Women artists
- Women educators

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Kent State University -- Faculty
- Kent State University -- Students
- Kounellis, Jannis, 1936-2017
- Lightman, Alan
- Matzdorf, Gary Bengier
- Mimplitsch-Gray, Myra
- Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
- Parsons School of Design
- Scherr, Mary Ann, 1931-

Occupations:

- Educators -- Wisconsin -- Madison
- Metal-workers -- Wisconsin -- Madison