



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Sheila Hicks

Funding for this interview was provided by the Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Sheila Hicks
Date:	2004 March 18
Identifier:	AAA.hicks04mar
Creator:	Hicks, Sheila, 1934- (Interviewee) Zanartu, Cristobal (Interviewer) Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
Extent:	2 Items (Sound recording: 2 sound discs (1 hr., 44 min.); digital; 2 5/8 in.) 19 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Sheila Hicks, 2004 March 18, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Sheila Hicks, 2004 March 18, 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.

Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

Biographical / Historical

Sheila Hicks, (b. 1934), fiber artist of Paris, France. Interviewer Cristobal Zanartu, artist's son, Paris, France; b.1965.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Sheila Hicks conducted 2004 March 18, by Cristobal Zanartu, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, in Paris, France.

Scope and Contents

Hicks speaks of working outside of academia; working within the fiber art tradition; teaching classes and workshops; founding the MADESA design school in Cape Town, South Africa; the function of her works; the fluctuating art market; becoming a leader in the "soft art" movement; the role of textiles in society; how her work has changed during her career; and how she gets ideas for her pieces. Hicks also speaks of a typical day in her studio; her circle of friends in Paris; documenting her artwork through photographs; what she hopes to communicate through her works; maintaining notebooks during her career; and the influence of technology on her work.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Art -- Economic aspects
- Decorative arts
- Textile crafts
- Women artists
- Women educators
- Women textile artists

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America

Occupations:

- Educators -- France -- Paris
- Fiber artists -- France -- Paris