



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Sergei Isupov

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

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

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Sergei Isupov
<b>Date:</b>	2010 December 21-22
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.isupov10
<b>Creator:</b>	Isupov, Sergei, 1963- (Interviewee) Shapiro, Mark, 1955- (Interviewer) Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America
<b>Extent:</b>	68 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Sergei Isupov, 2010 December 21-22, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Sergei Isupov, 2010 December 21-22, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

---

## 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 is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

### Restrictions

This transcript is open for research. Access to the entire recording is restricted. Contact Reference Services for more information.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Sergei Isupov (1963- ) is a ceramist in Cummington, Massachusetts. Mark Shapiro (1955- ) is a potter in Worthington, Massachusetts.

---

## Scope and Contents

An interview of Sergei Isupov conducted 2010 December 21-22, by Mark Shapiro, for the Archives of American Art's Nanette L. Laitman Documentation Project for Craft and Decorative Arts in America, at Isupov's home, in Cummington, Massachusetts.

## Scope and Contents

Isupov speaks of his parents, both artists; his childhood in Ukraine; his efforts to get accepted to an art school; attending art school in Estonia; having access to factories where he could produce his own work; his early exhibitions and career success in Estonia; marrying an American and moving to Louisville, KY; starting a business, Nine Pines Studio; how being a foreigner in both Estonia and the U.S. affected his work positively; living briefly in Richmond, VA; his early focus on making teapots; incorporating more travel into his career in order to give workshops; moving to Cummington, MA and setting up his new studio; his relationship with his art dealer; starting to incorporate drawing into his work; and how the birth of his daughter has affected his art. Isupov also recalls Martha Connell, Don Reitz, Leslie Ferrin, and others.

---

## General

Originally recorded as 7 sound files. Duration is 3 hr., 58 min.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Ceramicists -- Massachusetts -- Interviews

Types of Materials:

Interviews

Sound recordings

Names:

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